

APARTMENT LIVING TIP

Taxes Stink...Renew Your Lease

Does it seem like the perfect time for a first time home buyer to buy a house? Low interest rates, quick sales, foreclosures, etc. Sure, on the outside it looks like a great way to get a decent price, but what many people forget to factor in are the hundreds of dollars in taxes you pay every single month. Remember, with an apartment, there are no taxes!

Taxes on a home can be thousands per year depending on the size, value and location. Then, as the home value increases (as most home buyers hope for) these taxes will go up. Many home buyers don't take into account that that "\$3,400" could turn into "\$4,200" or more. So while a home may seem like a really good investment, if you can barely afford the mortgage every month as is, you could get yourself in real danger a few years down the road.

Renting an apartment is just a better option. No taxes, no lawn, you aren't locked into a 30-year loan and you don't have to worry about appreciation/depreciation. All you have to do in an apartment is live your life, have fun and be understanding of your neighbors. So come on in to our office and renew your lease!

COMMUNITY TIP

Taking Precautions Never Hurts

While no one can ever assure your safety around your apartment and elsewhere in life, taking precautions can always help your cause and set your mind at ease. While some of us may be ready for anything, many of us out there have no idea where to start.

When you are at home, keep your doors locked and dead-bolted. You should also keep your windows locked whether you're home or away. An unlocked window is simple for a professional thief to break into and don't let the screen fool you. A simple pocket knife makes the screen non-existent, so never leave your windows open or unlocked when you aren't at home.

Lastly, one of the greatest benefits of living in our community is having many neighbors close by who can keep an eye out for you. Make a point to introduce yourself to some of them. This may be the best precaution of all.

SEASONAL RECIPE

Avocado Strawberry Spinach Salad

6 c. baby spinach
2 c. sliced strawberries
1 ripe avocado, sliced
5 oz. crumbled blue cheese
1/4 c. sliced almonds
1/2 red onion, diced

Combine all salad ingredients in a large bowl and toss. Add a vinaigrette or your favorite dressing!

For meat lovers, top with diced chicken or bacon, or both!



FUN FACT: Daylight Savings Time saves approximately 1% of electricity a day.



FUN APARTMENT

Cheap (and Fun!) Date Nights

A fun date night doesn't have to mean an expensive one. With a little creativity, you can turn a regular date into one that is memorable and appreciated by your partner. Show off your personality by considering these 10 affordable ideas.

- 1) Challenge your date to some friendly competition activities in your apartment, like simple board games
- 2) Instead of dinner at a crowded hotspot, have a weekend brunch with mimosas and waffles
- 3) Find outdoor activities and classes you can take together
- 4) Host a wine and paint night with blank canvases, paints, brushes, and a bowl of fruit
- 5) Have a blind wine, beer, or whiskey tasting by hiding bottles in bags and describing the flavors
- 6) Go to a bookstore with a coffee shop and browse the shelves together
- 7) Go geocaching or download a scavenger hunt app
- 8) Host your own trivia night in your apartment and award small prizes for each correct answer
- 9) Download a stargazing app and look up at the night sky together
Act like a tourist and go to spots in your town that locals rarely visit.
- 10) Take a class together at a local home improvement, crafts store, or community center

MY QUESTION

What To Do About a Pesky Stray?

We've all seen it before...whether it's a cat gone feral or a rogue dog, strays can cause all kinds of headaches for us residents. Not only do they dig into trash bags and carry fleas and disease that can transfer to your pets, but they can also damage your apartment and the community grounds as well.

Let us know if you see any strays! Contacting us should always be the first course of action in trying to solve some type of apartment related issue with neighbors or the community. The second course of action would be to contact Animal Control. Many times though, Animal Control may not come take care of the stray unless it is causing direct harm to humans or is in danger itself.

When all else fails, think about what is causing the stray to come around and then try to take that element out of the picture. Remember not to cause the animal any harm and be very careful when dealing with them as they may carry disease or be aggressive towards you.

