



# From Our Home To Yours

SPRING 2016 – NEWS YOU CAN USE!

ISSUE: 7



## April is Financial Literacy Month!

### Greetings!

We are pleased to bring you the latest issue of "**From Our Home To Yours**", a seasonal newsletter aimed at promoting financial, educational, and inspirational wellness for the families we serve.

In this issue, you will find useful tips and resources, all of which can help you improve your financial well-being and supply you with tools to carry with you on your journey to a financially fit future.

## You Spring Clean Your Home - Why Not Clean Your Finances Too?

Many people engage in regular spring cleaning rituals like checking fire alarms, rotating mattresses and planting gardens. They're tedious and time-consuming tasks, but they need to be tended to by responsible homeowners.



Those responsibilities shouldn't end at household chores. Spring is as good a time as any to dust off and polish up all things personal finance. You're already sorting through slips and statements to file your taxes, so you might as well take some time to focus on the little things that you can do to improve your finances.

**I'm a big fan of consolidating accounts.** Having multiple bank or investment accounts may mean more fees and less

### In This Issue

[Spring Cleaning Your Finances](#)

[Spring Clean Your Homeownership Insurance Policy](#)

[Deviled Eggs Recipe](#)

[Central Dover Newsletter](#)

[NEW! Credit Smart Series](#)

[Homeownership Expo](#)

[Upcoming Workshops](#)

[Tax Deadline](#)

## Springtime Recipe: Deviled Eggs



Image by Food Network

Deviled eggs are a picnic and cookout favorite. Follow this simple recipe and top them with pretty garnishes like herbs, sun dried tomato, or olives and your guests will eat with their eyes too!

visibility. But consolidating other accounts - like utilities and insurance - with a single provider is also a surefire way to put money in your pocket.

Make sure everything you can bundle is bundled. And if you see a promotion from other providers that beats your current pricing for phone, cable, Internet or insurance, call your provider. They would prefer to offer you similar pricing over losing you. It's cheaper for most companies to provide you with a discount and keep you than it is for them to replace you with another customer.

Beyond that, consider what you really need and don't need. Home-phone land lines are so passé. And how can \$100-a-month cable bill compete with streaming services that are a fraction of the cost?

**Scan your bank statements.** Look for recurring monthly costs like memberships or subscriptions that you don't need and should probably cancel anyway. And if you're not regularly in the habit of scanning your statements, consider a budget app to start tracking your spending proactively instead of reactively.

**Cash in your accumulated rewards.** Whether it's points or miles or whatever else, make use of them on gift cards or financial rewards and free up your cash flow for investing or debt repayment.

Do you have gift cards from Christmas that you haven't used? There are websites that will buy your unused gift cards so you can turn them into cash.

**Do you still have credit card balances from the holidays?** Hopefully not, but if you do, or if you're carrying credit card debt generally, contact your credit provider and request a rate reduction. Chances are they'll go for it rather than losing you to a 0% promotional rate from a competitor.

While you're at it, you might as well **check your credit report** and make sure everything is up to date. This will help protect against identify theft by ensuring that no fraudulent credit applications have been made in your name and also prevent any potential errors on your report from impacting your credit score. The two national credit bureaus in Canada are TransUnion and Equifax.

**Combine your spring cleaning with your spring financial clean-up.** If you have furniture or other personal items that might be of value to someone else, consider selling them online so you can kill two birds with one stone - getting rid of stuff you don't need and getting money for them.

I'd be inclined to do a financial audit each spring so that you're checking, reviewing and haggling once a year. It can be tough for busy people to block off time to focus on finances, so don't fall victim to personal financial

## Ingredients

- 12 large eggs
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon relish
- 1 to 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper

## Directions

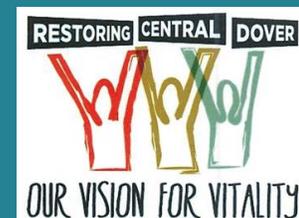
1. Place 12 large eggs in a wide pot, cover with cold water by 1 inch. Bring to boil. Reduce the heat to medium low, simmer 10 minutes.

2. Drain the eggs and run under cold water to cool slightly. Peel and halve each egg lengthwise. Scoop out the yolks and mash according to the recipe, then spoon into the egg whites.

3. Mash the yolks with 1/2 cup mayonnaise, 1 tablespoon relish and 1 to 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard. Season with salt and pepper. Spoon into the egg whites; dust with paprika.

Source: [Foodnetwork.com](http://Foodnetwork.com)

## NEW! Central Dover eNews!



Find out about events, interesting news, new businesses, and milestones for Restoring Central Dover. Want to share your news with us? Email [CJackson@ncall.org](mailto:CJackson@ncall.org).

**SIGN UP**

## Introducing... Our New Free Class!

procrastination. Try to use spring cleaning season to focus on more than just your house - and get your financial house in order as well.

*Source: Financial Post, Jason Heath*

## Spring Cleaning Your Homeownership Insurance Policy

Update What You Need and Eliminate What You Don't

Spring may be the traditional time of year for cleaning out closets and drawers and organizing attics, but it is also a great time to review your insurance coverage.



Just as it is important to look at your wardrobe, electronics and other personal items to see what needs to be tossed, fixed, updated or stored for the coming months, everyone should do a thorough evaluation of their insurance coverage at least once a year," says Jeanne M. Salvatore, the I.II.'s SVP and Chief Communications Officer. "So why not make a policy review part of your spring cleaning ritual?"

As your life changes so do your insurance needs. Instead of just dusting around the corners of your insurance policies this year, take the time to read them over and ask yourself the following key questions:

### 1. Is my home covered for its full rebuilding cost?

Review your policy to make sure that you have enough insurance to rebuild your home. If you have made major improvements to your home, such as adding a new room, enclosing a porch or expanding a kitchen or bathroom, you risk being underinsured if you don't adjust your homeowners insurance coverage limits.

And if you don't yet have a separate flood insurance policy, now would be a great time to check whether your home is in a flood risk zone at [FloodSmart.gov](http://FloodSmart.gov).

### 2. Do I have enough coverage for expensive items?

Have you bought or received as a gift any valuable jewelry since you purchased/renewed your policy? And, when was the last time you had the items you owned appraised? Standard homeowners insurance has dollar limits for the theft of certain types of expensive items like jewelry, furs and silverware. This means that the insurer will only pay the amount specified in the policy-generally \$1,000 to \$2,000. To insure these items to their full dollar value, consider a special personal property endorsement or floater. This

Freddie Mac®

CreditSmart®

A series designed to help you: improve your credit, manage your money, and learn to become a responsible homeowner.

**SIGN UP**

**2016 Homeownership Expo**

**June 11th**

*Take your first step to becoming a homeowner.*

Terry Campus Conference Center in the Education and Technology building 700 at Delaware Technical & Community College in Dover, Delaware.

You will receive a **FREE credit score** from all three major credit bureaus.

**Upcoming Homeownership Workshops**

**April 12**

Homeownership Orientation in Newark

**April 13**

Homeownership Orientation in Georgetown

**May 4**

Homeownership Orientation Workshop in Dover

**May 5**

Homeownership Orientation in Georgetown

coverage includes "accidental disappearance," meaning coverage if you simply lose that item-and there is no deductible.

But remember that items can go up or down in value. Floaters and endorsements are priced on the appraised value of an item or collection so have periodic reappraisals done to make sure you are purchasing only the amount of coverage you actually need.

The best way to keep track of your belongings and make sure they are adequately insured is to create a home inventory-[find out how here](#).

### **3. Do I still need comprehensive/collision on my car?**

If you're driving an older car that is worth less than \$1,000-or less than 10 times the insurance premium-the optional coverages may no longer be cost effective. Consider saving money on your premium by dropping either comprehensive or collision.

### **4. Do I have enough liability insurance to fully protect my assets?**

Standard homeowners and auto policies liability coverage, paying for judgments against you and your legal fees, up to a limit set in the policy. However, in litigious society, you may want to have additional protection - that's what an umbrella liability policy provides. An umbrella policy kicks in when you reach the limit on the underlying liability coverage in a homeowners, renters, condo or auto policy. If your assets have increased of late, you'll have more to lose and may want to consider this extra layer of protection.

### **5. What kind of vacation will I be taking this summer?**

If you are taking an expensive, pre-paid vacation or an active vacation such as biking or hiking in an exotic locale, travel insurance can help protect the financial investment in your vacation.

### **6. Should I rent out my house during the vacation period?**

Whether you own a second home that you plan to lease to a tenant, or want to rent out your primary residence through an online service such as Airbnb, your first step should be to call your insurance professional. Depending on the rental scenario, your standard homeowners policy may not cover losses incurred while your home is rented out, and you may require a [more specialized insurance policy](#).

Most importantly, whether it's winter, spring, summer or fall, plan a regular talk with your insurance professional so he or she can help you get the coverage you need.

Source: [Reboot With Joe](#)

#### **May 10**

Homeownership Orientation  
in Newark

#### **June 1**

Homeownership Orientation  
in Dover

#### **June 9**

Homeownership Orientation  
in Georgetown

#### **June 14**

Homeownership Full Day  
Workshop in Newark

#### **July 5**

Homeownership Full Day  
Workshop in Newark

#### **July 6**

Homeownership Orientation  
in Dover

#### **July 7**

Homeownership Full Day  
Workshop in Georgetown

#### **August 2**

Homeownership Orientation  
in Newark

#### **August 3**

Homeownership Orientation  
in Dover

#### **August 4**

Homeownership Orientation  
in Dover

#### **September 7**

Homeownership Orientation  
in Dover

**Call to Register**

**302-678-9400**

**Tax Deadline:  
April 18, 2016**

The regular tax return  
deadline is April 15.  
However, due to the  
Washington D.C.  
Emancipation Day  
holiday being observed  
on April 15 instead of  
April 16, 2016, Tax Day is

# Delaware Community Events

Get Out and Do Something!

## New Castle County

Wilmington Community Clean Up - April 30 [more info](#)

## Kent County:

Dover Community Clean Up - April 30 [more info](#)

Downtown Dover Days - May 6 - 8 [more info](#)

Central Dover Community Fair - June 11th [more info](#)

## Sussex County

Bethany Beach Ocean to the Bay Bike Tour - April 16 [more info](#)



on the following Monday.  
Don't Wait!



[www.NCALL.org](http://www.NCALL.org)

