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A Newsletter for the Residents of The Mar Del Plata Condominium

September 2025

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NATIONAL GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

While every day is a good day to be a good neighbor, Sept. 28 reminds us that in this busy, digital world, there are real people living just across the hall or a few floors away. Isn't it time to get to know them? Some celebrate Sept. 28 as National Good Neighbor Day, while others mark it on the 4th Sunday of September—but whatever day is chosen, being a considerate condo neighbor can be achieved in many ways.



- Start with a smile and a friendly hello. If someone new moves into your building, a small welcome gift—like fresh fruit, a potted plant, or even an invitation to coffee by the pool—can go a long way.
- Respect shared spaces. Hallways, lobbies, the gym, and the pool belong to everyone. Keep noise down, clean up after yourself, and make sure your guests do the same.
- Be mindful with pets. Always pick up after them, use designated areas, and make sure barking or other noises don't disturb the peace of your neighbors.
- Keep your balcony and entry neat. A tidy space helps everyone enjoy the view and keeps the building looking its best. Dispose of trash properly, keep plants trimmed, and avoid clutter in shared areas.
- Look out for one another. If you know a neighbor who is elderly or lives alone, check in from time to time. A quick chat in the elevator or an offer to pick something up from the store can mean a lot.
- Stay aware. A community thrives when neighbors keep an eye out for one another. Report suspicious activity to building management or security, and encourage a culture of care.

There's still plenty of warm weather to invite a neighbor to join you for a casual cookout on the patio, a poolside gathering, or even a fall-themed get-together. Being a good neighbor isn't just thoughtful—it can be fun!

THE DISHWASHER WARS: WHO IS RIGHT?

For an appliance that is supposed to save time, the dishwasher sure causes a lot of discord -- mainly about how to load it.

While it should be a simple task, more than 40 percent of Americans said they fight over how to load the dishwasher, according to appliance maker Bosch. Maybe that's because it happens in the kitchen where it can be scrutinized, debated and redone.

According to General Electric, there are three type of dishwasher loaders.

- "Protectors" want to load utensils with the handles up so the eating end isn't touched when unloading.
- "Organizers" just want to load and unload everything as fast as possible.
- "Curators" are particular. They place all the tall plates together even though they don't have to.



Loading technique is now more important than ever. Energy-saving dishwashers use less water, which heightens tensions about how much pre-rinsing to do. Appliance and soap makers urge against pre-rinsing dishes, but some people insist on doing it anyway.

Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart offers these cautions:

"Never put knives, pewter, wood, china, crystal, cast iron, nonstick pans or gold-plate flatware in the dishwasher." And don't mix sterling or silver-plate software with stainless-steel because a reaction of both metals can harm them both.

If you are looking for an ally in your dishwasher strategy, don't go to AI. When asked, Grok retreats to diplomacy. Grok says there is no actual best way. Just try to space things out. It doesn't take a super intelligence to know that, though.



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Skillet Chicken Bulgogi

- ¼ cup chopped onion
- 5 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 ½ tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- ½ teaspoon cayenne salt and pepper to taste
- 1 lb skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips

Whisk onion, soy sauce, brown sugar, garlic, sesame oil, sesame seeds, cayenne pepper, salt, and black pepper together in a bowl until marinade is smooth. Cook and stir chicken and marinade together in a large skillet over medium-high heat until chicken is cooked through, about 15 minutes. Optional: add vegetables of your choice. Serve over rice or noodles. 4 servings





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ON SEPTEMBER 22-24 ... CELEBRATING ROSH HASHANAH, JEWISH NEW YEAR

Jewish Americans are celebrating Rosh Hashana, which is also known as the Jewish New Year. It begins on the first day of Tishrei (or Tishri), which is the seventh month in the Jewish calendar, and may last for two days. The celebration begins at sundown on the previous day. It is sometimes called the Day of Remembrance.

Many celebrate the event for two days, while others celebrate the event for one day. It is a time of family gatherings, special meals and sweet foods. A popular treat is eating challah bread and apples dipped in honey.

It's the time of judgment and remembrance, during which God reviews and judges a Jewish person's deeds in the past year, and also a time of prayer and penitence. By tradition, debts from the past year are settled before Rosh Hashanah.

Before the event, reverent Jewish people in the United States may decide to seek forgiveness from friends and family they may have offended during the year just ending.



Rosh Hashanah Begins
September 22

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