

# March Community Newsletter

Tips for Living, Laughing and Loving Your Apartment Life

## 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.

## 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 simply 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!

## 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!

## March Events

- **International Women's Day, March 8**
- **UVA vs Georgia Tech, March 9th**
- **Ramadan Begins, March 10th**
- **Pi Day, March 14**
- **St. Patrick's Day, March 17**
- **Nowruz (Persian New Year), March 19**
- **Holi (Festival of Colors), March 25**
- **Easter, March 31**
- **Home and Garden shows (all month)**

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