

The McJunkin Messenger

News To Help You Save Time And Money

April 2011

What's So Special About April 22?

Did you know that April 22 is Earth Day, and has been every year since it was first celebrated in 1970?

Earth Day was the creation of Gaylord Nelson who, as a Wisconsin Senator in the late 1960s, said, "Our soil, our water, and our air are becoming more polluted every day. Our most priceless natural resources – trees, lakes, rivers, wildlife habitats, scenic landscapes – are being destroyed. How are we going to get the nation to wake up and pay attention to the most important challenge the human species faces on the planet?"



Nelson's wake-up call was that first Earth Day, and 20 million people in the U.S., Canada and other countries participated in activities demonstrating their interest in the environment. Today Earth Day is observed in more than 140 countries with rallies, speakers and parades, and individuals or groups planting trees, picking up roadside trash, and conducting programs about recycling and conservation. You can check out activities at www.epa.gov/earthday, www.earthday.ca and other Web sites, and celebrate Earth Day every day by practicing the five Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Replenish and Restore. Here are just a few ideas:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Praise Vs. *Effective* Praise
- How To Plant A Great Herb Garden
- How To Remember A Name
- Should Baseball Helmets Have Face Guards?
- You Arx a Kxy Pxrson
- Keith's Thought Of The Month

Replace your standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

Carpool or take public transit – even once a week will make a difference.

Call companies that are sending you unwanted catalogues and cancel them.

Find out where to recycle your old electronics – cell phones, computers, MP3s – and set a date to do it.

Take shorter showers, and run your dishwasher only when it's full.

Love your planet on Earth Day – and every day!

Keith

Praise Vs. *Effective* Praise

It's likely that you know the benefits of giving praise – whether it's in a work situation, a personal relationship, or even with your pet puppy. Praise makes the recipient feel valued, and encourages the recipient to repeat the behavior you're praising. It makes you feel good, too!

Giving *effective* praise can be tricky, however, so here are three tips to keep in mind the next time you're praising a colleague, family member or friend. (This doesn't work with your puppy but a doggie treat will.)

- Show that you understand the difficulty of what they did.
- Show you understand how they succeeded – the decisions they made, the tools and/or techniques they used, the resourcefulness they displayed.
- Show you understand the value of what they did.

In other words, giving praise can be work. But it's truly worthwhile for both the receiver *and* the giver.

How To Plant A Great Herb Garden

If you love having fresh herbs at your fingertips here are a few suggestions on setting up an herb garden you will use and love:

- Plant your herb garden as close to the kitchen as you can manage. Your herb garden can be grown in a series of containers if that helps you locate it where it will be most convenient. If you have to go to too much trouble to get to and pick the herbs, you won't use them as much.
- If you want to get the most pleasure you can from your herbs, plant them along walkways and where people will brush up against them. They won't release their fragrances until something brushes or bruises them.
- Make sure to place your marjoram, parsley and thyme along borders. These plants only grow a few inches high and will get lost among taller plants.
- Dill, tarragon and coriander grow up to two feet high. If you have a walk around garden, the center is the best place. If your garden is up against a wall or object then you'll want to place these plants at the back of the garden.
- Grow bay leaves and rosemary in clay pots just beneath the soil of your garden. When the weather turns cold, dig them up and take them inside. They'll continue to grow and you can enjoy their fragrance and flavor year round.
- Remember some herbs spread (like mint, wild marjoram and tarragon). Each year they'll take more and more room. To contain their growth, confine their roots by

burying them in a section of stovepipe. The pipe will keep them from spreading.

- Cut your herbs just before they flower for optimum flavor – that’s when their oils peak. If you’re going to store your herbs, it’s best to cut them midmorning on a sunny day.
- Store your herbs by freezing or drying, or in oil or vinegar. You can use the oil and vinegar as seasonings when you cook and in salad dressings.
- If you have refrigerator space, keep your dried herbs there, as they’ll keep better.

How To Remember A Name

Do you have trouble remembering names after you meet people? If you do, you might want to try the following technique to aid your memory:

Focus. You want to send a positive message to the person you’re meeting. Pay attention to your pose. Are you leaning in, are you telling the person that this moment is important to you and that he or she has your undivided attention?

Ask. Repeat the name back to the person you’re meeting. Ask if you’ve got it right. This makes you an active participant in the meeting and shows that you’re paying attention.

Repeat. Repeat the person’s name in your mind, then cross reference it with something else – a celebrity’s name that you’re already familiar with, or some other association.

Employ. Once you have the name clarified, it’s very helpful to introduce your new acquaintance to someone else. This makes you say the name out loud and fixes it in your memory.



Should Baseball Helmets Have Face Guards?

Baseball season is upon us and unfortunately, that means an increase in eye injuries is upon us, as well. Thirty-eight percent of all sports-related eye injuries result from baseball or softball, and nearly half of those injuries require surgery. Safety experts believe that face guards (which can be attached to batting helmets) can prevent a quarter to a half of those injuries because they protect the face when it’s struck by a ball or bat.

A face guard is a small investment to protect something irreplaceable – your, or your children’s, eyes.

You Arx A Kxy Pxrson

Xvxn though my computxr is an old modxl, it works vxry wxll – xxxcpt for onx kxy. You would think that with all thx othxr kxys functioning propxry, onx kxy not working would hardly bx noticxd; but just onx kxy out of whack sxxms to ruin thx wholx xffort.

So if you xvvr say to yoursxlf, “Wxll, I’m only onx pxrson. No onx will noticx if I don’t do my bxst...”

It doxs makx a diffxrxncx! Xvxry xffort, vxvry family, vxvry organization in thx world nxxds activx participation by vxvryonx to thx bxst of his or hxr ability.

So, thx nxxt timx you think you arxn’t important, rxmxmbxr my old computxr!

April Scramble Trivia

I will give you clues to 2 words. You must figure out the first word, then subtract a “T” from that word and re-arrange the rest of the letters to get the second word. The words must be given in the correct order.

A piece of meat - t = A Japanese beverage

Everyone who faxes, emails or calls in the correct answer by the last day of this month will be entered into a drawing for a Lowe’s \$30 gift card.
Call 281.597.7300 and leave a message or email me at
keith@mcjunkinhomes.com

WELCOME NEW CLIENTS

Here are some of the new clients who became members of our “Real Estate Family” this past month. I’d like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Lee Kien Thai & Wan Loo Ooi

*Coleman and Kim Conkling
(referred by Claudia and Gary Sauer)*

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to introduce their friends and relatives to us.

Thought of the Month

A very interesting column. COMPLETELY NEUTRAL

I received this from a client and thought it was worth sharing with you as my Thought of the Month.

Charley Reese's final column for the Orlando Sentinel... He has been a journalist for 49 years. He is retiring and this is HIS LAST COLUMN.

This is about as clear and easy to understand as it can be. The article below is completely neutral, neither anti-republican or democrat. Charlie Reese, a retired reporter for the Orlando Sentinel, has hit the nail directly on the head, defining clearly who it is that in the final analysis must assume responsibility for the judgments made that impact each one of us every day. It's a short but good read. Worth the time. Worth remembering!

545 vs. 300,000,000 People
-By Charlie Reese

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, WHY do we have deficits? Have you ever wondered, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, WHY do we have inflation and high taxes?

You and I don't propose a federal budget. The President does.

You and I don't have the Constitutional authority to vote on appropriations. The House of Representatives does.

You and I don't write the tax code, Congress does.

You and I don't set fiscal policy, Congress does.

You and I don't control monetary policy, the Federal Reserve Bank does. One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one President, and nine Supreme Court justices equates to 545 human beings out of the 300 million are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

I excluded the members of the Federal Reserve Board because that problem was created by the Congress. In 1913, Congress delegated its Constitutional duty to provide a sound currency to a federally chartered, but private, central bank.

I excluded all the special interests and lobbyists for a sound reason.

They have no legal authority. They have no ability to coerce a senator, a congressman, or a President to do one cotton-picking thing. I don't care if they offer a politician \$1 million dollars in cash. The politician has the power to accept or reject it. No matter what the lobbyist promises, it is the legislator's responsibility to determine how he votes.

Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common con regardless of party.

What separates a politician from a normal human being is an excessive amount of gall. No normal human being would have the gall of a Speaker, who stood up and criticized the President for creating deficits. The President can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to accept it.

The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating and approving appropriations and taxes. Who is the speaker of the House? John Boehner. He is the leader of the majority party. He and fellow House members, not the President, can approve any budget they want. If the President vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto if they agree to.

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 300 million cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted -- by present facts -- of incompetence and irresponsibility. I can't think of a single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 545 people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair.
If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red.

If the Army & Marines are in Iraq and Afghanistan it's because they want them in Iraq and Afghanistan ...

If they do not receive social security but are on an elite retirement plan not available to the people, it's because they want it that way.

There are no insoluble government problems.

Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take this power.

Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exists disembodied mystical forces like "the economy," "inflation," or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do. Those 545 people, and they alone, are responsible.

They, and they alone, have the power.

They, and they alone, should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses.

Provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees...

We should vote all of them out of office and clean up their mess!

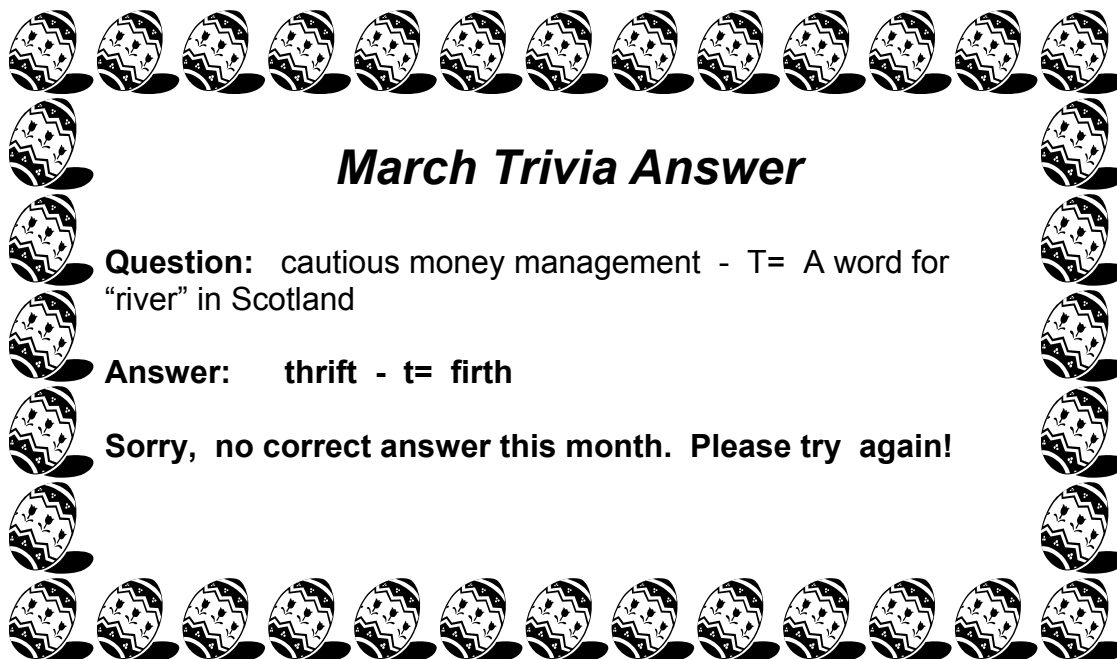
Charlie Reese is a former columnist of the Orlando Sentinel Newspaper.

What you do with this article now that you have read it... is up to you. This might be funny if it weren't true.

Happy Easter!!

Keith

As always, if you, a family member, friend or business associate are planning on purchasing, building, or selling a home. Please have them contact me as early as possible so I can work with them through this complicated process.



March Trivia Answer

Question: cautious money management - T= A word for "river" in Scotland

Answer: thrift - t= firth

Sorry, no correct answer this month. Please try again!

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