107 Community Way Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 213-0234

**Big Sky** 

### **November Community Newsletter**

Tips for Living, Laughing and Loving Your Apartment Life

### Hosting Friendsgiving in a Small Space

Consider opting for an intimate Friendsgiving celebration if your apartment space is limited but you still want to host a memorable party. Having a small guest list allows you to cherish the season with your closest friends, eliminating the need to plan an extensive Friendsgiving menu for a large crowd.

If you're reluctant to trim your guest list or are determined not to settle for a smaller Friendsgiving this year, transform your gathering into a drop-in event rather than an all-day affair. This strategy helps control the number of people in your apartment at any given time. Regardless of the Friendsgiving party format you choose, optimize your apartment's furniture layout to your advantage.

Push your dining room table against a wall, using it for food and drinks, and strategically place additional seats near your couch to create a natural space for conversation. Instead of confining guests to the table, scatter chairs, poufs, and small stools throughout your apartment to maximize seating options.

Overall, just have fun! By optimizing your furniture layout and focusing on cherished moments with your closest friends, you can ensure that your Friendsgiving celebration is a memorable and enjoyable occasion, regardless of the size of your space or guest list.

## Practicing Gratitude: Why Seeing the Good Can Also Be Good for You

Thanksgiving extends beyond a mere holiday; it can become an integral part of your apartment living experience. Cultivating gratitude can positively impact your perspective and well-being, even in the context of apartment life. Research has demonstrated that maintaining a gratitude journal, for instance, can lead to significant reductions in diastolic blood pressure.

So, what exactly does practicing gratitude entail within the apartment lifestyle? It involves dedicating time to acknowledge the blessings in your life rather than fixating on negatives or stressing over uncontrollable situations.

To help you integrate this valuable practice into your apartment living, here are three ways to start:

- 1. Begin each morning by reflecting on at least three things you're thankful for, even those you may typically take for granted, such as the simple fact that you woke up to a new day in your apartment.
- 2. Express gratitude to those in your apartment community. Show appreciation for the small kindnesses they extend to you, whether through spoken words or written notes.
- 3. Extend gratitude to yourself within the context of apartment living. Instead of criticizing your body, express appreciation for all it can achieve and experience while residing in your apartment.

#### **Easy Pumpkin Pie**

To achieve a firm crust (say goodbye to any sogginess!), opt for a metal pie dish and prebake your pastry while using pie weights.

1 (14.1 oz.) package refrigerated pie crusts

1?½ cups plus 2 Tbsp. buttermilk, divided

Parchment paper

1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin

¾ cup sugar

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

∕2 teaspoon kosher salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 large eggs

1 large egg yolk

Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a 9-inch metal pie pan with one pie crust, press excess dough onto the rim. Cut shapes from the remaining crust for the edge. Brush with 1 Tbsp. buttermilk, attach shapes, and brush them too. Prick crust with a fork, line with parchment paper, and add pie weights. Bake for 15 minutes.

Mix pumpkin, next 6 ingredients, and 1 1/2 cups buttermilk. Pour into pie crust. Bake at  $425^{\circ}F$  for 10 minutes, then reduce to  $325^{\circ}F$  for 35-40 minutes until slightly puffed at the edges and center is slightly jiggly. Cool on a wire rack for 1 hour. Refrigerate for up to 2 days.

### **Important Information**

Management

Park Properties Management Co, LLC

**Community Manager** 

Lisa Bryant

November

Diabetes Awareness Month

Birthstone - Flower

Citrine - Chrysanthemum

November

Toy Drive



FUN FACT: There is cell reception at the summit of Mount Everest.





#### Live for the buzz!

#### Autumn Decor that Can Make the Transition to Winter

Decorating your apartment to reflect the seasons will keep it looking fresh and up-to-date. One drawback? Owning a lot of seasonal items can take up valuable storage space. That's why we prefer dual-purpose decor that can take your apartment from one season to the next. For example, the following are three decorating ideas that can transition your home's look effortlessly from fall to winter.

- 1. Display white and blue pumpkins (real or fake). Pumpkins are a quintessential fall decoration. But when pumpkins come in these frosty tones, they can create a bridge between your fall and winter decor.
- 2. Fill glass bowls with seasonal items. During the fall, for example, you can fill them with mini pumpkins or acorns. Then, as the winter chill settles in, replace those items with decorative Christmas tree ornaments.
- 3. Use vases to display seasonal greenery. For the fall months, fill the vases with real or fake branches adorned with colorful autumn leaves. You can then replace these in the winter months with pine branches tied together with a festive red ribbon.

Keeping your apartment fresh and seasonally updated can be enjoyable and space-efficient. Utilizing dual-purpose decor ideas like white and blue pumpkins, versatile glass bowls, and changing greenery in vases allows you to maintain a stylish, seasonal look without cluttering your storage space!

# My Question: How Long is Too Long for Guests to Stay in My Apartment?

Time flies. This can be especially true when it comes to visitors. Take that relative who asked to sleep on your couch for a few days, but was still there a month later. Or perhaps, your roommate has a new love interest who never seems to leave. You've probably wondered at what point is a visitor no longer considered to be a guest but more like a non-paying tenant.

In general, visitors should limit their stay to a maximum of 14 days or two weeks. However, it's important to note that laws and regulations regarding how long a guest can stay in an apartment can vary from county to county, and it can also change unexpectedly. So, it's important to check with our management team if you have any questions regarding visitors and length of stays.

Apartment rules are one thing. If you have a roommate (s), it's also important to take into consideration how they feel about having an additional guest staying in your apartment.

Big Sky Calendar - November 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Rent Due	2 Deviled Egg Day	<b>3</b> Exterminations 400-500 Bldgs	4 Bison Day
<b>5</b> Daylight Savings Time Ends	<b>6</b> Saxophone Day	<b>7</b> Retinol Day	8 Cappuccino Day	9 Smoke Detector Testing 700 Bldg	10 Veterans Day Observed- Office Closed	11 Veterans Day
<b>12</b> French Dip Day	13 World Kindness Day	14 Inspections - Smoke Detector Testing 400 Bldg	15 Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day	16 Inspections - Smoke Detector Testing 500 Bldg	17 Bagel Friday Exterminations 1000-1100 Bldgs	18 Adoption Day
<b>19</b> Play Monopoly Day	<b>20</b> PB Fudge Day	21 Inspections - Smoke Detector Testing 1000 Bldg	22 Inspections - Smoke Detector Testing 1100 Bldg	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed	<b>24</b> Black Friday - Office Closed	25 Small Business Saturday
<b>26</b> Cake Day	<b>27</b> Cyber Monday	28 National Day of Giving	29 Electronic Greetings Day	30 Personal Space Day		