



COMMUNITY NEWS & VIEWS

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100 Fireside Blvd., Toms River, NJ 08755

April 2026



**April
2026**

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Renee M. McNally
Senior Property & Sales Manager

Laura N. Lanzone
Assistant Property & Sales Manager

Donna Pabon
Office Assistant

OFFICE: 732-370-2300

FAX: 732-370-0694

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sales@homesteadrun.com



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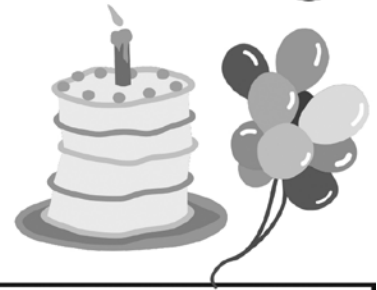
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RENEE'S REMINDERS

TENANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

In an effort to maintain a five-star reputation, the owners of Homestead Run and the Business Office will be publishing a series of reminders and modifications to standard lease, rules, and regulations. This column will be called Renee's Reminders, and Renee means business!

As you are aware, I have to write this in March to hit the deadline for April. Today is going to be 81 degrees. This is not going to last, but now, it's April. It's time to start cleaning up your lot from the nasty winter. Flowers are blooming. Grass is coming up. Trees are budding. All of those sticks and branches and broken stuff from the winter have to be cleaned up. This is not a trailer park, so stop making it look like one.

On this subject, what are we doing about these dilapidated cars in your driveways? Some of these cars have not run in years. If it's not insured, operational, and road worthy, get it out of here. If you consider it a collectible, Extra Space Storage has bays that can fit a car. Go store it. This is not your private bone yard. You have the month of April. If you don't get them out of here, we're not going to tow it. We're going to send your file to our attorneys for not maintaining your lot as per your lease. Such is life!

To those who are habitually delinquent in paying their lot rent, with your 15 million excuses (some of which are legit), change is coming. Besides being your community, this is also a business. If you don't have an arrangement to pay down your debt with the business office, you are jeopardizing your use of the pool. That is a luxury that we offer for free for those that are in good standing. Think about it. If you are behind, I recommend that you make an appointment to talk to Laura. If you make an agreement, you have to stick to it. You don't stick to it, you don't use the pool. Period. And no, we are not doing pool passes until May, so don't start.

To those that call and ask us what we're doing about whatever, the thing is that we do as much as we are legally allowed to do. The issue is what are YOU doing (you meaning, the collective you) about it? We're not speeding. We're not letting our dogs poop everywhere. We're not being nasty neighbors. I don't know what else you want us to do. Landlords cannot evict people for speeding, dog crap, or being grouchy. If we could, half of the park would be gone. Landlords actually have very little rights. We do the best we can, and we need you to do the same.

Alright, this is all the good news I have. See you next month when I'll want to pull my hair out for pool season.



Break the chains

This just in: I've been a people pleaser for most of my life. I'm not sure where it all started. It was probably sometime in childhood, when I realized my parents were happiest when I did the right thing and said the right thing. The perfectionism that came forward in those younger years carried into adulthood. Because of it, I didn't always speak my mind. I didn't always speak my truth. In fact, sometimes, I still don't.

Playing nice and keeping the peace has always been the way I move through this crazy life. I don't think there's anything necessarily wrong with that. There's no shame in being someone who doesn't make waves, but lately I've started to wonder...at what cost?

There are moments in life when we owe it to ourselves to speak up. There's an important lesson in it, one that I've had to learn more than once. People often treat us the way we teach them to treat us. If we stay in the shallow end of the pool to avoid making waves, people can mistake that quietness for complacency. That's not how I want to live. It's not how anyone should want to, if you ask me.

This year, I'll be turning the big 4-5, and I've found myself speaking my mind a little more often. (Where does your filter go as you get older, ladies?) Recently, I told a friend that they had really disappointed me and let me down. It sounds simple enough, doesn't it? Telling someone you love that they hurt you. It wasn't simple at all for me.

This person has been part of my life for nearly 30 years, and I've always been the rock in our friendship. I'm the one people turn to when times are tough, and I like being that person. I've never minded it. It's that superhero complex I oddly possess, wanting to save the day whenever someone needs it. On the flip side, I'm not someone

who asks for very much. I never expect to be saved. The independence that grew out of that perfectionism runs deep. I rarely ask for help, and I don't require much from the people around me. When I do let someone see that I'm going through something, that I could really use a little more support, it catches me off guard when they don't show up.

This time, I said something. Me! The one who doesn't like to make waves, the one who tends to sweep things under the rug for the sake of keeping the peace. I spoke up, and you know what? I felt empowered by it. Why should I give someone permission to overlook me?

Life gets busy. People have their own struggles, and I get that. I respect that. When you have a real relationship with someone, there's an unspoken agreement to be there for each other, to offer a kind word or two, to check in, or at the very least, ask if anything is needed. I said that out loud, and in doing so, I realized something surprising. The world didn't end. Was this person sorry for the oversight? It seems they were. What mattered more was what happened inside of me. Speaking my mind broke a chain I may have been carrying for years, one I might have placed on myself.

Sometimes growth doesn't come from keeping the peace. Sometimes it comes from finally allowing yourself to be heard. As it turned out, making a small wave didn't sink the boat. It just reminded me that my voice matters, too.

Until next time,

Laura Langone

(LLANZONE@HOMESTEADRUN.COM)

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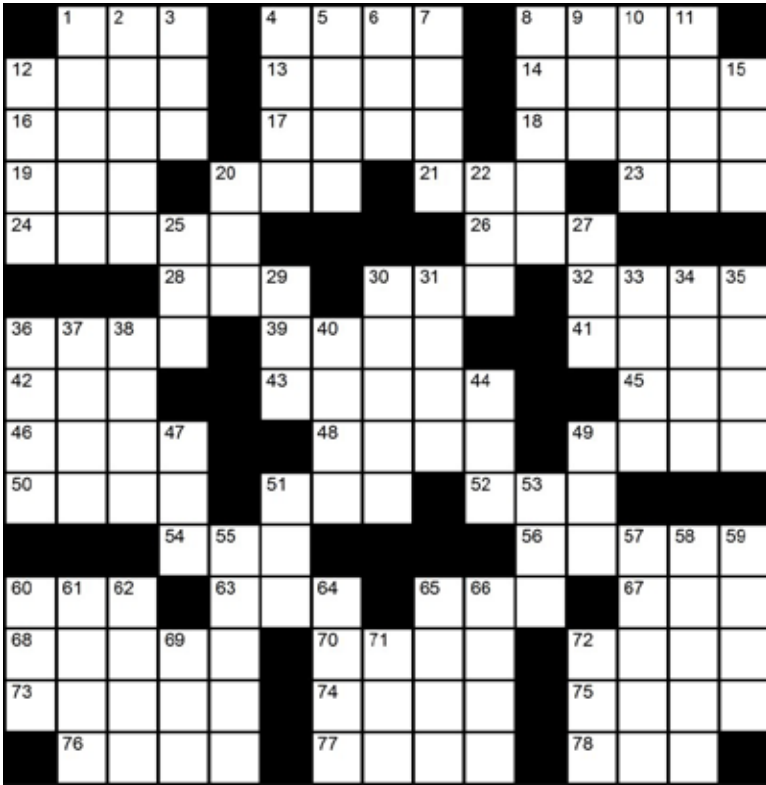
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer on page 14



ACROSS

- 1 Spanish hero El ---
- 4 Deep cut
- 8 Big cheeses
- 12 Flower jar
- 13 --- Falco, Nurse Jackie
- 14 Paragon
- 16 Formerly Persia
- 17 Rich, in Spain
- 18 Soothing ointment
- 19 Small cell
- 20 Author
- 21 Oregon summer clock setting
- 23 Lone Star State (Abbr.)
- 24 One over a major
- 26 Small amount
- 28 Neighbor of Neb.
- 30 Noncom
- 32 Irritate
- 36 Open pastry dessert
- 39 Carnival
- 41 Nothing
- 42 Lubricate
- 43 Untamed
- 45 Chafe
- 46 Speck
- 48 Enticement
- 49 Software menu option
- 50 Crystal ---
- 51 Tucson time
- 52 West Atlantic international grp.
- 54 Menagerie
- 56 "A Doll's House" dramatist

- 60 Atlanta-based health grp.
- 63 Lettuce variety
- 65 Building extension at a right angle
- 67 Gaza Strip grp.
- 68 Pray in Latin
- 70 Minnelli with a zee
- 72 Weeders' tools
- 73 Country music's --- Tucker
- 74 "--- in the Dark" (Streep movie)
- 75 Appetite
- 76 "--- there, done that"
- 77 Podded vegetables
- 78 "--- Porter" (Johnny Cash song)

DOWN

- 1 Diamond weight unit
- 2 Writer --- Asimov
- 3 Room for relaxing
- 4 Buddhist actor Richard ---
- 5 Tennis server's edge
- 6 Attack command
- 7 Abundance
- 8 Grand view
- 9 Actress/director/producer --- Lupino
- 10 Bombard
- 11 Preserve
- 12 Pharmacist's container
- 15 Latin law
- 20 Provide
- 22 Banned insecticide
- 25 Possess
- 27 Show --- (entertainment industry)
- 29 Rancid
- 30 Support column
- 31 Apparatus
- 33 Slender fork-tailed gull
- 34 Gunk
- 35 Drifter
- 36 Floating bubbles
- 37 Low calorie variety
- 38 Loads
- 40 Long slippery fish
- 44 Fifth sign of the zodiac
- 47 Freq. unit
- 49 Type of computer connection
- 51 Low
- 53 Suffer
- 55 Huge amount
- 57 Pollen grain
- 58 Lament
- 59 Small winning margin
- 60 Military bed
- 61 Dingy
- 62 Malacca
- 64 Strike with an open hand
- 65 Writer --- Pound
- 66 Sung poems
- 69 Whiskey variety
- 71 Diamonds
- 72 Bewildered response

EASTER EASY CARROT CAKE

Submitted by: Renee Stanzione



INGREDIENTS

For the cake:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 18 ounces carrots, scrubbed clean or peeled
- 1 3/4 cups (373g) light brown sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 1/2 cups (300g) all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- Preheat the oven to 350°F.

For the cream cheese frosting:

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 stick (4 ounces) unsalted butter, softened
- 3 cups (340g) powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

1. To make the cake, grease a 9x13-inch cake pan generously with nonstick cooking spray or butter. Line the bottom of the pan with parchment paper and grease the parchment.
2. Grate the carrots on a box grater directly into a large mixing bowl. Add the brown sugar, vegetable oil, eggs, pumpkin pie spice, and salt and whisk until fully combined.
3. Add the flour, baking powder, and baking soda. Use the whisk to gently stir the batter just until no streaks of flour remain.
4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean, 35 to 45 minutes. Let the cake cool completely in the pan on a wire rack, about 1 hour.
5. For the frosting, blend ingredients together with a hand mixer. Ice cake and enjoy!

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		2		9				
			4	5	6			
							5	7
			9					
		9		6		1		
1			2			6		9
		1						5
	6	7			8		4	
	4	8		1		9		

Solution on pg 14

SETTING BOUNDARIES

Tuesday, April 14th at 2pm

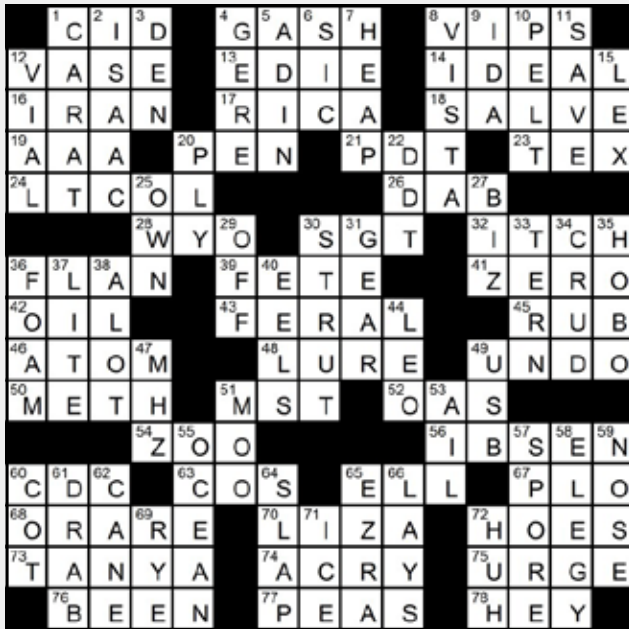
Personal boundaries are essential, often invisible, guidelines and limits individuals set to define their comfort levels in relationships and protect their mental, physical, and emotional well-being. Join Andrea Tarr to discuss boundaries, what they are and how to keep them in place.



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Crossword



Sudoku

4	5	2	8	9	7	3	1	6
7	1	3	4	5	6	8	9	2
8	9	6	1	2	3	4	5	7
6	3	4	9	7	1	5	2	8
2	8	9	3	6	5	1	7	4
1	7	5	2	8	4	6	3	9
3	2	1	6	4	9	7	8	5
9	6	7	5	3	8	2	4	1
5	4	8	7	1	2	9	6	3

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			1	2	3	4
						(GARBAGE PICK UP) 
5	6 Monday Night Bingo, 7pm	7	8	9	10	11
EASTER					(GARBAGE PICK UP) 	
12	13 Monday Night Bingo, 7pm	14 Setting Boundaries, 2pm	15	16	17	18
	(RECYCLE PICK UP) 		TAX DAY		(GARBAGE PICK UP) 	
19	20 Monday Night Bingo, 7pm	21 Women's Charity Club Meeting, 6:30 pm	22	23	24	25
			EARTH DAY		ARBOR DAY (GARBAGE PICK UP) 	
26	27 Monday Night Bingo, 7pm	28	29	30		
	(RECYCLE PICK UP) 					