



PINE VALLEY

1521 Pine Valley Blvd. • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

APRIL 2010



NOTES & NEWS

Spring by Sometime!

We're going to have some special treats here in the office on April 9, so why not stop in and get yourself a nice treat to eat?

Free Adventure

A little-known feature of our great Ann Arbor Library system is the Museum Adventure Passes that they offer. AADL is able to provide passes for free admission for two to four individuals depending on the institution. For a full listing of participating institutions and for check-out guidelines, visit www.detroitadventurepass.org or ask at the local library branch.

Earth Day in Ann Arbor

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens has a beautiful conservatory year round and this time of a year is a great time to go and visit their extensive network of walking paths. For Earth Day, they often have special events and speakers and encourage people to bike over to visit. For more information, watch <http://mbgna.umich.edu>

HIGHLIGHTS

Have Trees, Need Shovels

The Arbor Day Foundation inspires people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. Join its mission this April on National Arbor Day, celebrated in most states on the last Friday of the month. You can take steps to improve your community with a volunteer tree-planting event. Log on to www.ArborDay.org to learn more.

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.

Good Advice

"Treat your password like your toothbrush. Don't let anybody else use it, and get a new one every six months." — Clifford Stoll

Don't Fear the Census

The census does more than tally the number of U.S. residents. The government also uses the data to distribute funds to communities across the nation. It also provides information to policymakers to aid in their decision-making. The time it takes to fill out the form is minimal (10 minutes or less), and any personal information you provide is private. For more information, visit www.Census.gov.

BULLETIN BOARD

Your Staff

Residential Manager

Nancy Demyan
rm@pinevalley
apartments.com

Leasing Consultants

Greta Priestap
Mike Hulsebus
lc@pinevalley
apartments.com

Maintenance Supervisor

Oren "Jr" Reid

Service Technicians

David Chartrand
Ian Chartrand

Important Numbers

Leasing Office (734) 971-5210
Fax (734) 971-0114
Emergency Maintenance (734) 786-4355
Fire, Police, Emergency 911
Coin Mach. (877) 264-6622

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed



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



1980 Grand Lane • Overland Park, KS 66211
Telephone: 913 725-1000 • www.illustratus.com

UNLINS Copyright © 2013 by Unlins LLC



April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Rent Due Thank You!	1 2	3
4	5 Rent Late	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 TAX DAY	16	17
18 	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

"This Month In History" APRIL

1719: Daniel Defoe publishes the classic "Robinson Crusoe."

1800: Congress establishes the Library of Congress.

1828: Noah Webster publishes An American Dictionary of the English Language.

1841: President William Henry Harrison dies in office of pneumonia after serving only one month.

1860: The Pony Express begins in St. Joseph, Mo.

1912: The luxury ship Titanic hits an iceberg and sinks, taking with it more than 1,500 passengers' lives.

1924: Rand McNally publishes its first comprehensive road atlas.

1938: Dr. Roy J. Plunkett discovers Teflon.

1953: The first national issue of "TV Guide" debuts with Lucille Ball and her newborn son on the cover.

1955: Ray Kroc opens the first franchised McDonald's.

1961: Soviet Yuri Gagarin is the first man to fly in space.

1970: President Richard Nixon signs the Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act into law, banning cigarette commercials and requiring warnings on tobacco products.

1970: An estimated 20 million people nationwide celebrate the first Earth Day.

1975: Bill Gates and Paul Allen form Microsoft in Albuquerque, N.M.

1978: CBS drama "Dallas" premieres and runs for 13 years.