



# The Concord GRAPEVINE

## EARTH DAY

**EARTHDAY.ORG's** founders created and organized the very first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Since then, **EARTHDAY.ORG** has been mobilizing over 1 billion people annually on Earth Day, and every other day, to protect the planet.

### BECOME A WASTE WARRIOR

The number of garbage trucks Americans fill each year would stretch halfway to the moon. Toilet paper tubes, made from cardboard, take two months to decompose in a landfill. A plastic bottle sticks around for way longer—it can take over 450 years to break down! But instead of turning to the trash bin, you could turn these items into an awesome telescope or a flower planter. Before you throw something away, think about whether it can be recycled or repurposed. You can also limit waste by reducing the amount of things you buy. For example, check the library for that book you have to read before visiting the store.

### PLANT A TREE

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen for people to breathe. They also provide shelter and food for animals such as squirrels and owls. Depending on where trees are planted, their shade can even reduce the need for air-conditioning in hotter months. How many more reasons do you need to go green?



### TURN OFF THE LIGHTS

Does that lamp really need to be on while the sun is out? Electricity doesn't just happen—it has to be produced from things around us. A lot of times it comes from fossil fuels (such as coal, oil, or natural gas) that contribute to climate change. But electricity can also be made from renewable sources like wind, water, the sun, and even elephant dung! No matter where it's coming from, try conserving electrical energy by using only what you need.

### LIMIT YOUR WATER USAGE

It might seem like it's everywhere, but clean, drinkable water is a limited resource. In fact less than one percent of the water on Earth can be used by humans. (The rest is either too salty or too difficult to access.) Turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth can conserve up to eight gallons of water a day. To help save even more water, challenge yourself to take a shorter shower (but still get clean!).



### OFFER YOUR TIME

Volunteer to pick up trash at a nearby park, start a collection drive for recyclable items, or organize a screening of an environmentally themed movie. By getting involved and working with others, you're not just helping the Earth—you're making new friends too! ~ [kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/earth-day](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/earth-day)

## APRIL 2024

1st	<b>Dyngus Day...</b> <i>(yes, it's a real thing)</i>
2nd	<b>Autism Awareness Day</b>
11th	<b>World Parkinson's Day</b>
15th	<b>Tax Day</b>
22nd	<b>Earth Day</b>
22nd	<b>Passover (Start)</b>
24th	<b>Administrative Professionals Day</b>
26th	<b>Arbor Day</b>
30th	<b>Passover (End)</b>

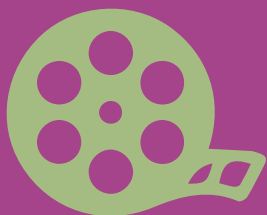
**APRIL 2024**

**ConcordRents**

A Concord Management, Ltd. Affiliate

**Movie Madness 2**  
**Culinary Creations 3**  
**Helpful Tips 4**  
**Crafty Fun 5**





# Movie MADNESS

## APRIL 2024 Movie Theatre and Streaming Releases



### April 2nd ~ Mister Sleep

A deranged serial killer called Mister Sleep, survives prison execution and is reborn as an unstoppable force of nature who unleashes revenge on a group of insomnia patients participating in a new drug trial—a group who he believes have stolen his memories. His relentless thirst for revenge sets him on a collision course with the man who sent him to death row and his young daughter, who is part of the group testing the new medication.



### April 16th ~ Sweet Dreams

Forced into rehab at SWEET DREAMS recovery center, Morris struggles to confront the wreckage of his life. But when their house goes up for auction, he reluctantly agrees to coach their misfit softball team of recovering addicts to win a cash prize and prove that everyone, despite their past, can hit a home run.



### April 5th ~ The Beast

The year is 2044: artificial intelligence controls all facets of a stoic society as humans routinely “erase” their feelings. Hoping to eliminate pain caused by their past-life romances, Gabrielle continually falls in love with different incarnations of Louis. Set first in Paris, Louis is a British man who woos her away from a cold husband, then in early 21st Century, he is a disturbed American bent on delivering violent “retribution.” Will the process allow Gabrielle to fully connect with Louis in the present, or are the two doomed to repeat their previous fates?



### April 19th ~ The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare

Set in 1939, the British are being pounded by Germany and Winston Churchill wants to hit back hard. His answer: stop fighting under accepted gentlemanly rules of engagement, and create a group of warriors who become the first “deniable” secret operatives to strike behind enemy lines. Members are recruited, knowing they are likely to be killed. They win important victories against the Nazis, breaking all the accepted rules of warfare using deception and even the bow and arrow to dispatch the enemy.



### April 12th ~ The Long Game

Follows the true story of five young Mexican American caddies in 1955 who created their own golf course in the middle of the South Texas brush country. Despite outdated and inferior equipment and no professional instruction to begin with, they would go on to compete against wealthy, all-white teams and win the 1957 Texas State High School Golf Championship.



### April 30th ~ The Barkers: Mind the Cats!

Meet the Barkers, a family of talking, dancing, trouble-making dogs! When the five Barker pups stay with Grandpa for the summer, poor Kid can't find anyone to play with: his sisters are starstruck and lovestruck, and inventor Alex is making a jet pack so Max can become a social-media star. When two naughty cats decide to steal the jet pack, they play nice with lonely Kid and the other Barkers as they plot their caper.





# Culinary CREATIONS

## Enjoy these No-Hassle Slow Cooker Recipes!

### Sweet Potato Chili

- 2 large sweet potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 (28 oz.) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 (14 oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon salt

Combine sweet potatoes, crushed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, kidney beans, black beans, onion, chili powder, cumin, brown sugar, garlic, paprika, and salt in a slow cooker. Cook on Low for 8 hours. ~ Source: [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)



### Green Beans

- 1 (16 oz.) package frozen green beans
- ½ cup frozen bell pepper and onion mix
- ¼ cup real bacon bits
- garlic salt to taste
- ground black pepper to taste
- 1 stick butter, cut into chunks

Place green beans, pepper and onion mix, and bacon bits in a slow cooker. Season with garlic salt and pepper and top with butter chunks. Cook on high until heated through, 2 to 3 hours. ~ Source: [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)



### Chocolate Cake

- Cooking spray
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup boiling water

Spray the crock of a large slow cooker with cooking spray. Whisk sugar, flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt together in a large bowl. Whisk milk, oil, eggs, and vanilla together in a medium bowl until well combined. Slowly whisk in boiling water. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix until well combined; pour batter into the prepared slow cooker. Cover and cook on Low until cake has no wet spots on top and is pulling away from the sides of the crock, about 3 hours. Turn off slow cooker and let rest for 30 minutes before serving. ~ Source: [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)





# Helpful TIPS

## Tips for Sharing Your Apartment with a Pet



### 1. CONSIDER YOUR PET'S PERSONALITY

Size isn't the only factor to consider when having a dog in an apartment. Large dogs with mellow personalities may do better living in an apartment than small, high-energy dogs such as toy poodles and terriers that bark a lot. Adopting a senior dog who requires less exercise is another good option for apartment dwellers.

If you're moving to a new place with a pet you already have, learn more about how to navigate the challenges that come with moving with your pet.

### 2. ESTABLISH BATHROOM ROUTINES

It's easier to have dogs in apartments if you establish a routine for their bathroom breaks. Take your pet out at certain times throughout the day and evening. Train them to use the bathroom in designated areas around your apartment building.

Cats like privacy when using the litter box, so keep their litter box hidden away in the bathroom or a spare bedroom. By using an enclosed litter box, it cuts down on messy litter scattered on the floor.

### 3. GIVE PETS PLENTY OF EXERCISE

High-energy level breeds such as labs, retrievers, and shepherds can adapt well to apartment living if they get plenty of daily exercise, including outside playtime. Large dogs need a lot of

exercise and love to run around and fetch. Make sure they play outdoors as much as possible.

If you work all day and don't have the time to exercise your pet, you can hire a professional dog walker to exercise them.

### 4. KEEP PETS ENTERTAINED

Like humans, pets can become depressed and lonely if they don't get enough play time and exercise. If your pet seems restless or bored, it may mean they need more entertainment or one-on-one time with mom and dad.

When living with pets in an apartment, give them plenty of fun, interactive toys to play with throughout the day—especially if you're gone all day. Place toys in different rooms and locations throughout the apartment. Spreading their toys around gives pets a good excuse to walk and exercise as they search for their favorite toys in another room. Switch their toys every few months, so pets don't get bored playing with the same toys.

When living with cats in an apartment, think tall. Make sure they have tall, multi-level cat towers and kitty condos with scratching posts. If your cat loves to curl up on the window ledge and look out, secure and lock windows, so your cat doesn't escape. If this is your first pet, learn more about bringing home a new pet for the first time.

~Source: [www.progressive.com/lifelanes/household/apartment-living-with-pets/](http://www.progressive.com/lifelanes/household/apartment-living-with-pets/)



## Create Colorful Tissue Paper Flowers!

### Materials Needed:

- Paper towel roll or toilet paper roll
- Green tempera paint and paintbrush
- Tissue paper squares in various shades of green
- Tissue paper sheets in different colors
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stapler
- *Optional:* Glue dots
- *Optional:* Construction paper or buttons for the center of the flower

1. Start by painting your cardboard tube with the green tempera paint.

2. Glue tissue paper squares all over your stem using a paintbrush and liquid glue. Simply place a tissue paper square onto the stem and gently use the brush to spread glue over the entire square. Set the stem aside and let it dry completely.

3. Now it's time to make the tissue paper petals. Cut out 6 tissue paper circles from your large tissue paper sheets: 2 large, 2 medium and 2 small.

4. Stack them on top of one another.

5. Grab the center all the circles at once from below the stack and pinch the paper together. Stuff it gently into the flower stem and staple in place.

6. Gently pull out and manipulate the tissue paper petals until you're happy with the look.

7. To make centers for your tissue paper flowers, cut out some different colored circles from construction paper and glue them together. Glue a button in the center of the little circles, and you are done!

*~www.buggyandbuddy.com/tissue-paper-flower-crafts-for-kids/*



1.

2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



Done!