



THE ESSEX AT HAMPTON

APRIL 2010



HIGHLIGHTS

April Fools' Day

Watch out for practical jokes April 1.

Happy Easter!

It's a time of rebirth and renewal. Whether you're celebrating the arrival of spring, bunnies bearing eggs or the religious significance of Easter, our staff wishes all of you a wonderful holiday.

Let's Have a Clean Spring

We all want to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors this spring, so do your part by making sure trash is properly disposed of in the dumpsters, not beside them, and that your patio or balcony is kept clear of clutter and debris. Thank you for taking pride in your home!

Pet Pickup

As warmer weather heads our way and more of our residents head outdoors, we want to remind our pet owners that pets must be on leashes at all times when outside your home and that you are responsible for picking up after them. Your neighbors will appreciate not finding surprises in the grass when they head out for an early spring walk. Thanks!

Midnight Deadline

April 15 is Income Tax Pay Day—the day by which all taxpayers are required to account for the previous year's earnings and pay their share of the cost of government.

BULLETIN BOARD

Monthly Celebrations

There's more to April than showers and fooling your friends. This month we also recognize:

- Jazz
- Appreciation Month
- National Car Care Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- National Kite Month
- National Pecan Month
- National Public Health Week

NOTES & NEWS

Your Staff to Serve You ...

Residential Manager Scott Snow
Maintenance Supervisor David Klein

Important Numbers

Office (248) 852-7500
Emergency Maintenance (248) 852-7500
Fire, Police, Emergency 911

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Address

64 Village Circle
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Resident Referrals

Don't forget about our awesome Resident Referral Program! Call or stop by the office for details.

Put Aside Your Differences

Reconciliation Day, April 2, is an opportunity to forgive and forget.

Carport Parking

We want to remind everyone that carports are reserved parking. Please do not park in a reserved spot that is not your own or your car will be towed at your expense. Please make sure that your guests are aware of our policies, as well. If you're not sure about your carport number, please contact the Leasing Center.



The Golden Arches

Barbecue purists stuck up their noses in 1961 when McDonald's introduced the McRib sandwich—a preformed pork patty covered with sauce. Perhaps they would have been more open to the idea had they known the fast-food giant started as a barbecue joint.

As the anniversary of the company's first franchise approaches—April 15, 1955—chew on a few other tidbits about the Golden Arches:

- McDonald's is named after Dick and Mac McDonald. Ray Kroc bought out the brothers in 1961 for \$2.7 million.
- Denver opened the first McDonald's with indoor seating in 1962.
- The original mascot was Speedee. Ronald McDonald replaced him in 1963.
- The company introduced the Big Mac in 1968. It cost 49 cents.
- The Happy Meal made its debut in 1979.



THE 1-MINUTE CHEF

Chocolate Peanut Butter Dip

Ingredients:

- 1/3 c. low-fat plain yogurt
- 2 T. chocolate syrup
- 1/4 c. creamy peanut butter
- 4 c. fresh fruits and vegetables cut in easy-to-dip shapes (such as carrot and celery sticks and sliced cucumbers, apples and peats)
- 1 t. chocolate or colored sprinkles (optional)

Directions:

In a medium-size bowl, beat yogurt and chocolate syrup with electric mixer on medium speed until well-blended.

In a microwave-safe bowl, heat the peanut butter at 70-percent power for one minute or until melted. Stir after the first 30 seconds.



Using oven mitts to hold the bowl, pour the melted peanut butter into the chocolate yogurt mixture and stir until smooth.

Serve with fruits and vegetables. Dribble dipped treats with candy sprinkles, if desired.

Source: *The National Peanut Board*. For more recipes, visit www.NationalPeanutBoard.org.



CONSUMER TIPS

CSAs Bring Food Closer to Home

As the local food movement takes off, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is becoming more popular. One type of CSA is a farm with members who pay for a share and receive produce and other items (meat, eggs, honey, etc.) in return. Some of these farms require members to work the land alongside the farmer; others ask only that members pick up their boxes of goodies on a certain day and time.

Knowing a food's source is becoming more important as issues, such as food-borne illness, become more widespread. Also, as gas prices increase, so do food prices. (The average vegetable travels

1,500 miles from farm to table.) Knowing, then, how food is grown and by whom can alleviate both food safety and cost concerns.

Not only does buying locally help consumers, but it also helps farmers. Community-supported farms provide farmers with a reliable income. They can then spend more time growing their products, rather than figuring out how to sell them.

Of course, the partnership between consumers and farmers means members share some of the farmers' risks. After all, farmers encounter countless setbacks during the growing season. Any of these problems can affect the amount of food CSA members receive. If you decide to join a CSA farm, learn what to expect. Check out the advice offered at www.LocalHarvest.org and view a database of more than 3,000 CSA members, plus read newsletters and member blogs.



FUN FACTS

Hokey Hoaxes Have a Long History

Do you enjoy the absurdity of April Fools' Day pranks? Perhaps you'll appreciate one of the all-time best April Fools' Day hoaxes: the Taco Bell ad that didn't quite "ring" true. On April 1, 1996, Taco Bell purchased full-page ads, in newspapers such as USA Today and The New York Times, declaring that the company had bought the Liberty Bell and renamed it the Taco Liberty Bell. People in Philadelphia, home of the historic monument, and across the nation flooded government offices with calls, asking whether the tale was true.

The facts came out later that day when Taco Bell admitted the ad was a joke. The fast-food firm made amends by donating \$50,000 toward preserving the Liberty Bell. The generous sum was a pittance compared to the profits Taco Bell received after the widespread publicity; sales increased by more than \$500,000 that week.

Food products have played a role in other April Fools' Day hoaxes, as well. In another infamous example, in 1957, a British TV show reported that Swiss farmers had recently "harvested" a "crop" of spaghetti. The news caused many viewers to ask how they could do the same. More recently, in 1998, Burger King promoted the sale of a new "left-handed" Whopper. Burger King claimed that it had rotated the condiments 180 degrees to make the sandwich easier for left-handers to eat. Thousands asked for it—and thousands of others requested the right-handed version.

Even President Barack Obama can't escape the silliness of April Fools' Day. In 2009, Car and Driver magazine's web site reported that Obama had told GM and Chrysler to "cease participation in NASCAR ... if they hope to receive any additional financial aid from the government." NASCAR fans were horrified before the prank was revealed.

Make Your Taxes Work for You

It's here—the dreaded tax time. According to a nationwide survey of 1,000 adults, conducted by CCH CompleteTax, an online tax preparation service, nearly two-thirds of individual taxpayers have concerns about overlooking tax deductions or credits that could cost them money. While CCH obviously isn't the most unbiased source, lots of Americans share the sentiments of those surveyed and want tips on how to legally pay the least amount of taxes possible. To help with that objective, we've compiled a few of the most commonly overlooked tax deductions, according to Jackson Hewitt Tax Service and www.Kiplinger.com:

Medical: Transportation expenses to doctors' offices and labs; aids, such as crutches, false teeth and eyeglasses; nursing home expenses and nurses' fees; in-house alcohol- and drug-abuse programs; and prescription smoking-cessation treatments.

Employment: Education expenses to maintain or improve job skills; job-related journals and magazines; required uniforms or work clothes; job-seeking expenses within your current field of employment; some travel expenses for National Guard members or reservists; health insurance premiums for the self-employed; and union dues.

Property: Brokers' or agents' commissions for property sales; some moving expenses; some property taxes and refinancing points; and casualty and theft losses.

Finances: Worthless stock or securities; fees for tax preparation; costs associated with paying or collecting alimony; some gambling losses; and reinvested dividends.

To get specifics before filing, check with a tax preparation expert.



WIT & WISDOM



"Earth laughs in flowers." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

"You can't be suspicious of a tree or accuse a bird or a squirrel of subversion or challenge the ideology of a violet." —Hal Borland

"Man must feel the earth to know himself and recognize his values." —Charles A. Lindbergh

"It is good to realize that if love and peace can prevail on earth, and if we can teach our children to honor nature's gifts, the joys and beauties of the outdoors will be here forever." —Jimmy Carter

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." —Native-American proverb



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April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 April Fools' Day Rent Due	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter	5	6 Late Charge Assessed	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 TAX DAY	16	17
18 	19	20	21 Administrative Professionals Day	22 Earth Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Solution:

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