



Views From... Brickell Key II

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Brickell Key II Condominium Association, Inc.

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BRICKELL KEY II

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APRIL IS STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

Stress is present in everyone's life. April is recognized as National Stress Awareness Month to bring attention to the negative impact of stress. Did you know that up to 60 percent of all visits to family physicians are stress related? And approximately 40 percent of employee turnover is related to stress. On an individual level, unmanaged stress is related to an increased risk of cancer, lung disease, heart disease, and suicide.

Some stress is normal. Stress can be negative, like a death, firing, or daily problems, or it can be positive, like planning a wedding, having a baby, or going on vacation. There are ways to manage the stress in your life. Consider these tips for coping.

Include exercise in your day, even if it is just a walk around the neighborhood. Exercise helps to dispel excess stress hormones from your body and boosts your energy level. Make sure you get enough sleep, at least seven to eight hours a night. Eat a healthy diet, limit alcohol and caffeine, and drink enough water each day. All of these will increase your general level of health, as well as decrease the effects of stress.

Make sure that you take time for yourself each day. Leave time in your schedule for activities that you enjoy. If you feel overwhelmed, try writing down every task that you want to accomplish each day, crossing them off as you go.

Identify those things that are particular stressors for you. Make a list of alternative approaches to dealing with these, and start by trying the easiest approaches first. If they don't work, try something else. Above all, be flexible in dealing with those things that are challenging in life.

Remember that no one is perfect. Learn to set priorities in your life and focus on completing them as well as you can. When you are confronted with a stressful situation, change what you can, and don't waste energy on what you can't change.

If you feel that the stress in your life is more than you can handle, there is help available. Seek the advice of a medical professional, mental health therapist, or a clergy member to explore all of your options.



TAX HUMOR

Most people don't find doing their taxes particularly humorous. So here is a way to poke fun at all things related to taxes-forms, accountants, audits, and deductions!

If a lawyer and an IRS agent were both drowning, and you could only save one of them, would you go to lunch or read the paper?

What's the definition of an accountant? Someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.

Why did the auditor cross the road? Because he looked in the file and that's what they did last year.

What do accountants suffer from that ordinary people don't? Depreciation.

For every tax problem there is a solution which is straightforward, uncomplicated, and wrong.

People who complain about paying their income tax can be divided into two types: men and women.

A businessman on his deathbed called his friend and said, "Bill, I want you to promise me that when I die you will have my remains cremated." "And what," his friend asked, "do you want me to do with your ashes?" The businessman said, "Just put them in an envelope and mail them to the Internal Revenue Service and write on the envelope, 'Now you have everything.'"

If you love something, set it free. If it comes back, it will always be yours. If it doesn't come back, it was never yours to begin with.

But...

If it just sits in your living room, messes up your stuff, eats your food, uses your telephone, takes your money, and doesn't appear to realize that you actually set it free in the first place, you either married it or gave birth to it. Either of which is probably tax deductible.

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EASY EASTER DESSERTS

Easy Coconut Cake

Prepare one white cake mix as directed on the box. While the cake is still hot, poke holes in the cake with a fork. Mix one 14-ounce can of sweetened condensed milk with one 12-ounce can of cream of coconut. Pour this mixture slowly over the cake. Cool cake completely in the refrigerator overnight. The next day, spread with non-dairy whipped topping and sprinkle with coconut.

Bunny Patch Cake

Line the bottom of a 13 x 9 inch baking pan with a 10-ounce pound cake cut into slices. Top with a 21-ounce can of strawberry pie filling and then 12 ounces of non-dairy whipped topping. Refrigerate at least one hour. Top cake with coconut that has been tinted green and sprinkle on one cup of jelly beans. Place several marshmallow bunnies around the cake.



Quick and Easy Carrot Cake

Prepare one package of spice cake mix according to directions, adding in two cups shredded carrots, one 8-ounce can of drained, crushed pineapple, and 3/4 cup of chopped pecans. Pour into two 9-inch baking pans and bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool cake completely. To make frosting, beat two 8-ounce packages of softened cream cheese with two cups of powdered sugar until smooth. Add in one 8-ounce tub of non-dairy whipped topping and stir until well blended. Use frosting as a filler between the two layers of cake and to frost the top and sides of the cake. Garnish with additional pecans if desired. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

"A man who stops advertising to save money is like a man who stops a clock to save time." — Henry Ford

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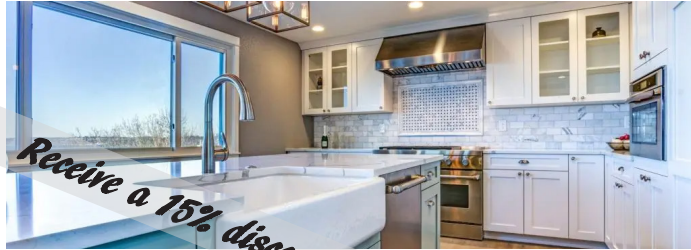
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