

Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

Advantage Realty



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"The Hardest Working Broker on the East Bay."

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Strategies for Saving a Bundle on Groceries

The key to cutting the grocery bill is not about changing the way you eat, but about changing the way you buy the foods that you like to eat, says Stephanie Nelson of www.CouponMom.com. She offers two simple principles to help everyday grocery shoppers become strategic shoppers, who can save big at the checkout.

1. Know How to Get Low Prices

Learn the price ranges of your most common grocery items by starting a book and stocking up when favorite items hit the lowest prices. By taking this approach, shoppers can save an average of 50 to 70 percent off of these items.

2. Know How to Use Coupons

Learn where to use them and where to find them. As a strategic shopper, be sure to recognize when favorite brand name items hit their lowest prices and use the coupons at that point to save the most money on the grocery bill. For more information log on to www.Shortcuts.com for a free e-book called Shortcuts and The Coupon Mom System Show You How to Cut Your Grocery Bill in Half.

Courtesy of ARAcontent

How to Sort and Organize Coupons

● **By Expiration Date:** You can clip together coupon batches by month (based on expiration dates) or just store them all loose in the envelope/pocket/etc., with the about to expire coupons at the front and moving back (by date).

● **By Products:** Within your Beauty & Health category, you can clip together all the shampoo coupons, all the deodorant coupons, makeup coupons, etc. Within each product category, sort the coupons by expiration date (with the soon to expire coupons on top).

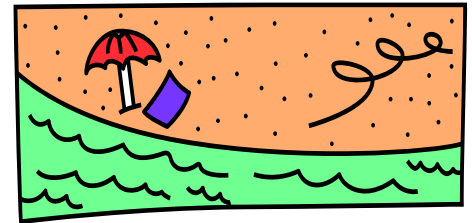
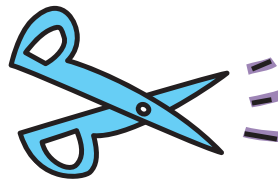
● **Alphabetically:** Another way to organize coupons within the system is by product name or product item (soap, jam, peanut butter, laundry detergent, etc.).

Choose whatever method works best for you. The goal is to set up a system that will help you to use your coupons before they expire as well as know where to find a particular coupon when looking for it.

Helpful Tips

● Clip out only the coupons you know you will use. This might take a little more time as you will need to look at (and think about) each individual coupon as you cut them out, but it will save time later when filing them away and when going through them for use

● Store organized coupons in Recycled envelopes: FREE! Instead of tossing out all those crisp clean reply envelopes (others may think of as junk mail), tuck the flap inside and use to store your coupons. This is great if you don't have many coupons to store.



Planning the Perfect Picnic

Labor Day is the perfect time to bring together family and friends to enjoy the outdoors. Dust off the grill, lay out a fresh blanket and enjoy delicious food while soaking up the sun with the ones you love. That's the advice of cleaning expert, author and television personality, Laura Dellutri, the Healthy Housekeeper. Armed with tried-and-true secrets she learned as a hostess and mother of five, Dellutri offers these tips:

- Plan your menu ahead and emphasize picnic-friendly foods like grilled chicken and watermelon.
- Line up activities for every age group.
- Let guests know what attire will work, such as swimsuits for a poolside picnic.

Courtesy of ARAcontent

SEPTEMBER

September 1st: Labor Day, the first Monday in September, constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

September 22nd: First day of Fall





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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.



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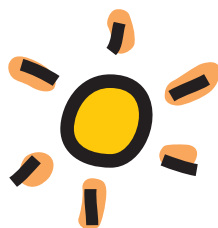


Bulbs are Here!

Bulbs allow you to create glorious gardens that come back year after year and are a great way for anyone to add color to their yard.

The best time to plant most bulbs is between September and December. An easy trick to remember is to plant your bulbs on Halloween, unless you live in a region where the first frost comes earlier.

It is best to plant your bulbs in an area of your yard that receives full or part sun. Bulbs such as Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths are

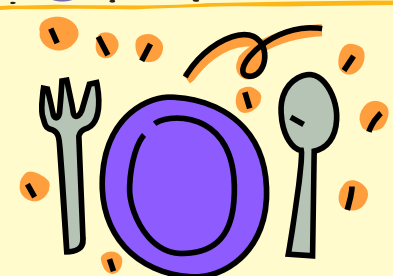


considered teardrop-shaped and should be planted with their tips facing up.

Bulbs that have roots should be planted with the root facing down.

Bulbs can be planted one-by-one or in a group. To begin, dig either a single hole or a trench about three times as deep as the width of the bulb. Don't forget to add compost or a slow-release fertilizer to the hole to enhance growing.

A really neat planting trick for bulbs is to plant them in clusters instead of lines. If you plant them in a triangular pattern (with the point of the triangle facing the front of the garden) then it looks as if you planted more flowers than you actually did.



SLAW WITH CRANBERRIES AND PINE NUTS

- 1 bag cole slaw mix
- 1/4 cup very thinly sliced red onions
- 1 handful dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup pine nuts
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Combine cole slaw mix, red onions, dried cranberries and pine nuts. Whisk remaining ingredients and pour over slaw. Mix well and chill.