

# December Community Newsletter

Tips for Living, Laughing and Loving Your Apartment Life

## COMMUNITY TIP

### Quiet in the Halls

Most apartment dwellers are conscious that sound carries and do their best to keep music down at night, to quiet barking dogs, and otherwise turn down the level of noise spilling out of their apartments into other units.

Unfortunately, many people who would never dream of doing a little construction work at night or cranking up the television to full volume forget their manners when passing through the hallways. Stairwells, foyers, elevators and hallways may have more of an “outside” feel to them, but they’re just as connected to other people’s apartments as your own unit is, and they’re definitely locations for inside voices.

When you’re coming and going, especially at night or very early in the morning, remember that the hallway wall next to you is the exterior wall of someone else’s home.

## SEASONAL RECIPE

### Mexican Hot Chocolate

3 tablespoons instant hot chocolate mix  
1 tablespoon chocolate syrup  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 pinch chili powder  
1/4 cup milk  
3/4 cup boiling water

In a large mug, mix the hot chocolate mix, chocolate syrup, cinnamon, and chili powder. Pour in the milk. Add the boiling water and stir.

## MY QUESTION

### What should I do if I notice discoloration on my wall/ceiling?

Slight discoloration on the wall or ceiling may not seem like a serious problem, and your first inclination may be to ignore it, or simply to try to wipe it away. However, brown spotting or mold on the ceiling or a wall can be an indication that there’s moisture beneath the surface. The moisture itself can cause damage to the building, but that’s just one concern.

If moisture is lurking inside walls or ceilings, it’s important to find out where that moisture is coming from. It could signify a leaky roof, a pipe dripping behind the wall, a tiny crack letting moisture seep through from the floor above or other problems that could become both extensive and expensive if ignored.

What looks like minor staining may not just be cosmetic, so let the manager know about it right away. Maintenance staff will assess whether corrective action is required and hopefully prevent further issues.

**FUN FACT:** Polar bears can eat as many as 86 penguins in a single sitting. (If they lived in the same place.)

# Live for the buzz!

701 E High St  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
(434) 296-4100

**Tarleton  
Square**

## FUN APARTMENT

### Green Isn't Just For Spring

If you find yourself missing greenery this winter, don't despair. You can bring the garden right into your apartment. Whether you're yearning for some fresh herbs or just looking for a splash of life and color during the long winter months, the solution is within easy reach.

Many herbs will thrive on a sunny windowsill, with no need for special lighting. Start from cuttings or germinate in a dark, damp place until seedlings are about an inch tall, then transfer to any pot or planter with good drainage. You can even have flowers year round: cyclamen, jasmine, kalanchoe and some begonias will bloom indoors in winter, when properly cultivated.

## APARTMENT LIVING TIP

### Keep Holiday Energy Costs Down

Most of us love holiday lights, until the electric bill rolls around in January, right on the heels of all of that holiday spending. Updating to LED lights can save you money this holiday season, even if it means buying new bulbs.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the cost of lighting a 6-foot Christmas tree with regular incandescent bulbs is nearly forty times the cost of lighting the same tree with similar LED bulbs. While the cost difference isn't as extreme between traditional and LED mini-lights, it's still significant. Cost isn't the only advantage, either. LED lights stay cooler, which means a much lower risk of combustion. And, because they're typically made of plastic rather than glass, they're less likely to break, too.

