

# MAPLE VALLEY

NEIGHBORS

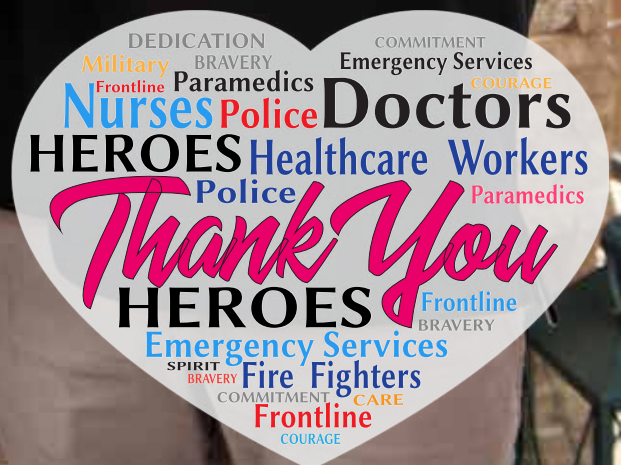
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# MAPLE VALLEY NEIGHBORS

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#### HOA SUBMISSION INFORMATION

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## Dear Residents,

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020! I know this is not how you imagined things being when you graduated High School, but you are graduating all the same and that is something to celebrate! Please know the community is gathered around you, supporting you and cheering on your accomplishments. We are proud of you Tahoma grads!

We want to give a very special thank you to our featured family this month, Bradley and Jereme. Bradley is a local realtor and both he and Jereme are very active in our community. From what I'm told, their home is the place to be to gather with good friends. They provide a space to relax and just be yourself. We should all be so lucky to have friends like Bradley and Jereme!

Please welcome our newest sponsor, Faith N' Hope Cleaning Services. Faith N' Hope Cleaning Services mission is to provide the highest-quality to their clients, whether it be for house cleaning, vacant home cleaning, post restoration cleaning or commercial cleaning. They cater to the needs of each and every client.

Last but not least, Happy Father's Day to all of you amazing Dads! I hope there is a delicious BBQ in your future.

*Kendall Lamb*

Publisher



#### CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

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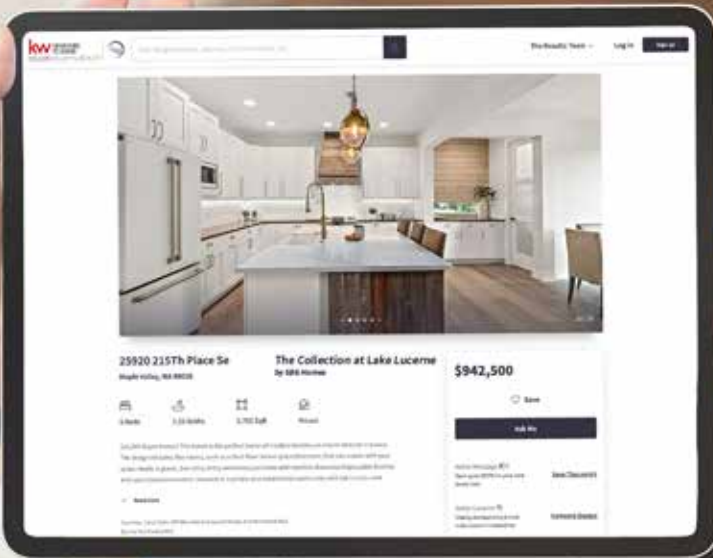
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# Distance Socially - Support Locally

By Erica Dial, CEO of the Greater Maple Valley Black Diamond Chamber

Locally owned small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the cornerstone of our communities.

Did you know that for every dollar spent at a local business, 68% funnels back into the community? Many of the small business owners (including local franchise owners) in Maple Valley are our neighbors and our friends. They provide jobs for our kids and grandkids. They sponsor or donate to many of our youth sports, community festivals like the Hooked on Fishing Annual Fishing Derby and Maple Valley Days, as well as other non-profit events throughout the year. They have poured their heart and soul into providing a product and/or service for you! The relationship forged between customer and owner goes beyond a purchase - customers become family. Their business gives our community its texture, taste, color, and shape.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hurt many of our small businesses. These businesses have been there for us, so now is the time for us to step up as a community and support them! So, what can you do to help?


### Here are a few ideas:

- Purchase gift cards directly from the business. They receive the money immediately and can use it for current expenses.
- Promote them on your social media. Word of mouth advertising is an easy and excellent way to help out a business.
- Write a great review on Yelp, Google, or other sites

- Keep your subscription or membership to a gym, exercise class, painting class, music lesson, dance class, etc. Consider it a cash donation to that business.
- Check out a business to see if they are providing delivery or curbside pickup for purchased items. They might even be selling something new.
- Reach out and say thank you to your favorite small business and ask them if there is anything else you can do to help.
- And most importantly, when the time comes and the doors open again, please make sure you frequent these small local businesses. They will be ready and waiting for you and will make sure you are safe and protected in their place of business. By supporting each other, we will get through these challenging times. Maple Valley is resilient!

Erica Dial is the CEO of the Greater Maple Valley Black Diamond Chamber, a business membership organization that provides community leadership, advocates for businesses, advances economic vitality that enhances the general welfare of the area and promotes our community as a great place to live, work and play.

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# Bradley and Jereme: *Building a Life Together*

By Michael Lamb

Photos by Master Photographer Bruce Hudson

Maple Valley residents Bradley and Jereme met online in 2009, in what Bradley described as the “now notorious, Myspace.” “I would call it a ‘Facebook-type’ connection,” said Bradley. “An immediate connection was sparked, in which we communicated nonstop for the next few weeks before we had our first real date. We have now been married since 2013.”

Jereme attended Washington State University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in management of information systems. Jereme currently works as the customer care & legal program manager for Avvo, a Seattle legal tech company, which was created to make legal easier and help people find a lawyer.

Bradley attended Green River Community College, to focus on a degree in business. However, life had different plans and he accepted a position with Sports Authority. According to Bradley, “It was an amazing opportunity in retail management. During the ten years I was there, I managed seven different store locations and learned so many invaluable lessons about how to manage operations and run a team.”

During Bradley’s last year at Sports Authority, he and Jereme purchased their first home in Maple Valley. “Even though we didn’t have a great experience with our agent,” said Bradley. “I was intrigued by the process and loved the concept of finding a new home, learning about the different communities and everything that went into finding a home.”

*Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share?*

Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at [michaellamb@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:michaellamb@bestversionmedia.com)



Photo by Master Photographer Bruce Hudson



Bradley made the decision to get his real estate license fairly quickly after that. He left his position at Sports Authority and found a firm he was excited to build his brand under. “I knew that my past experience in customer service, an operational eye for detail, managing a P&L, multi-tasking, hiring and managing a team and adapting quickly to seasonality, would translate easily into the real estate industry,” said Bradley. “I was confident (maybe even overly) that I could provide a much better client experience for buying and selling a home than what I had experienced.”

Bradley is now the owner and team lead at the Bradley Hanson Real Estate Group, which services Maple Valley to Black Diamond, as well as Covington to Kent. According to Bradley, “The Bradley Hanson Real Estate Group is proudly one of the leading real estate teams in Maple Valley.”

Jereme and Bradley have no children yet, but have aspirations of adopting in the very near future. Until then, they are “the world’s most fun uncles” to their nine nephews and nieces that primarily live right here in Maple Valley. \*Fun Fact: Bradley has an identical twin brother, Brian, who also lives in Maple Valley.

Bradley and Jereme’s family is rounded out by Valorie, their one-year-old French Bulldog. Valorie was a gift from Bradley to Jereme for Valentine’s Day (Jereme had wanted a French Bulldog since they first met in 2009).

When not working, Bradley and Jereme enjoy life to the fullest! Their biggest hobby is international travel. “We have recently explored Thailand, Greece, Mexico, and had plans to go to Vietnam that were cancelled due to Covid-19,” said Bradley. “When we are not traveling, we enjoy wine tasting with friends and taking our Frenchie (Val) to the new Summit Trail dog park. We are big Seahawks fans, and attend games whenever possible.” During their most recent overseas trip, they both fell in love with Greece and its vibrant culture, delicious food, and gorgeous islands. They also head down to Puerto Vallarta each October for a week of sunshine & margaritas!

continued on next page





Photo by Master Photographer Bruce Hudson



Last year Bradley and Jereme relocated from their first home in Maple Valley to The Terraces at Maple Woods. “We were looking for more space to grow as a family, needed a home office (Jereme works entirely from home), and loved the backyard space for hosting our friends, family, and oftentimes real estate clients for happy hours,” said Bradley. “We love listening to country music by the fire with our wine, and our home offered the perfect space for this.” According to Bradley, “If there was a Maple Valley Wine Club, I would be the founding member and President. Everyone grab your Syrah and meet at my house!”

Jereme and Bradley whose family motto, “Give your family the best of you, not what’s left of you” are thoroughly enjoying their Maple Woods neighborhood and love how family-oriented it is. “There are so many parks and trails, and just about every home has several young children running around,” said Bradley. “We have built strong friendships with our neighbors and consider so many of the families

within the Maple Valley community to be our family. We love the abundance of amenities that Maple Valley has to offer, while still maintaining its small-town identity.”

Bradley and Jereme have a special message for their neighbors: “Covid-19 has impacted several of us within the Maple Valley community in all different ways. We hope that you continue to check on your neighbors often, as we all need each other during these trying times.

### *Bradley and Jereme’s Top 5 Favorite Things:*

1. Takeout from Maple Valley Thai.
2. Hosting friends for evenings of fireside chats.
3. Summer concerts at Chateau Ste. Michelle
4. Spotify-fueled bubble baths
5. Visits to Summit Dog Park with our Frenchie, Val.

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Elk Ridge Trail

## Trail of the Month: Taylor Mountain

By Ryan Stueber, Local Resident

After a month of the trails being closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, I'm excited to be back to share another excellent trail system with you.

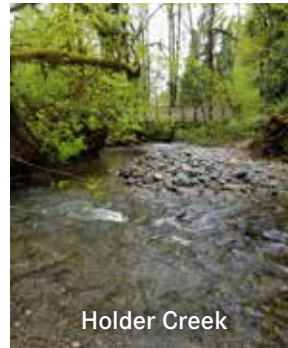
Located just off of Hwy 18 to the east of Tiger Mountain, Taylor Mountain, is perhaps the least travelled and best kept secret of the famed Issaquah

Alps. Within its over 1900 acres, the park boasts nearly 22 miles of a combination of single-track trail and gravel service road, and is open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

The subject of heavy logging in the past, King County acquired this land in 1997. In 2003, the county put forth a stewardship plan designed to protect and restore the ecosystem and particularly the prime salmon spawning grounds in Carey and Holder Creeks.

Currently, there is a mix of older growth coniferous and mixed forests with many younger stands of red alder. This makes for a unique experience as you travel through the different areas of the park.

The most popular hike on Taylor Mountain is the Holder Ridge Trail. This trail climbs for about 1.5 miles from the parking lot off of Issaquah Hobart Road, to the top of Holder Knob. Here you can enjoy lunch at a picnic table while soaking in views of Mount Rainier and Maple Valley. From there, you can loop back around and head down the service road to the parking lot or you can continue on for a longer adventure.



Holder Creek

Unfortunately, key sections of the main road (Road A) and the Carey Creek Trail were washed out during the heavy rain in February, effectively cutting the park in half. Luckily, there is a second trailhead along 208th Street that gives you access to what I would consider the most beautiful area of the park. A great hike from here is to take the Elk Ridge Trail up and then loop back along Road G for a nice 3-mile loop, or continue on up Road H for excellent territorial views.

### A few tips when exploring Taylor Mountain:

- Bring a trail map or a map on your phone. It's very easy to add some unwanted miles onto your trip here. You can find a great map on the King County Parks website.
- This is a highly used equestrian area, so make sure to yield the trail to horseback riders and take corners gently if you are running or riding.
- Taylor Mountain is a bit more remote, so you are much more likely to see large wildlife here than on Tiger or Cougar Mountain. I've seen Elk, Deer and Bear here frequently, particularly early in the morning.

With all that in mind, go forth and enjoy another beautiful trail system. Remember, getting out in nature is one of the best ways to stay sane and heal your mind and body in these challenging times.



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*together!*



"My wife and I were new to the selling and buying game and were incredibly hesitant to take the next step and list our starter home while looking for our dream home for our growing family. From the first interactions with the team at the Bradley Hanson Group, we were sold! We had interviewed many other agents but none had the professionalism, knowledge and skill to take our nerves and put them at ease. Right away they took the reins and from then on our total selling and buying experience was completely at ease. Even though we had some hiccups throughout the process, Brad and his team made these bumps in the road truly just little bumps and handled each issue with finesse and skill that left us incredibly impressed, humbled and truly thankful to have had the Bradley Hanson Group representing our transactions. Looking back we would not have had this any other way and will be exclusively using Brad and his team for all our future real estate transactions."

— Anthony & Jina X.  
Maple Valley Home Buyers

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# Third Layer Living: *House Plants*

By Teresa DeLappe, Local Resident

Last month, my family had the pleasure of being the Feature Family within *Maple Valley Neighbors* magazine. In sharing our story, I also shared how the journey required me to remember, and in some ways rediscover my Third Layer. Whether it be through words, actions, or activities, we put the majority of our time and consideration into the foundation of family, home, and work; aka, the first and second layers of our life. Each day, we each perform different roles within those first two layers: a spouse, a parent, a friend, a co-worker, and so on. Yet, in the midst of those performances, we often lose sight of who we really are. Through my own journey, I know how easy it can be to lose sight of the things that encompass our Third Layers. As I work to evolve and give my life to my own Third Layer, I thought it would be fun to share what sparks my soul in hopes that it inspires you to do the same.



During the start of my journey in rediscovering what made my soul sing and connecting with my Third Layer, my daughter, Makena, suggested I consider bringing live house plants into our home. The suggestion wasn't as much about aesthetics as it was about creating a healing environment for my husband while he was healing

from his liver surgery. Prior to this point, I was convinced that I killed every house plant that crossed the threshold of our home and hence reverted to fake, artificial plants. Don't get me wrong, I love a great fake plant, but I was willing to do whatever I could to contribute to my husband's healing.

In her wisdom, Makena informed me about all the healing properties found to be associated when live plants occupied shared living spaces. I did some reading and learned a ton of amazing facts about all the health and environmental benefits of house plants. How could I not give it a try? Worst case scenario, I killed the plants and reverted back to the plastic. I've summarized a few of my learnings about adding houseplants to our environment below, but also encourage you to do some googling of your own.

**Improving Health:** Adding plants to hospital rooms speeds the recovery rates of surgical patients, according to researchers at Kansas State University. When compared to patients in rooms without plants, the patients in rooms with plants requested less pain medication, had lower heart rates and blood pressure, experienced less fatigue and anxiety, and were released from the hospital sooner.

**Breathing Easier:** When you breathe, your body takes in oxygen and releases carbon dioxide. During photosynthesis, plants do the opposite, absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. The Sansevieria plant, aka "Snake Plant" is one of the top air-filtering plants. It is a work horse at absorbing carbon monoxide and converting it into fresh oxygen, which it releases at night.

**Sharpening Focus:** A study at The Royal College of Agriculture in England found that students demonstrated 70 percent greater

attentiveness when they are taught in rooms containing plants.

I was sold, I needed to give live plants another try! My first step was to find the right plants; hardy, forgiving and easy to care for. I started off with a few plants and quickly caught the bug! One by one, it was out with the fake plants and in with the live ones. Caring for them was a learning curve. Not all survived my trials and tribulations, but it's part of the process. What I did discover is that I really enjoyed the difference in atmosphere with the live plants vs. fake. I've yet to conduct any oxygen studies in my house, but I swear the air is cleaner and the surroundings feel more alive.



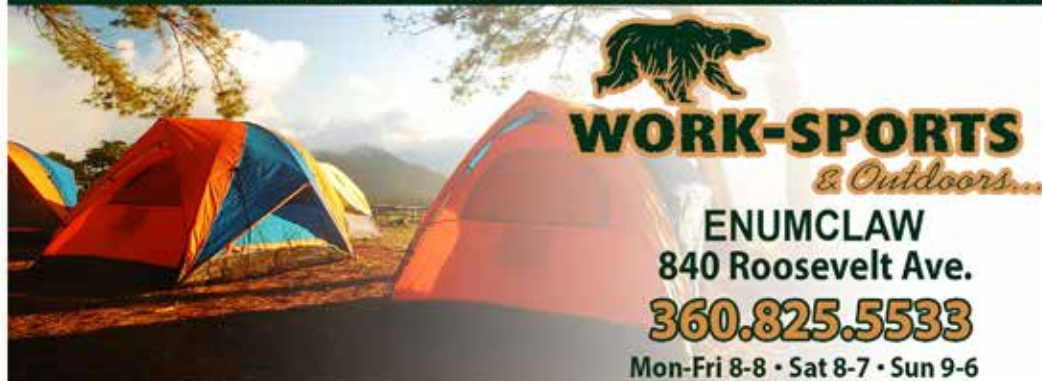
At this point, I have lost count of how many plants I have. I'm fairly sure there is not one room in our house that does not have a live plant in it. I've learned how to select the right plants for the space and light, create a watering routine that doesn't feel like a chore, and most importantly, when to realize it's ok to "retire" a plant that is not thriving under the rules for prospering in our home; hardy, forgiving and easy to care for.

If you're still of the mind-set that you kill any plant that crosses your doors threshold, I would encourage you to give it another try. You have evolved and learned a lot about yourself during your life's journey too. We grow, we change, we evolve.

Keep your Third Layer Living and growing!  
(For more information go to Instagram: @ThirdLayerLiving)



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# Selling Your Home: What You Need to Know and How to Prepare

By Scott Dideon, MS BCE, Urban Entomologist,  
Green City Pest Control



EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR

When Selling your home, pre-inspection is critical to being prepared. This helps you avoid last minute surprises or losing the buyer when their inspector finds the home full of costly issues.

Know that there will be things you need to get done and it will cost money. The more prepared you are, the less you will be in shock, angry, and all the other emotions that occur when selling your home. We always see our homes differently than a person who is seeing it for the first time.

- **Often you can use Escrow** to pay for some of these bigger repair items.
- **If you see rodent droppings** it is not a little one-time thing. It is a family and they are most likely living in your home and doing damage. Mole tunnels provide an entry point into your crawlspace for other pests.
- **Use a trusted Pest Control** company like Green City Pest Control to help with surprise pest issues.
- **Trust your Real Estate Professional** to assist you with the list of resources they have at their fingertips. They do this daily and have a list of professionals who can do the job quickly before listing or closing.
- **Sellers and Buyers** have different agendas and look at the process differently. The timelines can be very different as well. So, having this done before avoids holding up the closing process or these costs becoming part of the negotiation and reducing your sell price.
- **Cut back your vegetation.** It has better curb-side appeal. It also helps with reducing pests and rodent issues

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# Helping Your Children Bond with Faraway Family Members

By Cassie Welliver, Director of Drama Kids International of South and East King County

If you live far away from your relatives, it may feel difficult to give your child a sense of familial ties without having those in-person bonds to rely on.

However, with a little bit of technology and creativity, you can help your children connect with relatives no matter how far away they are! While children may clam up if they are expected to hold a phone conversation with a relative they do not know well, creatively using a blend of online and in-person resources can help foster those connections across the miles.

## Make Authentic Use of Video Chat Technology:

While video chats are a great tool for staying connected with family members that kiddos can't see in person, for younger children, chatting can be a difficult way to engage them.

To bridge this gap, consider ways that you can make a video call with relatives more like an in-person visit, complete with playtime and laughter! Sock puppets, charades, 20 Questions, and virtual book readings are great ways to connect on a more personal level without expecting children to sit and catch up like an adult would do on a video chat.



Some additional ideas are playing dress-up and modeling your costumes for each other, making a craft together, or teaching each other a song!

## Consider Care Packages:

Creating care packages can go both ways for family members and create special memories for your child with a particular loved one in mind.



Family members can send your child toys, games and other small items for fun, and you and your child can pick out candies, snacks or other small treats to send to the relative. Then you can schedule a video call to do a grand unboxing so everyone can share in on the joy!

## Make It a Routine Part of the Week:

For any activity with children, creating a routine and sticking to it is a great way to provide structure (<https://www.education.com/magazine/article/importance-routines-preschool-children/>). And, that can be true of video chats with relatives, too.

Make use of a calendar your kids can see and access, and pencil in when they can expect to hear from Nana every week. This gives them something to look forward to just like they would an in-person visit, and it helps them feel in control of their childhood social calendar in a fun way.

If you're looking for another fun way to bond with your kids, consider enrolling them in Drama Kids Online classes and camps to give them a fun activity! Check out what we're offering today to find a good fit. <https://dramakids.com/wa3>

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# A Step Back in Time

## Union High Schools

By JoAnne Matsumura, Maple Valley Historical Society

The Elders stated the “U” must mean a Labor Union and the “M” surely must mean Miners, because it was a mining town and there were miners living all around. It also could not be Maple Valley, because this June 18, 1915, UMHS Commencement Program was for Union M High School of Black Diamond, Washington and its four graduates. They were Charles Williams, Florence Harries, Ivy Davies and Anna Davies.

It would not be until 1926, before Hobart, Maple Valley and Taylor, joined forces and qualified to be Union T High School, which then formed TAYlor, HObart, and MAPle Valley as Tahoma High School.

In 1899, the Washington State Legislature developed Union High Schools, so that schools within the state could receive state funding to help relieve the financial burden upon the various cities.

A consolidation is not the same as becoming a Union High School. The word “Union” means all grades above the eighth grade. Qualifying to be a Union High School was a lengthy and difficult process.

One Washington State school had only one student above the eighth grade and was not considered a qualifying school and received no funding.

New measures of the State Legislature also provided schools with a process to dissolve their Union High School status. By June 1918, the Union M High School of Black Diamond had changed its name to Black Diamond High School.

In June 1926, a \$57,000 contract for the construction of the new Union T High School, was awarded to Dolph Jones of Tacoma. Designed by William Mallis, the building would be two-story, ten rooms, with a large auditorium and a basement. The grounds were to include a residence for the superintendent, a caretaker’s cottage, an experimental plantation, and a complete athletic field. Fulfillment would be completed in 23 years.



The school opened on February 21, 1927, with new District Superintendent, Earl D. Bonham and 100 students. The school district was formed in 1925, by the chairmen of three districts: W. E. Lemley, Manager of Denny Renton Clay & Coal Co.; Taylor, W. W. Hitchcock, Hobart; and Charles Mattaini, Maple Valley.

The dedication ceremony on April 15, 1927, had over 500 people in attendance. Seattle King County Superintendent, Mr. A. S. Burrows, made sure to remind the audience of the development that had taken place since he first made his way by trails and poor roads to visit the schools there.

During the year of 1928, the students gave several plays. The Junior and Senior classes purchased a Baldwin concert piano from the proceeds of the senior plays, the senior ball of blue and silver (the class colors) and the junior prom.

It took two levies (1937 and 1952) and a work stoppage due to WWII, before the final touches could be made and the Senior Class of 1954, could graduate in the new auditorium.

To today’s graduating seniors, we applaud your perseverance and congratulate you on your achievements. Dreams can and do come true!

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# Sticking to a Budget Can Boost Your Emergency Fund

By John Robertson, Edward Jones

During the coronavirus pandemic, our health concerns – for ourselves and our loved ones – have been at the top of our minds. But financial worries have been there, too, both for people whose employment has been affected and for investors anxious about the volatile financial markets. And one aspect of every individual's total financial picture has become quite clear – the importance of an emergency fund.

Even in normal times, it's a good idea for you to keep three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account. Having an emergency fund available can help you cope with those large, unexpected costs, such as a major car repair or a costly medical bill.

Furthermore, if you have an adequate emergency fund, you won't have to dip into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs. These investment vehicles, such as your IRA and 401(k), are designed for your retirement, so the more you can leave them intact, the more assets you're likely to have when you retire. And because they are intended for your retirement, they typically come with disincentives, including taxes and penalties, if you do tap into them early. (However, as part of the economic stimulus legislation known as the CARES Act, individuals can now take up to \$100,000 from their 401(k) plans and IRAs without paying the 10% penalty that typically applies to investors younger than 59½. If you take this type of withdrawal, you have up to three years to pay the taxes and, if you want, replace the funds, beyond the usual caps on annual contributions.

Of course, life is expensive, so it's not always easy to put away money in a fund that you aren't going to use for your normal cash flow. That's why it's so important to establish a budget and stick to it. When developing such a budget, you may find ways to cut down on your spending, freeing up money that could be used to build your emergency fund.

There are different ways to establish a budget, but they all typically involve identifying your income and expenses and separating your needs and wants. You can find various online budgeting tools to help you get started, but, ultimately, it's up to you to make your

budget work. Nonetheless, you may be pleasantly surprised at how painless it is to follow a budget. For example, if you've budgeted a certain amount for food each month, you'll need to avoid going to the grocery store several times a week, just to pick up "a few things" – because it doesn't really take that many visits for those few things to add up to hundreds of dollars. You'll be much better off limiting your trips to the grocery, making a list of the items you'll need and adhering to these lists. After doing this for a few months, see how much you've saved – it may be much more than you'd expect. Besides using these savings to strengthen your emergency fund, you could also deploy them toward longer-term investments designed to help you reach other objectives, such as retirement.

Saving money is always a good idea, and when you use your savings to build an emergency fund, you can help yourself prepare for the unexpected and make progress toward your long-term goals.

**Market swings making you uneasy? Let's talk.**



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## Kid Talk

# A Fantastic Father's Day (DADS STAY OUT!!)

By Hailey Angeles, Local Kid

Father's Day is coming up! Let's face it, it is hard to find dads the right gift. The good news my friends, is that men love their food. So, lucky us!! In a sense, food solves our little problem. Even though we are in the middle of a pandemic, one of my favorite restaurants, the Spring Kitchen still offers take-out in the Maple Valley Time Square. They are open from 11am-8pm.

The perfect way to end a great meal is to devour tasty gelato! And, right next door is a gelato shop called Nutty Squirrel! They have limited hours, so call ahead and check. This restaurant and gelato shop will soon become your must-have favorites!

First, let's give props to Nutty Squirrel. Their gelato is super fresh and you are bound to find a new favorite flavor every time! And, Spring Kitchen has broth that me and my family would die for! If you have had a hard time with previous Father's Day gifts (do not feel bad, I know I have...), this is the ultimate solution!!

If your dad is more of a stay-at-home and "man the barbeque" kind of guy, I have you covered too! Here is a spice rub recipe that will be perfect for this Father's Day occasion.

During Father's Day, people often cook ribs, or steak. This spice rub will get applause from everyone in your family. And, speaking from experience, it is tremendous! It is definitely the favorite spice rub I have ever tasted! This recipe produces one cup of yumminess!



### SPICE RUB

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons of salt
- 2 tablespoons of white sugar
- 2 tablespoons of brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons of ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons of chili powder
- 2 tablespoons of freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon of cayenne pepper
- ½ cup of paprika



All you have to do now is mix! And, did I mention that the rub can work on chicken, lamb, and pork too? To add some extra pizzazz, you can put it in a nice glass jar and tie a white (or whatever color you like) ribbon on the side. That is what I call a Fantastic Father's Day!!

happy **FATHER'S** day

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