The month of April is here and the start of the lease renewal process for Park leaseholders. The new lease period will begin August 1, 2009 and ends July 31, 2010.

All leaseholders will receive a lease renewal notification email from Student Housing at the beginning of April. Leaseholders must register using the online form available on the Housing Channel through MyUCDavis to express interest in renewing their leases. Submitting your online interest information does not mean that your lease has automatically been renewed. Housing staff will review your eligibility status.

Eligibility will be based on student status, conduct status, lease violation status and current rent status. Once your eligibility has been confirmed, you will be sent an email notifying you that you must review your new lease, fill out the requested information, and submit your electronic signature to accept the new lease terms and conditions. It is very important that you:

- Review your SISWEB [http://sisweb.ucdavis.edu/] records and ensure that you have listed two emergency contacts in the system.
- Verify that your address & contact information is current. If you have a mobile (cell) phone, please make sure that the telephone number is listed in SISWEB.

During the months of May, June, and July, leaseholders will not be allowed to defer their rent. Leaseholders whose monthly rent is in arrears will not be eligible for lease renewal. If you have questions regarding your housing payment, please call Residential Student Accounts [752-2481].

*Continued on Page 2
LEASE RENEWAL 2009
Continued from Page 1

All leaseholders should review the following sections of their leases:

Section 6- Eligibility

Section 7- Lease Renewal.
If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the lease renewal process, please call

Student Housing [752-2033] or e-mail: [studenthousing@ucdavis.edu].

Drug Expiration Dates - Do They Mean Anything?
Submitted by Sue Franck - Source – The Harvard Medical School Family Health Guide at www.health.harvard.edu/fhg/

With a splitting headache you reach into your medicine cabinet for some aspirin only to find the stamped expiration date on the bottle has passed - two years ago. So, do you take it or don't you? If you decide to take the aspirin will it be a fatal mistake or will you simply continue to suffer from the headache?

This is a dilemma many people face in some way or another. A column published in Psychopharmacology Today offers some advice.

It turns out that the expiration date on a drug does stand for something, but probably not what you think it does. Since a law was passed in 1979, drug manufacturers are required to stamp an expiration date on their products. This is the date at which the manufacturer can still guarantee the full potency and safety of the drug.

Most of what is known about drug expiration dates comes from a study conducted by the Food and Drug Administration at the request of the military.

With a large and expensive stockpile of drugs, the military faced tossing out and replacing its drugs every few years. What they found from the study is 90% of more than 100 drugs, both prescription and over-the-counter, were perfectly good to use even 15 years after the expiration date.

So the expiration date doesn't really indicate a point at which the medication is no longer effective or has become unsafe to use. Medical authorities state expired drugs are safe to take, even those that expired years ago. A rare exception to this may be tetracycline, but the report on this is controversial among researchers. It’s true the effectiveness of a drug may decrease over time, but much of the original potency still remains even a decade after the expiration date. Excluding nitroglycerin, insulin, and liquid antibiotics, most medications are as long-lasting as the ones tested by the military. Placing a medication in a cool place, such as a refrigerator, will help a drug remain potent for many years.

Is the expiration date a marketing ploy by drug manufacturers, to keep you restocking your medicine cabinet and their pockets regularly? You can look at it that way. Or you can also look at it this way: The expiration dates are very conservative to ensure you get everything you paid for. And, really, if a drug manufacturer had to do expiration-date testing for longer periods it would slow their ability to bring you new and improved formulations.

The next time you face the drug expiration date dilemma, consider what you’ve learned here. If the expiration date passed a few years ago and it’s important that your drug is absolutely 100% effective, you might want to consider buying a new bottle. And if you have any questions about the safety or effectiveness of any drug, ask your pharmacist. He or she is a great resource when it comes to getting more information about your medications.
Welcome New Babies to the Parks  
By Bonnie Weeks

Babies are such precious little gifts. There have been several new babies born recently and we want to congratulate parents and families. It is a fun and adventurous time to have a new baby and it’s important to have a supportive community to raise children. The Parks are a great place to begin the journey and we celebrate all new babies.

Here are some recent deliveries:

Girl: Azilee Siulolovao Bell  
Parents: Adrian and Amy Bell  
Born: March 3rd, 2009 at 1:44am  
Stats: 8 lbs 6 oz, 20 inches long

Girl: Mayar Marwan Batayneh  
Parents: Marwan Batayneh and Jumana Al Haji  
Born: January 31st, 2009 at 6:00am  
Stats: 8 lbs, 20 inches long

Boy: Martin Rejmanek  
Parents: Honza and Barbara Rejmanek  
Born: January 30th, 2009 at 11:19am  
Stats: 7 lbs 8 oz, 20 ½ inches long

Boy: Ezekiel Luther Armstrong  
Parents: Richard and Bethany Armstrong  
Born: January 8th, 2009 at 9:38am  
Stats: 8 lbs 4 oz

Boy: Jacob Kagan  
Parents: Justin and Ivona Kagan  
Born: November 11th, 2008 at 12:40pm  
Stats: 7 lbs, 20 inches long

Girl: Ava Christine Kirk  
Parents: Ben and Becky Kirk  
Born: October 28th, 2008 at 10:11pm  
Stats: 7 lbs 8 oz, 21 ½ inches long

Boy: Kieran Nowotny  
Parents: Ty and Alexia Nowotny  
Born: October 24th, 2008 at 4:20pm  
Stats: 8 lbs, 19 ¾ inches long

I’m sure there are more that we don’t know and several coming soon. If you’ve had a baby recently and would like it announced, whether you live in Orchard or Solano Park, please contact me and I’ll make sure it makes it into the newsletter. (bonnie.weeks@gmail.com or 204-8539).

Hints for Hassle Free Spring Cleaning  
By Shakeela Kuthubdeen

Spring is almost here. It’s time to open the windows and invite the sunshine to chase the winter blues. Spring cleaning is something that’s not in our ‘fun to do’ list. It involves tiresome cleaning. Though it isn’t an easy task, it doesn’t have to be something that you hate. There are simple methods of cleaning and sprucing up your home, which require minimal effort and provide outstanding results. You’ll be happy to see your apartment becoming crisp, fresh and noticeably brighter.

Try these three basic household ingredients instead of expensive chemicals to go green as well as to save money.

- Vinegar is a great natural cleaning product which is a disinfectant and deodorizer. It is an inexpensive easy cleaner that can be used on windows and mirrors. To prevent streaking and extra rubbing, wait for an overnight to clean your mirrors and windows.
- Lemon juice is another natural substance that can be used to dissolve soap scum and hard water deposits. Lemon is a great substance to clean and shine brass and copper. A whole lime, lemon or orange peel can be used to refresh the closets and shoe racks.
- Baking soda can be used to scrub surfaces in much the same way as commercial abrasive cleansers. It is great as a deodorizer. Placing a box in the refrigerator and freezer to absorb odors is a well known trick. Put it anywhere you need deodorizing action.

During the winter when windows remain closed, carpets and sofas can sometimes take on common household odors. Scented freshening powder is one solution, but the aroma doesn’t last very long. Try
Hints for Hassle Free Spring Cleaning
Continued from page 3

sprinkling plain baking soda on your carpets. Allow the baking soda to remain on the carpets overnight, and in the morning, vacuum away the odors.

Cleaning out the refrigerator is not easy if you have the habit of throwing leftovers in, after a tired day. Make it a habit to clean out spoiled food each time you stuff leftovers in. It only takes a few minutes to clear out space and make cleaning easier. Use a mild cleaning liquid to wipe out without damaging the surface.

To clean the microwave, bring a cup of water to boil in. The steam will help loosen dried on particles and make them easily wiped away.

Do multi tasking. While watching your favorite show or listening to the music you love make sure to find some time to clear the piled up paper. Sort the papers into categories based on your file names. Don’t forget to include trash and recycle. You’ll be surprised how much of the pile you won’t need.

While doing your annual spring cleaning, consider getting rid of items you no longer use. Get together with a friend or two, and have a sale. You’ll make a little money, and you will gain more space too. Don’t let unused items gather dust and dirt over the years.

Take extra time to clear up the clutter in patios. If you haven’t used something in the past several months, chances are higher that you never will. Get rid of the clutter. It is the hardest task in spring cleaning. Label various storage containers before you begin to sort your clutter. A label makes placing items in the right category a much easier task. You can easily involve your kids to organize their toys if you have different storage containers. Go through and grab obvious trash as the first step. Once the trash is gone, it makes it easier to see what you want to keep, and just how much stuff you’ll need to get rid of.

Encourage your kids to donate some of their toys which they don’t use anymore. Find a local charity to donate stuff that might be useful to another person. If you find it hard to transport your things to a charity or thrift store try ‘Davis free cycle’ to recycle your stuff. You’ll be surprised to see the number of people responding within a day.

Think twice before dumping furniture or useful items near the dumpsters which might be of use to a neighbor. Take few minutes to post a sign in the notice board so that it can be reused within the complex.

When your spring cleaning is finished, you’ll be able to sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labor and make this spring a time to start fresh.

Easy Nutella Ravioli
Submitted by Yalina Soto from www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/giada-de-laurentiis

Ingredients
- 16 wonton wrappers
- 1 egg, beaten to blend
- 1 cup chocolate-hazelnut spread (recommended: Nutella)
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- 16 fresh mint leaves
- Nonstick vegetable oil spray
- Granulated sugar, for dredging
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

Directions
Line a baking sheet with plastic wrap. Place 1 wonton wrapper on the work surface. Brush the edges of the wrapper lightly with egg. Spoon 1 tablespoon of chocolate-hazelnut spread into the center of the wrapper. Fold the wrapper diagonally in half over the filling and press the edges of the wrapper to seal. Place the ravioli on the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining wonton wrappers, egg, and chocolate-hazelnut spread. Preheat the oven to 200 degrees F. Add enough oil to a heavy large frying pan to reach a depth of 2 inches. Heat

*Continued on Page 5
Easy Nutella Ravioli  
Continued from Page 4

the oil over medium heat to 350 degrees F. Working in batches, carefully add the ravioli to the hot oil and cook until they are golden brown, about 45 seconds per side. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the ravioli to a plate lined with paper towels to drain. Then, transfer the cooked ravioli to another baking sheet and keep them warm in the oven while frying the remaining ravioli. (The fried ravioli can be prepared 1 day ahead. Cool them completely, then cover and refrigerate. Before serving, place them on a baking sheet and rewarm in a preheated 375 degrees F oven just until they are heated through, about 7 minutes.)

Spray the top side of the mint leaves very lightly with nonstick spray. Working with 1 leaf at a time, dredge the coated side of the leaves in sugar to coat lightly.

Arrange 2 fried ravioli on each plate. Dust the ravioli with powdered sugar. Garnish with the sugared mint leaves and serve.

The Origins of April Fool’s Day  

On April 1, don’t be surprised if someone plays an embarrassing joke on you. It is, after all, April Fool’s Day. The first day of April is named for the custom of playing practical jokes, harmless pranks, and hoaxes on friends, family members, enemies, and neighbors, or sending them on a fool’s errand, the aim of which is to embarrass the gullible. Television stations and newspapers are also known for concocting elaborate hoaxes for the masses.

While the custom of playing jokes on the first day of April has been observed for centuries in several countries, including France and Britain, its origin is a bit obscure. It is believed that when the western world employed the Julian calendar, the year began on March 25. However, festivals marking the start of the New Year were celebrated on the first day of April because March 25 fell during Holy Week. When the Gregorian calendar was adopted during the 1500s, the start of the New Year was moved from March 25-April 1 (New Year’s week) to January 1.

Communication traveled slowly in those days and some people were only informed of the change several years later. So, it was quite easy to trick people into believing April 1 was still the proper day to celebrate the New Year and these people were called April fools. Still others, who were more rebellious refused to acknowledge the change and continued to celebrate on April 1. These people were labeled "fools" by the general public, were subject to ridicule and sent invitations to nonexistent parties and had other practical jokes played upon them. The butts of these pranks became known as a "poisson d’avril" or "April fish" because a young naive fish is easily caught. In addition, one common practice was to hook a paper fish on the back of someone as a joke.

There are other theories to the origin of April Fool’s Day. One theory holds that the timing of April 1 seems to be related to the arrival of spring, when nature “fools” mankind with fickle weather. Others think is has something to do with May Day (May 1) which was celebrated in many pre-Christian cultures as the first day of summer, signaling the start of the spring planting season. An April Fool was someone who did this prematurely.

Whatever the origins, a custom of prank-playing continued on the first day of April. This tradition eventually spread elsewhere, such as Britain and Scotland in the 18th century and was introduced to the American colonies by the English and the French. Because of this spread to other countries, April Fool’s Day has taken on an international flavor with each country celebrating the holiday in its own way.
New RA - Jennefer Sisneros  
Submitted by Jennefer Sisneros  

I have been living in Solano Park for almost two years and have enjoyed participating in programs at the community center, taking my children to the playground and going for walks with my family in the arboretum. I have a background in the visual arts, I especially enjoy painting and ceramics. Before living in Davis I worked for 10 years at a program for children with autism in Southern CA. I look forward to being the new RA.

Community Programs

**Watercolor Painting**

Kids- let’s get together for an afternoon of watercolor painting. Spring blossoms are the perfect inspiration for watercolors. If you have any questions, please call Shawna Stevens at 757-7899.

When: Thursday, April 2 at 4pm  
Where: Melvin Fassler Community Center

**Origami-Easter Bunny**

Learn how to make an origami Easter bunny. It’s easy and fun. Toddlers who love to play with paper can join us too. For questions please call Shakeela at 297-7451.

When: Tuesday, April 7 at 4pm  
Where: Melvin Fassler Community Center

**Tie Dye for Picnic Day**

Picnic Day is awesome because we have the opportunity to learn new things as we tour the UC Davis campus, observing and participating in the events and booths set up around campus. Also, it is also a day where we can show pride in our community. Orchard Park will be marching in the parade on Picnic Day morning. We will all be wearing TIE DYE shirts that we will make ahead of time. Come to the Community Center the weekend before to make your tie dyed shirt to wear during the parade to represent our community. Please bring your own shirt to tie dye. Contact Bonnie Weeks with questions at 204-8539. Parents please accompany children.

When: Friday, April 3 at 6pm and Saturday, April 4 at 10am  
Where: Orchard Park Community Center

**Picnic Day T-Shirt Decorating**

Come tie-dye a t-shirt to wear while representing Solano Park in the Picnic Day parade! Please bring your own t-shirt to tie-dye. Feel free to bring any other items you may want to tie-dye too! Wear clothes you don’t mind getting messy! If you have any questions, please contact Jennefer Sisneros at 792-1097.

When: Wednesday, April 8 at 3:30pm and Thursday, April 9 at 4pm  
Where: Melvin Fassler Community Center

**Solano Park Easter Egg Hunt**

Join us for the annual Easter Egg hunt in Solano Park. Meet us at 9am in the MFCC to enjoy a breakfast with your neighbors. Hunt for colorful plastic eggs hidden in the grass will begin at 9:30am with separate areas for different age groups, so every kid can enjoy. Kids 7 years and up will hunt for eggs in the red playground and kids younger than 7 years will be in green playground by the MFCC. A bag of sweet surprises is waiting for you to take home too. Volunteers who wish to help please contact Shakeela at 297-7451.

When: Saturday, April 11  
Breakfast at 9am, Egg hunt at 9:30am  
Where: Melvin Fassler Community Center

**Orchard Park Easter Egg Hunt**

Let’s celebrate Easter at Orchard Park. Join the neighbors as we all search through the grass, sand, trees and bushes for hundreds of colorful plastic eggs. Easter egg hunters will be divided into three groups depending on age so every child will be able to gather plenty of eggs. After the hunt, doughnuts and refreshments will be handed out for everyone to enjoy. Please contact Yalina Soto at 756-3670.
Community Programs

Where: Orchard Park Community Center
When: Saturday, April 11 at 9:30am

Ballroom Dancing
UC Davis students Glen and Doreen will be showing us how to ballroom dance. This program needs couples to attend together to be most successful, but please don’t feel like you have to come with a partner, there will be plenty of people there to learn together. Glen and Doreen first met while dancing and have attended many ballroom competitions together. This will be a fun adventure together. Come ready to learn some new moves. Contact Bonnie Weeks with questions at 204-8539.

When: Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30pm
Where: Orchard Park Community Center

Bracelets and Earrings!
Kids and adults are invited to make some jewelry. We’ll have supplies for the kids to make bracelets while adults can learn how to make beaded earrings. Children under 10 will need an adult helper. If you have any questions, please contact Shawna Stevens at 757-7899.

When: Wednesday, April 15 at 4pm
Where: Melvin Fassler Community Center

Picnic Day Parade
Let’s put on our Aggie colors and represent Solano Park in the annual Picnic Day parade. We’ll decorate bike and strollers beforehand and then march through campus and downtown. Everyone must meet in front of the Solano Park office by 8am so we can head to the parade start as a group. If you have any questions, please contact Shawna Stevens at 757-7899 or Shakeela Kuthubdeen at 297-7451.

When: Saturday, April 18 at 9am
Where: Meet in front of Solano Park Office

Picnic Parade and Bike Decoration
It’s spring and that means Picnic Day, the UC Davis campus–wide open house, and the annual Picnic Day Parade. Bring your bikes and wagons to decorate in front the community center at 9:00 a.m. and we will strut through town in tie-dye T-shirts.

If you have any questions, please call Yalina Soto at 756-3670.

When: Saturday, April 18 at 9am
Where: Meet in front of Solano Park Office

Art Hour
Did you know that there are many different techniques to create art with crayons? Spend the evening having fun with colors and your own imagination. Let’s make a creative piece of art. For questions please call Shakeela at 297-7451.

When: Monday, April 27 at 6:30pm
Where: Melvin Fassler Community Center

Ice Cream Social
The days are finally getting longer and warmer. Come and enjoy a nice spring evening with some ice cream and your neighbors. If you have any questions, please contact Shawna Stevens at 757-7899.

When: Monday, April 27 at 6:30pm
Where: Melvin Fassler Community Center

Parade of Homes
Are you stuck in your organization? Do you need new ideas of how to situate your belongings in your apartment? If so, meet us for this activity. We will be touring several residents’ homes and learning how they use their space to organize and make it a home. Come ready to get good ideas. If you’re interested in showing your apartment, contact Bonnie Weeks with questions at 204-8539 or bonnie.weeks@gmail.com.

When: Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30pm
Where: Meet at the Orchard Park Community Center to begin the tour
Monthly Maintenance Tips
By Orchard and Solano Park Maintenance

- To avoid plumbing charges, watch those kitchen drains. Make sure your strainer is in place in the drain to keep food from going down and plugging the drain.
- Never put grease or oil of any kind down the drain as it will clog the pipes. Pour your grease or oil into an old can or bottle while it is still warm. When it has cooled off, place it in the trash.
- Are your closet doors often coming untracked? Take care of them by sliding the closet doors slowly and straight. Don’t lean on them when you move them.
- Remember that bedroom and cabinet doors are not painted surfaces. Hanging items with tape, nails, or tacks will harm the wood finish. Damage charges could be assessed when you vacate your apartment.
- Periodically cleaning the refrigerator door seal will make it easier to open and keep it from ripping. Take special care to clean the bottom edge with warm soapy water where sticky liquids like to accumulate.

Holidays and Anniversaries

April 2—International Children’s Book Day
Celebrated on the birth date of the world-famous Danish writer and storyteller, Hans Christian Andersen. This is the day when children’s literature is recognized and celebrated.

April 5—Qing Ming Festival, National Tomb Sweeping Day—Taiwan
The Chinese equivalent of “all Souls Day” where food and incense are offered to one’s ancestors. According to Chinese custom, the tombs of ancestors are swept “clear and bright” on this day, and rites honoring ancestors are held.

April 7—Mahavira Jayanti—Jain
Jain is a religion practiced by approximately two million people in India and many more outside the country; it arose in the sixth century BCE as a protest against Hinduism. This festival is dedicated to the birthday of Lord Mahavira, the religion’s 24th guru, and is celebrated with prayer and visits to shrines.

April 13—Songkran Water Festival—Thailand
Songkran is a Buddhist New Year that is celebrated on April 13 and lasts for three days. During this festival, everyone carries buckets or bowls of water with them so they can throw water on one another. The Thai people believe there is great merit in acts of kindness, so before the holiday, children buy birds in order to set them free on Songkran. Also, girls in gay dresses carry fish and set them free in the river. A water festival queen is chosen and paraded along the streets with bands playing amid laughter and the sound of splashing water.

April 15—Birth of Guru Nanak—Sikh
Observes the birth of the founder of the Sikh religion in 1469 and the first of ten Gurus of the Sikh faith. There are ten gurus (male religious teachers and spiritual guides/leaders) in the Sikh religion, but Nanak, Teg Bahadur, and Gobind Sigh are the most important. The Holy Book of the Sikhs is called Guru Granth Sahib and is considered to be a guru itself. It was completed by the fifth guru, Guru Arjan Dev in the early 1600’s.

April 21—Yom HaSho’ah, Holocaust Remembrance—Jewish, begins are sundown on the 20th)
A day established by Israel’s Knesset (governing body) as a memorial to the Jewish dead of World War II. Commemorates the millions of Jews murdered by Nazis, 1933-1945.

April 22—Earth Day—(USA, est. 1970)
Observances of this day focus on environmental problems in communities throughout the US. It is also the day the world’s nations guaranteed asylum to those persecuted in their homelands on account of their ethnicity, religion, or political opinion.
**Calendar of Events**

**April 2009**

**All residents are welcome to attend all programs, regardless of location. All events held in the Community Center unless otherwise noted.**

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Did you know?

- **Registration Reminder** ~ Student Housing requires all students to meet our eligibility requirements to continue living in The Parks Apartments. **Students must have full-time registered status during fall, winter and spring quarters/semesters.** Full-time status is defined at 12 units for quarter students and 10 units for semester students. Students who do not meet the requirement are required to register for additional classes or submit notice to move out. Please be aware of these requirements when you register for winter and spring quarters in the coming months. Please contact Student Housing at 752-2033 or your Park Office if you have any questions.

- Planning to vacate after finals? Remember a 42-day notice is required.

- **Leaseholders are only allowed to have one adult, related or unrelated listed on their lease as an additional occupant.**

- If you wish to add someone to your lease, remember to submit an Online Occupant Change Request on the Student Housing Channel before the person moves in. Your request must be approved before your occupant can move in on the effective date of your request.

- Occupants on your lease are the only individuals who are allowed to obtain a key for your apartment and/or additional one day visitor permits.