

JULY NEWSLETTER



"The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining."

-John F. Kennedy

6 UNIQUE AND INEXPENSIVE WAYS TO CELEBRATE FOURTH OF JULY AT HOME

As an iconic symbol of patriotic summer fun, the Fourth of July is a time for backyard barbecues, fireworks displays, and trips to the beach. Opting for a low-key (and low-cost) celebration at home this year? Here are some unique ways to commemorate the holiday:

Host a Fourth of July barbecue potluck. If you're inviting friends over for the holiday, having a potluck-style celebration is an easy way to ask everyone to pitch in. Online invitation services like Punchbowl (<https://www.punchbowl.com>) allow you to send an invitation through email, with space for guests to sign up to bring a dish. Even if your guests are not comfortable with cooking, they can bring beverages or paper plates and utensils.

Watch the fireworks over the nation's capital from the comfort of your home. Each year, Washington, D.C. hosts a spectacular Fourth of July fireworks display accompanied by concerts and other entertainment. Fortunately, PBS offers a live broadcast of the celebration on their website at <http://www.pbs.org/a-capitol-fourth/home/>, so anyone with internet access can enjoy the show. Other cities, including New York, Boston, and Seattle, have followed suit, with live streams of their July 4 celebrations appearing on the websites of their local news outlets.

Have a red, white, and blue water balloon fight. What better way to unleash your inner child and cool off on a hot day than with a water balloon fight? In the spirit of Fourth of July, pick up a pack of

red, white, and blue balloons, fill them with water, and enjoy some lighthearted summer fun.

Donate to charity. For an altruistic and truly patriotic way to honor Fourth of July, consider making a small donation to a charitable organization that supports veterans or military personnel. If you're not sure where to start, search Charity Navigator (<https://www.charitynavigator.org>) to find organizations that reflect your values. Make flag-themed dessert kebabs. Meat and veggie kebabs are a traditional grilling staple, but have you tried dessert kebabs? String blueberries, raspberries or strawberries, and marshmallows onto kebab sticks for a tasty, American-flag themed addition to your Fourth of July barbecue.

Opt for sparklers instead of fireworks. For a less pricey and slightly safer way to celebrate the holiday with your own lights display, buy some red, white, and blue sparklers. However, safety is still key: sparklers can burn at a temperature of up to 2,000 degrees, so be sure to hold them at arm's length, dunk them in water before discarding them, and keep them far away from other fireworks.

Source: *money.com*



GRILLED STUFFED MINI BELL PEPPERS

Ingredients:

- 8 mini bell peppers, rinsed and cut in half lengthwise (remove any seeds)
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
- 1 green onion, chopped
- 3 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons sour cream
- Salt, pepper
- Cooking spray

Directions

- Season the chicken breast with 1/8 teaspoon each of sea salt and freshly ground pepper. In a small pan, heat the extra-virgin

olive oil over medium high heat. Add the chicken and cook for 1 minute. Turn the chicken, reduce the heat, cover and cook for 8 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and leave covered for 10 minutes, then shred the chicken with 2 forks.

- Meanwhile, in a large pot of boiling salted water, cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain, and rinse the pasta under cold running water.
- In a small bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, Greek yogurt, sesame oil, soy sauce, brown sugar and 1/8 teaspoon of sea salt.
- In a large bowl, toss the pasta and chicken with the dressing. Add the grated carrot and green onion and toss to coat.

Source: centercutcook.com



A SHORT HOME-BUYING CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

The process of finding the ideal home can be overwhelming for everyone but if you have kids, there are countless additional factors to consider. Is the home located in a good school system? Is the neighborhood family-friendly? Are there any hidden hazards, such as steep stairs or water features in the yard? As you embark on the quest for your family dream home, here are a few kid-friendly considerations to take into account.

Bedroom placement. While it's important to ensure that your new home has enough bedrooms for your family, you will also want to consider where the bedrooms are located in relation to each other. If you have young kids (or plan to), you will likely want bedrooms near the master suite. On the other hand, if you have teenagers, you may prefer their bedrooms to be located further from yours in order to maintain a sense of peace and privacy for all.

Visibility of play areas. While backyards and playrooms provide great spaces where kids can expend their energy, consider whether these areas are visible from the rooms in which you'll spend most of your time particularly if your kids are young and need more supervision. For example, if you plan to work from a home office, it would be helpful if it has a view of the yard where your kids will play.

Neighborhood features. The area in which your home is located will have a significant impact on your satisfaction so when you find a home you like, it's crucial to thoroughly research the neighborhood. Visit during the daytime and at night on different days of the week in order to get a comprehensive idea of traffic, noise levels, and what the neighbors are like. Additionally, consider proximity to schools, parks, and other places that you will likely frequent with your kids.



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

