

March Newsletter



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Why March Used To Be The First Month Of The Year



Today, the year officially begins on January 1. It feels fixed and unquestionable. But for much of early history, that wasn't the case at all. The calendar once started in March, and the reason was far more practical than ceremonial.

Spring Was When Life Actually Restarted

In early Roman society, calendars followed daily life, not abstract dates. March marked the return of longer days and warmer temperatures after winter. Farming resumed, travel became possible again, and military campaigns could move forward. When activity picked up, it made sense to mark that moment as the start of the year.

The Month Names Tell on the Old Calendar

The earliest Roman calendar only had ten months, beginning with March. Even though the calendar evolved, traces of that system never fully disappeared. September comes from the word for seventh, October for eighth, November for ninth, and December for tenth. Those names only make sense if March was once month one.

How January Moved to the Front

As timekeeping became more precise, the calendar was adjusted to better align with the solar year. January and February were added to fill the winter gap. Over time, January was moved to the first position. It was named after Janus, a Roman

figure associated with transitions and beginnings, which made the shift feel fitting rather than arbitrary.

Why March Still Feels Like a Turning Point

Even without the official title, March still carries a sense of momentum. Days grow longer, routines pick up, and energy shifts. For many people, it feels like the year truly starts moving again, echoing the role March once played centuries ago.

A Calendar Built Around Real Life

Early calendars were shaped by weather, agriculture, and survival. While modern systems are standardized and precise, their roots are practical. March's former place at the beginning of the year is a reminder that calendars weren't designed around numbers. They were designed around how people lived.



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When Life Gives You Lemons.....

Classic Lemon Bars

Crust:

1/4 cup sugar

1 1/2 cups flour

1/2 cup butter

Mix until well blended. Pat into an ungreased 8-inch square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Filling:

2 eggs

3/4 cup sugar

1/4 tsp. baking powder

3 Tbsp. lemon juice

Mix well. Pour over partially baked crust. Return to oven for 15 minutes or until set. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cool and cut into bars.

Lemon Jam

Ingredients:

2 1/2 pounds lemons

6 cups water

6 cups sugar

Directions:

Chop lemons, removing and reserving seeds and pith.

Tie seeds and pith in cheesecloth, and place in large pot along with chopped lemons. Add water, and boil for 20 minutes.

Remove cheesecloth bag. Add sugar, and bring to a boil for 20 more minutes, or until set.

Remove from stove, then can or refrigerate in glass jars.

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Smart home features are no longer something buyers see as a bonus or a novelty. Thermostats, lighting systems, security cameras, and voice assistants are becoming part of everyday living. As these features show up in more homes, homeowners are starting to care about more than just what the technology does. They care about how it looks and how it fits into the space.

First impressions still count.

When someone walks through a home, they are not evaluating devices one by one. They are taking in the space as a whole. If smart devices feel randomly placed or visually inconsistent, they can pull attention away from the home itself. When technology feels intentional, it fades into the background in the best way possible.

Work with the home's style, not against it.

Every home already has a personality. Some lean modern, others feel traditional, and many land somewhere in between. Smart technology should follow that lead. The good news is that many newer devices are designed with simpler finishes and quieter profiles, which makes it easier to match them to existing interiors rather than forcing a design shift.

Placement matters more than people think.

How and where devices are installed affects how noticeable they are. Items that get daily use should be easy to reach without dominating the room. Smaller components that do not need regular interaction are better placed outside main sightlines. This keeps the focus on the home rather than the hardware.

Let technology support the space.

The best smart homes are the ones where technology feels secondary to the design. Thoughtful lighting controls, discreet thermostats, and well-placed speakers help everything work together naturally. When smart features support the room instead of competing with it, the space feels more comfortable and intentional.

A thoughtful approach adds value.

From a real estate perspective, homes that feel organized and well-considered tend to leave a stronger impression. Smart features can absolutely be a selling point, but how they are presented matters. When technology blends seamlessly into the home, it enhances daily living while preserving the look and feel buyers connect with most.

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