

The Client Connection

News and Updates from The Gensler Group

March 4, 2014

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The Markets

If you think Russia could have found a colder place to hold the winter Olympics than Sochi, where the average January 2014 temperature was 51° Fahrenheit, you're right. In some Siberian towns, negative double-digit temperatures are considered the norm during winter months. If you thought Russia sending troops into Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula would unsettle world markets, you would have been wrong.



While the world was watching the winter Olympics, the Ukrainian people were staging a revolution. They ousted President Viktor Yanukovich and, according to The Economist, Ukraine's new leaders began forming pro-European government. Russia's president Vladimir Putin asked the Russian parliament for permission to deploy troops in Ukraine. America warned there would be consequences for such an action.

[Click here to read the entire article.](#)

Are Your Pets Tax Deductions?

In Most Cases, No, Though There Are Exceptions

Quarterly Market Review

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We've been keeping our veterinarian in business lately. First Sammy, our nine-year-old golden retriever, needed surgery. (She's fine now.) Then Inky, our curious cat, burned his paw. (He'll be fine, too.)

At our last visit, as we were writing our fourth (or was it the fifth?) consecutive check to the veterinary hospital, there was much joking about how vet bills should be tax-deductible. After all, pets are dependents, too, right? (Guffaws all around.)

Now, halfway through tax-filing season, comes news that pets are high on the list of unusual deductions taxpayers try to claim. From routine pet expenses to the costs of adopting a pet to, yes, pets as "dependents," tax accountants have heard it all this year, according to the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, which surveys its members annually about the most outlandish tax deductions proposed by clients.

[Click here to read the entire article.](#)

The Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego presents: Ninth Annual Cherry Blossom Festival



Saturday, March 8th
10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Balboa
Park

Bring the whole family to the Japanese Friendship Garden for authentic Japanese street food, a Beer and Sake tent,

crafts and more.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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