

APRIL



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Springtime Salad!

This delicious salad is a perfect side or meal.

Ingredients

- 8 ounces Spring Greens and Lettuce
- 4 ounces Walnuts, toasted and rough chopped
- 4 ounces dried sweetened Cranberries
- 4 ounces crumbled Goat Cheese
- Raspberry Walnut Vinaigrette, to taste
- Salt and Pepper, to taste



Directions

Rinse lettuce and greens. Divide between 2 bowls. Sprinkle evenly between the 2 bowls with walnuts, cranberries and goat cheese. Dress with Vinaigrette to taste. Salt and Pepper to taste.



Ready to start the home search process?

Are you ready to begin looking for a new home? Here are some tips on where to start.



Among the many paths, many consumers jump on the Internet to begin their home search. In fact, the number of people that begin their home search on the World Wide Web has grown in recent years to around 90 percent (according to the National Association of Realtors® 2012 Home Buyer and Seller Survey).

You might be surprised to learn that they aren't necessarily just browsing for houses. People are searching for data on mortgages, information on foreclosures, and the home buying process in general. But before you dive in, it's important to consider four things:

How much home can you afford?

Where do you want to live?

What is your *must-have* list

What is your *wish* list?

Another interesting fact to consider is that in 2012, nine out of ten buyers who began their search online actually purchased their home through a Real Estate agent. In this market, having a real estate agent sift through and find houses that fit your unique "wants and needs" is critical because ***what's online now might not be there tomorrow.***

As your Real Estate agent, I can help sort through the housing information overload and get you the updates and information as it's happening. In a seller's market, getting information a few hours ahead of time could be the difference between finding your dream home or missing out on a great deal.

If you're in the market for a home right now, give me a call. I'd love to give you a list of the hot homes on the market today!

The Top Ten Things You Didn't Know About Saving Energy at Home



What could you be doing differently this summer to conserve energy and save money? Here is a list of the ways you can save energy AND money in your home.

1. Placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary because the thermostat senses heat from the appliances.
2. Lighting makes up about 10 percent of home energy costs. Save up to 75 percent of that energy by replacing incandescent bulbs with LED (Light Emitting Diode) or CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lighting) bulbs. They also last much longer, saving money on replacements.

3. Running your air conditioning at 78°F instead of 72°F can save from 6% - 18% on your cooling bill. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be, so set your thermostat as high as possible during the summer.
4. Well-planned landscaping isn't just for aesthetics - properly placed trees around the house can save between \$100 and \$250 annually.
5. On average, households lose about 20 percent of their heated and cooled air through the duct system to the outside. To avoid wasting energy, have your ducts inspected to ensure they're sealed properly and insulated if necessary.
6. If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort. Just make sure to turn it off when you leave the room (fans cool people, not rooms).
7. Heating water can account for 14 to 25 percent of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F) and save energy.
8. By using the microwave, toaster, or a countertop grill rather than an oven, you'll use less energy and avoid excess heat that increases room temperature.
9. Leaving a computer on all day can cost about 21 cents per day, or about \$75 per year. Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use – a task made easier by using multiple-outlet strips, which can turn everything off with the flip of a switch.
10. Programmable thermostats can save up to \$150 a year on energy costs when used properly. Use one that can automatically turn off your cooling system when you are not home, and turn your system on in time for you to arrive home to a cooled house.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo!

Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for "Fifth of May") is a celebration held on May 5. It is celebrated in the United States and regionally in Mexico, primarily in the state of Puebla, where the holiday is called El Día de la Batalla de Puebla. It originated with Mexican-American communities in the American West as a way to commemorate the cause of freedom and democracy during the first years of the American Civil War, and today the date is observed in the United States as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's Independence Day which is celebrated on September 16.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinco_de_Mayo

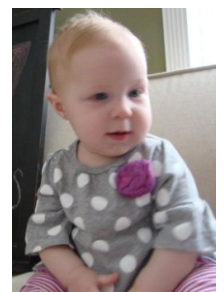
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Our granddaughter,
Clara Grace, 7 months.

Congratulations to our
New Homeowners and Sellers



Terry and Maggie C.



Jason and Heidi F.



Robert D.



Denise and Berto



Kathy and Marie



Marie and Kathy

Rentals

We currently have two absolutely gorgeous properties available for rent with an annual lease.

The first is a 3BR/3BA Townhouse with a 2 car garage built in 2006 in Tarpon Springs just a short distance from historic downtown, the bayous, the Gulf beaches, and the *Sponge Docks*. \$1550/mo.

The other is a 2BR/2BA on a pond in the highly desirable town of Palm Harbor. It is close to Tampa, Tarpon Lake, Caladesi Island, and all the great beaches. This is a ground floor unit and was the show model, so it has never been lived in. \$1050/mo.

Call me at (727) 534-3141 for more information.

We pay referrals to licensed agents/ reps.

