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MY FIRST LIBERTY NEWS

Volume Issue • January 2017

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Keep It Simple Recipes For The New Year

After the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, I'm ready for some calm. I'm applying my 2017 New Year mantra to cooking: Keep It Simple.

I don't do a New Year's resolution, per say. I typically focus on something I need to work on and try to apply it throughout my life during the year. One year, it was to "just say yes" to any invitation I received (I needed to get out more). Another year, I chose to be more mindful of being kind to strangers. This year, it's Keep It Simple. I can be my own worst enemy when it comes to life getting out of control. Keeping it simple, even just thinking the slogan in my head, brings me the sense of calm and peace I need to tackle life's hurdles. It's the same with cooking. A delicious meal doesn't have to be difficult to prepare. It can be simple, healthy and fun. The headline for these meals is what caught my eye: "5 Easy Dinners in January" from realsimple.com. These are all quick, healthy recipes for weeknight meals. What could be more simple than that?



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MY FIRST LIBERTY NEWS

Vehicle Details: Top Vehicles That Are Affordable and Cool

A cool ride doesn't need to break the bank

There are so many choices if you're looking for a new vehicle that it can be difficult to know where to start. But if your priorities are on coolness and affordability, here are some great options.

Kia Soul — The Soul is frequently awarded for its value and coolness, and the new 2017 model starts at an MSRP of \$15,990 while delivering the same charm that has won over many buyers. The Soul continues to find ways to improve, with the newest model adding a turbocharged 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine that produces 201 hp and 195 lb/ft of torque through a seven-speed dual clutch transmission, and estimated fuel ratings up to 26 mpg city and 31 mpg highway. The Soul is easily spotted in a crowd thanks to its unique design, and some of its impressive features include the UVO infotainment system with eight-inch touchscreen display, navigation, and Apple CarPlay or Android Auto connectivity. You can also add a Harman Kardon audio system, ventilated front seats, heated rear seats, a heated steering wheel, and plenty of advanced safety features like the Blind Spot Detection System, Lane Departure Warning System, Forward Collision Warning System and Rear-Cross Traffic Alert.

Consumer Guide summarizes it nicely: "The competitively priced Soul is a very compelling mix of personality and practicality."

Honda Fit — Named to Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com's "10 Coolest Cars Under \$18,000," and currently ranked as the No. 1 subcompact and hatchback by U.S. News & World Report, the Fit has plenty to love. All Fit models have a 130 hp 1.5-liter four-cylinder engine that gets up to 37 mpg highway, but the versatility of the Fit is arguably its biggest strength. A maximum cargo capacity of 52.7 cubic feet is more expected from a small SUV, and clever features like the second row Magic Seat allow buyers to haul larger items. There are also plenty of standard features including Bluetooth wireless connectivity, a multi-angle rearview camera and a five-inch color LCD touchscreen.



Edmunds adds, "If there's one thing this Honda is known for, after all, it's the incredible amount of stuff you can fit inside its pint-sized hatchback body. Today's Fit also has more rear legroom than ever, and it's got a respectable roster of standard and optional technology too."

Chevrolet Sonic — Also named to Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com's "10 Coolest Cars Under \$18,000," the 2017 Sonic is an affordable compact that offers excellent value (a starting MSRP of \$15,145), two engines (a 1.8-liter four-cylinder and a turbocharged 1.4-liter four-cylinder) and plenty of technology, including a new Chevrolet MyLink infotainment system bundled with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility as well as OnStar 4G LTE with Wi-Fi hotspot. Safety is provided by 10 standard airbags

and you can also add Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Warning and the new Rear Park Assist.

Autotrader says, "If you're in the market for an affordable pint-sized champ that won't make you feel second class for driving it, the Chevrolet Sonic may have your number."

Other vehicles to consider include the Toyota Yaris iA, Honda Civic, MAZDA3 sedan and hatchback, Nissan Versa Note, Hyundai Elantra and Kia Rio.

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