



Shopping
Resource Center · Business Directory
Local Entertainment

March 2010

Community Connections

March

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The true measure of a person is how they treat someone who can do them absolutely no good.

~Ann Landers

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*If* you are one of the many Americans who have not yet filed their taxes this year, we have some last minute tips for you.

**File Your Return Electronically:** The benefits of filing your tax forms electronically by far outweighs the benefits of mailing them. This would explain why 70% of tax returns were filed online last year. So, what are some of these benefits and how will they help you?

- If you are expecting a refund, you should get that refund in as few as 10 days
- E-filed returns have a lower error rate
- No more standing in line at the post office

A major concern with filing electronically is security. Its a lot of personal information going into cyberspace, but according to the IRS more than 800 million tax returns have been processed safely and securely over the past 20 years.

**File an Extension:** If you can't get all your tax forms and documentation completed by April 15<sup>th</sup>, you should be prepared to file an extension. You can do this electronically. This can save you money on paying interest and other possible penalties.



**Be prepared next year by planning now:** Set aside a designated space for all your tax documentation, this will include receipts and anything else you will need. This space can be a drawer, a box, etc. Just about any container will work, but be sure to use it for tax purposes only. Ask your accountant or tax preparer for a checklist (or copy the one used last year), put on a clipboard and keep it in your container.

You can set up dividers for individual categories or monthly sections and add everything up several times throughout the year, making it much less time consuming at tax time. If this is unrealistic to you that is okay, at least everything will be in one place when you need it.



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**American  
Red Cross**

Learn how you can

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Millions of lives are saved each year through blood transfusions.

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## Spring Cleaning

Spring is in the air and to many that means its time to gear up and tackle projects that have been lingering all year long. Just hearing the words “spring cleaning” can get us motivated to start the job. The end results make the task well worth it.

We asked our readers what jobs they include as a part of their “Spring Cleaning” regimen. Here are a few of their responses:

•**Computers** - how about giving our computers a good cleaning? All those emails that clutter our inboxes, files that get saved in places we can't find without doing a search. Photos, that if organized, would save us time *and* allow us to enjoy them even more.

•**Makeup and Skincare** – Cosmetics don't always have expiration dates on them, but they do have a shelf life. Expert opinions vary on how long that life is. Most agree 3 months for mascara because airborne bacteria are being forced into the container every time it is used. This can cause serious infections like pink eye. If you come across makeup that hasn't been used in a while or you can't remember buying it, chances are its time to replace it. Don't forget to clean makeup brushes and sponges frequently.

•**Pets and supplies** – Shower your best friend and his belongings with pet friendly products like Bio Groom. It is sure to make your best friend happy.

•**Kids Toys** – When my kids were small and I would hand them a toy (or anything for that matter) and the first thing they would do with it - is put it in their mouths. What a way to spread nasty germs. Take some time to empty the toy box and clean everything in it. While you're at it don't forget to clean the toy box, highchairs and playpens too. Everything they come in contact with should be disinfected regularly.

•**Ceiling Fans and Vents** – Cleaning fans and vents (especially after sitting dormant for a season) will cut down on the dust and dander you spread throughout your house.

•**Furnace** – Vacuum around your furnace and change the filter. Not only will this allow the furnace to function properly and more effectively, it will help allergy sufferers breathe easier.

•**Medicine Cabinet** – Although some medications may not be harmful past their expiration dates, they can lose their potency. If stored in the bathroom (the place most medicine cabinets are located) they become exposed to fluctuating temperatures and humidity which can also alter the effects of the drugs. Prescriptions like tetracycline (antibiotics) can cause kidney damage, if used past expiration. Drug interaction is also a serious consideration. Thousands of deaths each year are attributed to improper use of both prescription and over the counter drugs. Be sure the medications you are currently taking are compatible with each other. Talk to your pharmacist if you have any concerns.

•**Relationships** – Clean up those neglected relationships. Make the time to get in touch with family and friends. How about inviting them over to your freshly cleaned home, have a tea on your spiffy patio or go for a swim in that sparkling pool.

\*pet supplies, organizers, cleaning products and much more are available at [www.ACountryConnection.com](http://www.ACountryConnection.com)

**GARDENER'S**  
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Win  
this handy  
Gardener's  
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If you would like to put your home or garden through a thorough “Spring Cleaning” but don't have the time – be sure to check out our business directory for qualified help. Check the *Tried & True* page for testimonials.

Check out the huge selection of Eco-Friendly cleaning supplies in our Going Green Shop



*Plan the Wedding of your Dreams*



Visit the Wedding Shop at:  
[www.ACcountryConnection.com](http://www.ACcountryConnection.com)

Include your Business in the next newsletter contact Mary at:  
[info@ACcountryConnection.com](mailto:info@ACcountryConnection.com)  
760.685.6014

## Angels & Inspirations



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**Christi's Country Cleaning**  
760.751.2814

Find these businesses and more at  
[www.ACcountryConnection.com](http://www.ACcountryConnection.com)

A Country Connection  
PO Box 1671  
Valley Center, CA 92082

The April newsletter will feature  
"Earth Friendly" ideas

To include your Business in  
the next newsletter contact Mary at  
[info@ACountryConnection.com](mailto:info@ACountryConnection.com)  
760.685.6014

## March Entertainment & Events San Diego North County

- 4 "Cash Only" at Smokey's Lake Wohlford Café
- 13 Smokey's Fun Poker Run
- 13 Calico Ridge at Smokey's Lake Wohlford Café
- 17 Irish Stew Cook-Off Valley Center 5:30pm
- 20 Palomar Mtn Community Ctr Grand Opening
- 20 Wild Gandi at Smokey's Lake Wohlford Café
- 20 Calico Ridge TGIF Elk's Escondido
- 25 KSON- 1-2pm at Lake Wohlford Café – Drawing for tickets to Stagecoach Music
- 27 Pat & Heidi at Smokey's Lake Wohlford Café

For details on any of these events, visit the "events" page at [www.ACountryConnection.com](http://www.ACountryConnection.com)



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In this newsletter, go to  
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and click on "newsletter features"



Easter Egg Hunt  
April 4, 2010

Pine Hills Lodge in Julian - 11:00am  
(Reservations are required) 760.685.1100  
Bailey's BBQ in Julian - 9:00am 760.765.3757

Easter is April 4<sup>th</sup> - If you are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and  
would like to list it in the events page on the website email  
details to [info@ACountryConnection.com](mailto:info@ACountryConnection.com)