

Historic Rental Initiative

Historic Rental Initiative • 1600 Allen Parkway • Houston, TX 77019

Home Is Where the Heart Is

We're delighted that you have chosen to reside at Historic Rental Initiative. Our Management Team strives to create a warm and caring living environment designed to make you feel right at home. Please don't hesitate to contact the Management Office with any comments, questions or concerns. Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Whispering Sweet Nothings?

When you decide to declare your true love, make sure you whisper those three magic words in your lover's left ear. Research at the Sam Houston State University found that we're more likely to remember emotional words if they're spoken into our left ear. Why? The left ear is controlled by the right side of the brain. And the right side of the brain is responsible for processing emotional stimuli.

Household Hacks

Use vinegar to get odors out of your microwave. If your microwave is smelling less than fresh, there's a simple way to get it clean and odor-free without using harsh chemicals. Just place a bowl of vinegar in the microwave for around five minutes and simply wipe it afterwards.

Use cooking oil to get rid of sticky label residue. Anyone who's ever peeled a label off of a jar knows how frustrating it can be when the spot remains as sticky as honey. Thankfully, cooking oil makes it easy as pie to get rid of that residue. Using a cotton pad and some cooking oil, rub the sticky area and let it sit for a few minutes. Once the oil has sunk in, it'll wipe away easily.

Put mini furniture sliders on the bottom of flowerpots to avoid scratches. Plants can instantly brighten up any home, but heavy flower pots can often seem like more trouble than they're worth—especially since they have a bad habit of scraping the surfaces they sit on top of. To help keep your pots from damaging your floors or windowsills, simply place furniture sliders under each pot. You'll feel good knowing that your flower-lined surfaces are scuff-free.

Happening in February...

Groundhog Day, Feb. 2. If the groundhog sees its shadow, prepare for another six weeks of winter (or possibly a showing of the 1993 Bill Murray movie).

National "Wear Red" Day for Women's Heart Health, Feb. 5. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in United States. Raise awareness of heart health issues and disease prevention by wearing something red on this day.

Chinese New Year, Feb 12. Happy 4719, the Year of the Ox!

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Show the people you love how much you care for them, with cards, flowers, and kindness.

President's Day, Feb. 15. Celebrating George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and other U.S. presidents through the years.

African American History Month. An annual observance to recognize and commemorate African American culture, African American History Month (or Black History Month) is celebrated annually in the United States and Canada in February, and in the United Kingdom in October.



February 2021

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Lifestyle

YOUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Paula McQueen

Property Manager

Cynthia Hicks

Sr. Assistant Property Manager

Linda Nguyen

Assistant Manager

Trudy Turner

Leasing Professional

Tamika Parker

Wait List Coordinator

Mario Garcia

Maintenance Supervisor

Jose A. Rivas

Lead Maintenance

Eric Albright

Harold Jackson

Assistant Maintenance

Miguel Zayas, Mykal James

Grounds Technicians

Cameron Grimes

Porter

Luis Duran

Make Ready Technician

Digna Rivera, Gloria Ahmed

Housekeepers

Christopher Darden

Inspector

Constable Rhone

Resident On Call

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday Closed

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Credit card hacks that can help you avoid debt

When it comes to sidestepping debt, smart practices surrounding credit card use are essential. The simplicity and security of plastic sure beats dollar bills, but many people tend to skip the practice of strategy when spending.

Change your credit card habits to benefit your financial future, as you'll allowing you to boost your ability to make wise choices from which cards to carry, how to get the most bang for your buck, and ways to pay off debt rather than drown in it.

How many cards should you have? This may seem like a simple question, but the answer isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. Everyone's credit needs vary, with some people requiring just one card, while other best utilize a handful. What you spend your money on, how often you use credit cards, your bill-payment history, and related credit card practices all play a role in the ideal number of cards for you.

If you don't use credit much, one card would probably suit you.

Those who rely on credit cards for all sorts of purchases with consistency and frequency would benefit from multiple cards. This is particularly important when it comes to paying off the minimum due, as well as optimizing credit score, as it is advisable to use 30% or less of your available line of credit to maintain a satisfactory (or better) score.

With just one card, you may find you're using a huge percentage of your limit, which can become daunting come bill-payment time. Dividing your spend between two or more cards could ease the burden, allowing you to better manage your money.

Reap the rewards. Consider ways to make your credit card work for you. Choosing one that rewards you with cash back on groceries, gas, and public transportation, for instance, could more than justify its frequent usage. Racking up points can put money back in your account, get redeemed for gift cards, or be deposited into your bank account.

While annual fees for rewards cards may be steeper than your basic card, the long-term savings often cover those costs — and then some.

If rewards aren't suited to your lifestyle, choose a credit card without the "bells and whistles" that'll cost you more than they're worth.

No-debt need-to-knows. If you're a strategic spender, you won't get stuck in a financial rut or ruin your credit. Keep these tips in mind to ensure your credit card journey will be smart and stress-free:

- Unless there's an emergency, spend within your means
- Pay on time, every time – your entire balance whenever possible
- Set up fraud alerts
- Know what you signed up for (terms of service, fees, etc.)
- Avoid cash advances
- Don't share your credit card information with anyone
- Keep tabs on your balance, spending, etc.



How to treat nonstick cookware

- Pretreat nonstick pots and pans before using them. Rise and dry, then rub with cooking oil on a paper towel.
- Each time you use a nonstick pan, rub about a teaspoon of oil on the cleaned and cooled surface.
- Don't use spray cooking oils, such as Pam. They build up in areas where heat doesn't burn off the spray, such as the sides of a frying pan.
- Don't cook at high heat, and always wash your nonstick pans by hand.



What you may not know about Chinese New Year


Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is an exciting time for many. As the Year of the Ox approaches (one of 12 animals on the Chinese zodiac), here are some things you may not have known about Chinese New Year.

There's no set date for Chinese New Year — it all depends upon the Chinese lunar calendar. The celebration could start as early as January 21st or as late as February 20th. This year, February 12, 2021 marks the start, and the 16-day event concludes with the elaborate Lantern Festival, filled with moonlit activities, culinary feasts, and a lantern release into the endless sky.

Traditionally, those who celebrate Chinese New Year exchange red envelopes, a sign of peace and prosperity. Food is also at the forefront, with delicacies like dumplings and fish served up as they symbolize good fortune and surplus.

Indeed, the celebration is one of superstitions. Revelers are said to wait until after the day after the lunar year begins to wash their hair or clothes, sweep, or take out the trash. It's feared they could be washing their fortunes away. There is, however, an abundance of oranges and tangerines on display and given as gifts, as the pronunciation and characters for these fruits sound the same as Chinese characters and words for success and luck.

valentine's day • movies



THE NOTEBOOK Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams star in this swoon-worthy romance about young love and the challenges that come with class and status. Set in the 1940s, the 2004 film is based on Nicholas Sparks' best-selling novel of the same name.

Candlelight dinners, red roses and decadent chocolates are just a few things that can make Valentine's Day special. While they're nice, nothing compares to celebrating the love-filled day like wrapping up in a warm blanket and binge-watching romantic movies.

Whether you're snuggling up with your significant other, viewing with friends or streaming solo, get ready to be swept away. From classic rom-coms to sentimental tearjerkers, here are some Cupid-approved titles you can stream online.

THE WEDDING PLANNER When wedding planner Mary Fiore (**Jennifer Lopez**) is rescued from an accident by a striking stranger (**Matthew McConaughey**), she's instantly smitten. There's just one catch, the handsome hero is already taken.

BLUE VALENTINE Released in 2010, this movie puts the pressures of marriage under a microscope with critically acclaimed performances by **Ryan Gosling** (Dean) and **Michelle Williams** (Cindy). From the outside, the couple appear to have it all together, but soon the pitfalls and cracks of their relationship rise to the surface.

LOVE JONES When an emerging photographer crosses paths with a poetic charmer, sparks fly. Before long, egos and miscommunication get in the way of their budding relationship. Leads **Larenz Tate** and **Nia Long** give convincing performances while Chicago serves as a gorgeous backdrop in this cult classic.

WHEN HARRY MET SALLY Can men and women keep things strictly platonic? That's what the title characters played by **Billy Crystal** and **Meg Ryan** soon find out in this timeless tale of chance encounters, love and friendship.

PRIDE & PREJUDICE Based on Jane Austen's 1813 novel of the same name, this classic story stars **Keira Knightley** as a young woman who falls for a man who's seemingly out of her league. The rich and well-respected suitor struggles with his feelings too. Will true love prevail?

VALENTINE'S DAY Couples and singles navigating the ups and downs of love on the most romantic day of the year is the premise of this interconnected story. With an all-star cast including **Jessica Alba**, **Ashton Kutcher** and **Jamie Foxx** to name a few, the 2010 release packs star power and light-heartedness.

PRETTY WOMAN **Julia Roberts** and **Richard Gere** shine in this modern-day Cinderella-like movie. Directed by Garry Marshall, the 1990 film tells the familiar story of an unlikely pair who falls head over heels for one another.

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN Who hasn't fantasized about starting over in a new place? That's exactly what the protagonist of this book-turned-movie did after experiencing a divorce. Starring **Diane Lane**, this movie celebrates new beginnings and endless possibilities set in picturesque Italy.



JUMPING THE BROOM Movies centered around nuptials often brim with drama and this 2011 release is no exception. Starring **Paula Patton**, **Laz Alonso** and **Alfre Woodard**, this rom-com unfolds after a whirlwind romance culminates over a wedding weekend filled with feuding bridal families.

CRAZY RICH ASIANS Based on Kevin Kwan's best-selling book of the same title, this film adaptation follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu (**Constance Wu**) as she meets her boyfriend's insanely wealthy family in Singapore for the first time.

NEW YORK, I LOVE YOU Set among the five boroughs of the Big Apple, this 2008 anthology is bursting with stories about love. Consisting of nearly a dozen film shorts, each by a different director, the comedy-drama collection features an all-star cast including **Natalie Portman** and **Bradley Cooper**.

ROMEO + JULIET There isn't a love story as famous as this 16th century classic. **Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Claire Danes** portray the ill-fated Romeo and Juliet in this '90s iteration of the Shakespearean romantic tragedy.



2 Ingredient Strawberry Fudge

This homemade fudge recipe, made from strawberry frosting and white chocolate, is sweet, creamy and SUPER simple to make.



Ingredients:

- 1 (16 oz) can of strawberry frosting
- 1 1/2 oz bag of white chocolate chips

Instructions:

- Prepare a 9x9 pan by spraying lightly with cooking spray.
- Over a double boiler, or in the microwave, melt your white chocolate chips.
- When chips are melted, remove from heat and stir in your strawberry frosting, evenly.
- Spread in your prepared pan and place in fridge to set for 30 minutes.
- Cut into squares to serve.
- Store in refrigerator in an airtight container for up to a week.

Recipe courtesy of CookiesandCups.com **COOKIES & CUPS**

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1 Rent is Due.	2 Groundhog Day <i>February is Black History Month</i>	3 <i>The Day the Music Died</i>	4 <i>National Sweater Day</i>	5 <i>Bubble Gum Day</i>	6 Rent Late Day!
sunday	7 <i>Super Bowl LV</i>	8 <i>Clean Out Your Computer Day</i>	9 <i>The Beatles appear on the Ed Sullivan Show 1964</i>	10 <i>Umbrella Day</i>	11 <i>Satisfied Staying Single Day</i>	12 <i>Chinese New Year (Year of the Ox)</i>
	13 <i>World Radio Day</i>	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i>	15 <i>President's Day</i>	16 <i>Mardi Gras</i>	17 <i>Random Acts of Kindness Day</i>	18 <i>February is Vegan Cuisine Month</i>
	19 <i>Best Friends Day</i>	20 <i>John Glenn Orbits the Earth 1962</i>	21 <i>February is Library Lovers' Month</i>	22 <i>Single Tasking Day</i>	23 <i>Banana Bread Day</i>	24 <i>National Chili Day</i>
	25 <i>Pistachio Day</i>	26 <i>Final Episode of M.A.S.H. Aired 1983</i>	<h1>February 2021</h1>			