

Home News of the Triangle

News To Help You Save Time And Money

Spring 2016

The Keeper Of The Spring

Once there was a dirty stream running through a town. The town council, wanting to clear their stream, hired a young man to remove debris from a spring on the mountain that fed the stream.

And so, each day with faithful, silent regularity, the young man hiked to the spring and removed the leaves that would have choked the fresh water. Graceful swans came to float along the crystal clear town stream. Profitable mill wheels turned freely, farmlands were irrigated, and the view was picturesque. The village became a popular attraction.



Years passed. One spring day the town council met to review the budget. Their eyes caught on the salary being paid to the obscure "keeper of the spring." They decided this was frivolous, and they dispensed with the now much older man's services.

By summer, someone noticed a slight yellowish-brown tint in the town's stream. A few weeks later, the water was much darker. The flow of water dropped and a slimy film began to build up on the banks. The swans left, and visitors stopped arriving.

By autumn, the embarrassed council called a special meeting where they rehired the old keeper of the spring. Within a few weeks, the stream began to clear up. The wheels started to turn, and new life returned to the town.

Moral of the story: Never become discouraged with the smallness of your job. Recall the words of Edward Everett Hale: "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something I can do."

~Amy Shair

Win A Prize!

Check Out Quiz Question on Page 3

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There are people who prefer to say "yes" and there are people who prefer to say "no."

Those who say "yes" are rewarded by the adventures they have.

Those who say "no" are rewarded by the safety they attain.

It's a matter of preference.

—Keith Johnstone

Read The Fine Print In Your Retirement Plan

In the US we have 401k's. In Canada we have RRSP's. In both cases, few of us know all the mechanics of our retirement plans. That can cause unpleasant surprises when people retire or switch jobs. Here are some important things to learn:

- **Trading limits.** Many plans allow you to move money, but with strings attached. Don't move long-term retirement savings around for short periods of time. If you do switch from time to time, keep in mind that your plan may allow only a set number of trades each week, month, quarter, or year.



- **Account valuations.** Find out how often the value of your retirement account is calculated. You can get the most out of your money by timing your retirement or departure. Most organizations value everything the day you leave, but some value your account weekly, monthly, or quarterly.
- **Withdrawal options.** Some plans don't allow retirees to keep their money in place. Instead, they're paid the lump sum to be reinvested elsewhere. Other plans allow retirees to take a stream of payments as an income source, while the rest of the money stays in the plan.

A best friend is like a four leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have. ~Unknown

Pot Calls The Kettle Black

There was a farmer who regularly sold a pound of butter to a baker. One day the baker decided to weigh the butter to see if the farmer was honestly giving him a full pound of butter.

He found that he was not. This angered the baker and he took the farmer to court.

The judge asked the farmer how he was measuring the butter. The farmer replied, "Your Honor, I am primitive. I don't have a proper scale."

The judge asked, "Then how do you weigh the butter?"

The farmer replied "Your Honor, I have no scale, but I do have a balance. I regularly buy a pound of bread from the baker. So whenever he brings the bread, I put it on the balance and give him the same weight in butter."



**Time for a Spring HVAC
Checkup?**



**Call Johnny at Greenlight
919-796-3684**

Keep Up The Speed When You Walk

A brisk walk is good for your health, especially as you grow older. A study reported on the LiveScience website found that older adults who maintain a speed of 3 miles per hour when they walk have a 50 percent lower risk of heart disease than people with a pace of two miles per hour or slower. And folks who walk an average of seven blocks a day have a 47 percent lower chance of developing heart disease than those whose walks add up to just five blocks a day or less. So put your shoes on and get walking!

Spring Quiz Question

Question: What can be seen in the middle of March and April that cannot be seen at the beginning or end of either month?

The first person to call in with the right answer will win a prize!
Call Amy at [919-469-6539](tel:919-469-6539) with your quiz answer.

NOTE: It usually takes 2 days for the winning answer – don't hesitate to try!

The Winter Quiz Winner was Linda Kolstee-Ozkaynak.

Timely Gardening Tips

Spring Flowering Shrubs & Plants – Just as flowers begin to fade is the best time to prune spring-flowering shrubs, such as azaleas, rhododendrons, spireas, flowering quince, oriental magnolia, and forsythia.

Perennial Plants should be set out this month so they may become established before hot weather sets in. Prepare beds using leaf compost or pine bark. Incorporate superphosphate before planting. Perennials to divide and transplant this month include daylilies, ajuga, oxalis, chrysanthemums and liriopie

Summer Bulbs can be planted in late April. This covers dahlias, gladiolus, tuberose, fancy-leafed caladiums, elephant ears, amaryllis, and cannas. Start digging and storing early flowering bulbs such as ranunculus and anemones as their foliage begins to yellow.

Easter Lilies – Gift pots of Easter lilies will keep longer if they are placed in a cool room at night. Keep the plants moist, but not wet, and remove the yellow pollen sacks as flowers develop. After the flowers fade, cut the plant back 3 to 4 inches and transplant outdoors.

Trees & Shrubs – Examine spring-flowering trees and shrubs after they have bloomed to see if pruning is needed. Spring-flowering trees, shrubs and bulbs should be fertilized after the blooms are spent.

**Unhappy with your
HOA?**

Maybe it's time for a new
HOA management
company.



**Call Marie Pierce
at RPM
(919) 240-4045**

Home News of the Triangle

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The 2016 Triangle Real Estate Market is *HOT!*



First quarter has resulted in many sales even with the wetter & cooler weather. Prices are increasing and interest rates are still low. Inventory is very low and houses are not staying on the market long. If you are considering selling this year, give me a call to get more information on why now is a great time to make a move.

Amy Shair
919-469-6539

Call AMY for your SHAIR of the Market!

RE/MAX United

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