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An after-party for the 12th annual Turtle Creek Home Tour will be held at Liz and Scott Kimple's Vendome penthouse.

# See inside high-rises

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the constant stress of building repairs. In other words to live an easier, more convenient life.

"You can close it up, and go anywhere you want and not worry about pools and lawns," says Lori, 56. "That was the temptation of moving to a high-rise."

The couple also wanted that city view ("We watch beautiful sunsets and look downtown — it's like living in a treetop," Lori says), so they chose a 19th-floor condo at the Warrington and made it theirs by gutting it. Several walls were removed to create an open living, dining and kitchen area. They brought in oak hardwood floors and added a stone wall in the entry. The resulting modern-natural interior is one reason the couple's home is one of five on this year's 12th annual Turtle Creek Home Tour on Sunday.

Clearly, high-rise living is not a new concept in Dallas. Turtle Creek is home to many of all ages who live the high life. In the 1950s through the '70s, high-rise living boomed in the Turtle Creek neighborhood (once centered on the creek itself, but now loosely taking in more southerly high-rises), due to its convenience to downtown. One of the first high-rises — 21 Turtle Creek, which is undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation — was formerly the site of Jesuit High School, originally called Holy Trinity College. Today, there are 22 high-rises in the Turtle Creek corridor — and a long list of famous names. The 22-story address 3525, built in 1957 by modernist architect Howard Meyer and now in the National Register of Historic Places, claims Greer Garson, Jimmy Dean, opera mezzo-soprano and actress



Amenities such as the pool at the Residences at the Ritz-Carlton help illustrate the appeal of high-rise living.

Blanche Thebom and Minnie Marcus as former residents.

The self-guided tour Sunday covers five of the 22 high-rises, with stops including the Claridge and the Bel Air and an after-party at the Vendome.

A range of design styles will be represented. There's the sleek space at the Azure, with a killer kitchen that has Studio Becker cabinetry and marble countertops. It is finished with Donghia textiles and contemporary art from Craighead Green Gallery. The more traditional space at the Residences at the Ritz-Carlton offers views of the private courtyard and pool from both the living room and master suite.

The tour affords the chance to house-snoop and benefits the Turtle Creek Association, which works to maintain and fund the area's landscaping and serves as the neighborhood's watchdog for development plans in the Turtle Creek corridor.

For the Voyles, it's just another party in the neighborhood. Parties are regular occurrences. There are themed parties and, of course, spontaneous get-togethers at the Warrington.

"It's vertical living, so if my husband is out of town, my friends come up and have drinks," Lori says. "It makes it interesting every day."

Jessica Elliott is a Dallas freelance writer.

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The dramatic entryway of the Anne and Kyle Crews home at the Residences at the Ritz-Carlton helped put the home on the 2013 Turtle Creek Home Tour.

## RESOURCES

# A dandy way to get handy

Let DIY blog steer you in right direction on repairs

By **BETSY SIMNACHER**  
Special Contributor

Major appliance repairs, lawn-mower malfunctions and heating and air conditioning tuneups give homeowners headaches. But wait: There's help on your computer, assuming it is not on the fritz.

A new blog, [DIY.RepairClinic.com](http://DIY.RepairClinic.com), puts a fresh face on a service that helps homeowners be their own handyman. Since 1999, RepairClinic.com has offered help in the form of information on how things are supposed to work — and what to do when they break.

If nothing else, you might avoid some of the no-repair bills, like logging an HVAC service call when nothing is needed but a filter change. Or, in the case of the most recent service trip to our house to fix a lazy ice maker (clearly a First World problem), the remedy turned out to be cleaning the refrigerator coils and setting the freezer temperature lower.

While RepairClinic.com is a reference work that boasts of having 1,000 videos about home repair, the blog is more of a news service with serendipitous items. Blog entries report product safety recalls and ways to avoid dryer fires, for example.

The best part is the potential argument-settler: How do you correctly load a dishwasher anyway? The part of flatware that touches your mouth, like the bowl of a spoon, should be facing up, and the sharp ends of knives should be facing down.

RepairClinic.com is powered by sales of appliance parts, but even if you never buy a brush, belt or fan assembly, checking it out might improve your appliance street smarts.

Betsy Simmacher is a Cedar Hill freelance writer.

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## HOME SAFETY

# Smoke alarms last a long time

Kiddie's Worry-Free smoke alarms eliminate the semiannual chore of changing your smoke detector batteries.

The alarms have a lithium battery that lasts 10 years, the lifetime of an alarm.

Four models are available: one designed for living areas; one for bedrooms, with a talking voice alarm to better awaken occupants; one for hallways, with LED lights to illuminate the escape route; and one for kitchens, with a sensor designed to reduce nuisance alarms. The kitchen alarm also incorporates a carbon monoxide detector.

Each alarm has an end-of-life signal that chirps when the device needs replacing.

Suggested retail prices for Worry-Free alarms range from \$25 to \$50. They're sold at some home improvement stores, hardware stores, discount department stores, drugstores and other retailers.

Akron Beacon Journal

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## LITERARY BRIEFS

**Kyle's 'American Gun' delayed**

Publisher William Morrow has pushed the release date of slain sniper Chris Kyle's *American Gun* back by one week. The book is now due June 4.

Separately, Little, Brown announced that it will publish *The Life and Legend of Chris Kyle: American Sniper*, Navy SEAL, by Dallas writer Michael J. Mooney as an e-book on Tuesday. The publisher calls the project its "first breaking news nonfiction e-book." Mooney was working on a profile of Kyle for *D* magazine when he was killed Feb. 2 on a gun range in Erath County.

Michael Merschel

**Civil War novelist in Dallas on May 28**

The Shaara family is rich in chroniclers of the Civil War, and one of them, Jeff Shaara, will visit Dallas on May 28 as part of the Authors Live! at Highland Park United Methodist Church, 3300 Mockingbird Lane.

Shaara wrote the novels *Gods and Generals* and *The Last Full Measure*, which are the prequel and sequel, respectively, to his father Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels*, considered by many to be the best Civil War novel ever written. The older Shaara, who died in 1988, won a Pulitzer Prize for that book, which is about the battle of Gettysburg.

Jeff Shaara's latest, *A Chain of Thunder*, is the second in his "Western Theater" Civil War trilogy, which began with 2012's *A Blaze of Glory*. *Chain* is set during the siege of Vicksburg, Miss. It officially comes out May 21, but you can get it a week early by attending this event.

Tickets to the 7 p.m. event are free and it's open to the public. A reception at 6 p.m. costs \$30 and includes a copy of *A Chain of Thunder*. Info: 214-523-2240 or [hpumc.org](http://hpumc.org).

Joy Tipping

**Texas Book Festival names new leaders**

The Texas Book Festival has new leadership.

Lois Kim is the festival's new chief executive, a news release said. She had been associate director of University Extension at the University of Texas at Austin.

Steph Opitz is the new literary director. She has been programs and strategic communications director for the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses. She will oversee year-round programming for the festival, which draws thousands to Austin each fall and recently put on a smaller event in San Antonio.

M.M.