

# April Newsletter



*"The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak."  
— Hans Hofmann*

## APRIL IS NATIONAL CAR CARE MONTH! ARE YOU TAKING THESE IMPORTANT CAR MAINTENANCE STEPS?

April is a great month for spring cleaning—a time to tidy your home, pare down your possessions, and simplify your life in preparation for summer. But while you most likely associate spring cleaning with your property, it's important to consider another belonging that is probably integral to your daily life: your car! In fact, the Car Care Council of North America—a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating drivers about the importance of regular vehicle maintenance—has designated April as National Car Care Month. Regardless of your car's age or model, regular maintenance can keep it running reliably and help you save money on costly repairs. National Car Care Month is a good time to ensure that you're taking these critical steps:

**Maintain the right tire pressure.** Properly inflated tires improve a car's handling, fuel economy, and the lifespan of the tires. Tire pressure is measured in pounds per square inch (PSI), and the optimal number varies from vehicle to vehicle. If you're unsure what the right PSI is for your car, refer to your owner's manual or the driver's side door jamb, where manufacturers often list the recommended PSI. When your car has been parked for at least three hours, use a tire pressure gauge to check the PSI for each tire. This should be done at least monthly. If your tires are under-inflated, use an air compressor (which can be found at most gas stations) to fill them to the recommended PSI. If they are overfilled, you can easily release some air—but never drive on overinflated tires.

**Have the tires rotated and alignment checked.** Properly balanced and aligned tires can improve fuel economy and help ensure that your car is safe to drive. While a good rule of thumb is to rotate tires every 5,000 miles, check your owner's manual for the most accurate number.

**Check the engine coolant level.** Your car's radiator serves as a way to prevent the engine from overheating. However, it needs coolant in order to function, so checking your coolant levels should be part of your routine maintenance. Most cars today have coolant reservoirs that are clearly marked, so it should be easy to tell based on visual inspection whether it's time for a refill.

**Replace windshield wiper blades.** Being able to clearly see out your windshield in any type of weather is essential for safe driving. Unfortunately, windshield wipers tend to wear out more quickly than other components of your car—but the good news is that they are easy to replace. If you notice your windshield getting streaky, or your wipers make a squeaking sound when you use them, it is time to replace the wiper blades. Be sure to purchase a style that is recommended for your car—and don't forget to thoroughly clean the inside and outside of the windshield on a regular basis!

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



## LEEK QUICHE

### Ingredients:

- 3 large leeks, about 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 pounds, white and light green part only
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil or 1 tablespoon each olive oil and butter
- Salt to taste
- 1 garlic clove, minced (optional)
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 whole egg
- 1 Mediterranean pie crust (see recipe) or whole wheat yeasted olive oil crust
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 3/4 cup milk (2% or regular)
- 3 ounces Gruyère, grated (3/4 cup tightly packed)

### Directions:

- Cut away the root and dark green leaves from the leeks and cut in half lengthwise. Run under cold water to remove sand. If the leeks are very sandy soak them for 15 minutes or so, then run under cold water again. Drain on paper towels. If the leeks are very fat, cut the halves in half again lengthwise, then cut in thin

slices.

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Heat the oil or oil and butter over medium heat in a lidded skillet or saucepan and add the leeks and a pinch of salt. Cook gently, stirring, until they begin to soften. Turn the heat to medium-low, cover and cook gently until the leeks are very soft but not browned, stirring often, 10 to 15 minutes. If they begin to stick or brown, add a little more salt and/or a spoonful of water or wine. Stir in the garlic if using and cook for another 30 seconds to a minute, until fragrant.
- Beat together the egg yolks and egg in a medium bowl. Set the tart pan on a baking sheet to allow for easy handling. Using a pastry brush lightly brush the bottom of the crust and place in the oven for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside.
- Add salt (about 1/2 teaspoon), pepper and the milk to the eggs and whisk together. Spread the leeks in an even layer in the crust. Sprinkle the cheese in an even layer on top. Pour in the custard filling. Place in the oven and bake for 30 minutes, or until set and just beginning to color on the top.
- Remove from the oven and allow to sit for at least 15 minutes before serving.

Source: [cooking.nytimes.com](http://cooking.nytimes.com)



## 3 THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU DOWNSIZE

Whether you simply want to reduce expenses or you're seeking a smaller, lower-maintenance home after your kids have "left the nest," there are numerous reasons to consider downsizing. While moving to a more efficient space can be liberating and help you free up a significant amount of time and money, it represents a major life transition for many people and therefore requires careful planning. Regardless of your reasons for downsizing, here are three things to consider before taking the leap:

Which belongings to keep—and which to get rid of. An essential yet tedious part of downsizing is getting rid of furniture and personal belongings that you no longer need. However, you don't want to hastily toss items that have sentimental value or may be useful in the future. Therefore, one of the first steps as you begin the downsizing process is to sort through your possessions and determine what is essential for you to keep and what you could live without. When considering your furniture, measure its dimensions and think about how it may fit in your new home. Anything that would cause a smaller space to feel cramped may be a candidate for replacement.

Your hobbies and lifestyle. In addition to sacrificing some

possessions, downsizing may involve changes to your lifestyle and how you spend your free time, so it is important to carefully consider which activities you value most. For example, if you love gardening, it may be best to opt for a smaller single-family home rather than a condo or apartment. However, if minimizing maintenance is a top priority, community living may be best.

Space for pets. If you have pets and will be moving to a condo or apartment, ensure that your new home is pet-friendly and has a convenient space in which to exercise your furry friends.

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



If you are currently working with another Broker please do not consider this a solicitation.

