

# Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

## Fireside Homes

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"From Bierhaus To Your House"

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## APRIL

April 1st is April Fool's Day

April 15th is Tax Day

April 20th is the start of Passover

April 22nd is Earth Day



## Celebrate Earth Day on April 22

Earth Day is a very special day specifically designed for all of us to think about earth issues. It is not only a special day in the town where we live, but a day that the whole world participates in!

You can help the Global Re-Leaf effort and improve your landscape by:

- Planting a tree or wildflowers,
- Growing herbs indoors or out, and
- Saving seeds from this year's flowers and planting them next year.

## Go native this spring in your garden

Landscaping with native plants will reduce the amount of watering needed and help the native environment. Native plants are low maintenance and sustainable, which means they use less water and other resources.

Landscaping with native plants is good for you, too, because:

- Native plants are drought tolerant, so you'll water less.
- Native plants are disease resistant and rarely require added fertilizers, saving you money.
- Native plants improve soil conditions.
- Native plants are easier to grow because they are suited to your weather and soil conditions. The resilience of native plants is due in large part to their massive root systems. Because the roots reach deep into the soil—in some cases, as far down as ten feet—the plants can access water even during dry times. Their extensive root systems can also improve your soil. New root growth reduces soil compaction, and the die-off of old roots adds humus and nutrients to the soil.
- Using native plants, you can create a stunning garden that blooms all season long. Native plants offer a unique palette of color, texture and shape, plus a wide variety of heights and sizes. Attractive, well-placed native plants enhance your garden and property. Visit your local nursery for a list of native plant materials for your area.

Check out the web site of Wild Ones, a national nonprofit organization that promotes the use of native plants.  
[www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)



## Mulch your way to a nicer landscape

*To create a nice, clean look for your landscaping, you can add mulch and completely transform the appearance.*

In addition to looking nice, mulch has many other benefits such as:

- Protection of the root systems of plants,
- Providing rich nutrients into the soil,
- Slowing down erosion, retaining moisture, and
- Reducing the growth of weeds. By placing mulch around plants, shrubs, and trees, you can enjoy the work you have put into your yard without having to spend all of your time working overtime. Mulch falls into two categories—organic and inorganic. To help you choose the best mulch for your needs, talk with your local nursery or home improvement center.



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**Repair, Replace, Relax** with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with “peace of mind” when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home’s major systems and appliances. FNHW prides itself on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners’ problems and needs. The homeowner only needs to make one call and pay one small service fee when a problem or a repair need arises.



*If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.*



This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent. These materials contain information and articles obtained from third parties. FNHW does not endorse the recommendations of any third party nor guarantee the information provided is complete or correct.



## Taxes are due April 15

### Are you eligible for a Child and Dependent Care Expense Tax Credit?

If you pay someone to care for your child so you can work or look for work, you probably qualify for this credit. Normally, your child must be your dependent and under age 13. Though often referred to as the child care credit, this credit is also available if you pay someone to care for a spouse or dependent, regardless of age, which is unable to care for him or herself. In most cases, you need to obtain the care provider’s social security number or taxpayer identification number and enter it on your return. For more information visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

## This April Fool’s Day... Make Dinner Look Like Dessert

*Everyone will look at you wide-eyed when you serve dessert first. But, surprise! It only looks like dessert...*

### The Meatloaf Cake

What you’ll need:

- Two round cake pans
- Your favorite meatloaf recipe
- Mashed potatoes
- Ketchup
- Cherry tomatoes



Prepare your favorite meatloaf recipe as you normally would, but, before baking, divide the mixture into the two round cake pans and pat it flat.

Bake as usual, but shorten the cooking time (these thinner meatloaves won’t take nearly as long to cook).

While the meatloaf is in the oven, make a batch of mashed potatoes, adding a little extra milk and whipping them with an electric beater until fluffy and spreadable.

When the meatloaves are done, invert one of them onto a round plate.

Cover the meat with a thick, even layer of mashed potatoes.

Place the other meatloaf on top of the potato layer, and finish frosting the “cake” with the remaining potatoes.

Garnish with halved cherry tomatoes to look like cherries.

Just before serving, decorate the top of your cake with ketchup. Write a personalized message, or just a simple “Happy April Fool’s Day!”