

# APRIL



## Springtime Salad!

This delicious salad is a perfect side or meal.

### Ingredients

- 8 ounces spring greens, lettuces
- 4 ounces walnuts, toasted and rough chopped
- 4 ounces dried sweetened cranberries
- 4 ounces goat cheese, crumbled
- 2 to taste raspberry walnut vinaigrette, to taste
- 2 to taste salt and pepper, to taste



### Directions

1. Rinse lettuces; divide between 2 bowls.
2. Sprinkle with walnuts, cranberries and goat cheese, evenly between the 2 bowls.
3. Dress with vinaigrette, to taste: Salt and Pepper, to taste.

## Here are a few other holidays worth celebrating this month.

April 15: National Tax Day ♦ April 22: Earth Day ♦ April 24: Executive Administrator Day (Secretary's Day) ♦ April 25: Take Your ♦ Daughter to Work Day ♦ April 26: Arbor Day



## Ready to start the home search process?



If you haven't started searching for your new home, you might be wondering where to start. While there is no perfect path, today many consumers jump to the internet to begin the process of searching for a home. In fact, the number of people jumping on the world wide web to begin their home search has grown in recent years: 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 browsing houses. People searching the Web sought out information on mortgages, information on foreclosures, and the home buying process. But before you dive in, it's important to consider three things:

How much home you can afford?  
Where do you want to live?  
What is your must-have list and 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 a seller's 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 tomorrow.

As your real estate agent, I can get updates and information as it's happening - before it shows up on the web. And 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 right now!

# APRIL

## The Top 11 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.

11. 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. Set them apart and save energy.

10. Lighting makes up about 10 percent of home energy costs. Save up to 75 percent of that energy by replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). They also last longer, saving money on replacements.

9. If #10 weren't enough reason to make the switch to CFLs, only about 10 to 15 percent of the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light - the rest is turned into heat.

8. Running your air conditioning at 78°F instead of 72°F can save between 6 and 18 percent 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 months.

7. Well-planned landscaping isn't just for aesthetics - properly placed trees around the house can save between \$100 and \$250 annually.

6. 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.

5. 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).

4. 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 (and avoid a surprise faucet-scalding).

3. 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.

2. 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.

1. 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.