



GROUP ESTES *realty*

Take the stress out of tax time this year

Greetings Client Advocates,

February 2018

Here we are, almost in March, and we're ready! Cheering on the budding signs of Spring. And hoping the snow melts quickly!!!

With this season of growing things and longer days also comes taxes. And not just federal income taxes, which this month's flyer addresses, but our local property taxes. The important reminder here is that the County doesn't always send out tax notices. However, not receiving a bill won't work as a reason to miss paying your taxes! Property taxes are due in April and October. If you haven't received a bill (and especially if your bank doesn't collect toward your payment each month), please be sure to contact your local Assessors office (or you can also view your taxes on the Assessors website). Contact us if we can help get you to the desired information!

On the topic of federal income taxes, fortunately, tax preparers, accountants and Do-It-Yourself tax software take much of the mystery out of the process. Whether you prepare your taxes yourself or send them to a professional, it's still important to collect and sort your information, including any changes in status or economics that occurred during the year.

The information in the flyer this month includes some guidelines to prepare you for tax time. Page one provides a list of financial details you may need to gather ahead of time to make the process easier, as well as some tips to help you get a refund faster if that applies to you. Page two outlines steps to take to help you protect yourself from identity theft. Which does lead us to add a caution that we've seen a few times, especially if you have concerns that your information was affected by the issues that Equifax has reported – the sooner your taxes are filed, the sooner someone else cannot take advantage of your information and file AS you.

At the bottom of page two, you'll also find some free tax advice resources that we didn't know about before either! If you know an elderly person, a member of the armed forces, and/or someone with low-to-moderate income, disabilities or limited English, there are government-sponsored tax assistance programs to help.

In short, tax season doesn't have to be stressful. With a bit of preparation, the process can be far more straightforward.

Before moving on to this month's highlighted vendors – I want to remind you about the March 17th gathering at my home in Redmond. In support of Northwest Harvest, do come join us for some

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light bites and conversation (and tasting some Robert Ramsay Cellars wines if you'd like!). If you didn't receive an evite invitation, please call, text or email and I'll get you the specifics...

My goals are three-fold. We are always focused on serving you, encouraging you through our information and activities that we have your best interests – through our expertise and commitment to excellence – at heart. Secondly, a key component of how we serve you includes how we serve our larger community. And that's what these fundraisers are all about. Because thirdly, I am beyond excited to know that, together, we have already donated more than \$20,000 to Northwest Harvest since beginning these events in 2012.

Wrapping up for this month we have our highlighted vendors. Additionally, Armadillo Painting (a vendor we'll be spotlighting in March) has a great offer to share – free window washing when you schedule an exterior residential painting job before March 31st. The web address is www.armadillopainting.com and please tell them we sent you. We also encourage you to check in with us if you need any kind of resource. We collect the good ones and so enjoy sharing the trusted advisors that we have found.

Spotlight Vendors for February

411 Plumber - 411plumber@gmail.com - 206-229-4225
Plumber

Gus Rodriguez - Above & Beyond Fencing - abovebeyondfencing@gmail.com - 206-290-2168
Fence Design & Build

Peter Nguyen - Dun's Landscape Service - dunlandscape@yahoo.com - 206-229-3699
Landscape

Will Tierney - CertaPro Painters Of Seattle - wtierney@certapro.com - 253-735-9001
Painter - Exterior, Painter - Interior

All Climate Heating & Air - comfort@allclimate.net - 425-746-3077
Air Conditioning, Furnace, HVAC

We appreciate your advocacy and the opportunity to be of continued service to you and the people in your life.

Sincerely,



Always looking for more ways to be of service ... and working exclusively by referral throughout North King County and South Snohomish County (and sometimes beyond!).

If you know of someone who would appreciate the consistent level of service we provide, please introduce us via email, or call / text us with their name and contact information, and we'll be happy to follow up and take great care of them.