



the home connection



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EYE ON THE MARKET



It appears that we are headed into a Spring real estate market to remember for all of the right reasons:

- historically low interest rates
- sustainable local job growth
- buyer demand remains high
- increase in new construction activity
- multiple offers on well priced listings
- enticing time for sellers to list
- rising prices = possible equity

The number of closed transactions and the median sales price both increased in February 2013 as compared to February 2012. This continues a positive trend felt throughout the marketplace. Low supply and high demand feels like the new normal with well prepared buyers ready to make a move as soon as listings become available.

There's also a glimmer of good news for distressed properties. Banks appear to be closing more short sales in a timely manner according to those who have completed the process.

If you've considered selling your home, time is of the essence. The backlog of demand is high and now may be a great time to maximize your return.

Please contact me for details on the activity in your neighborhood.

Thank you!

GIFT OF GRATITUDE

Science tells us that an "attitude of gratitude" is good for our health. Feeling grateful often makes us happier, but did you know that gratitude can also increase our bottom line? Perhaps the best news about gratitude is that it requires little time and no money.

Here are four ways that expressing gratitude can improve productivity and results:

Gratitude attracts what we want. The universal law of attraction says that we attract the things we focus on. Choose your thoughts wisely; focus on what you want MORE of.

Gratitude improves relationships. Think about the people in your life who are appreciative of you and let you know it. How do you feel about them? Does their appreciation positively impact your relationship with them? YES! Don't be shy about expressing when you are grateful for someone.

Gratitude reduces negativity. It's hard to be negative for too long when you make the decision to focus your thoughts about things you are grateful for.

Gratitude improves problem solving skills. It helps us enter a problematic situation with a perspective of improvement and opportunity rather than challenge.

When we consciously practice being grateful for the people, situations and resources around us we begin to attract better relationships and results.

AROUND TOWN



Events are springing up all around town. Wishing you a happy Spring!

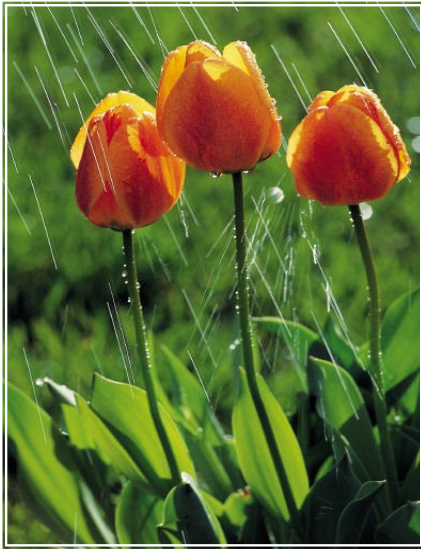
- 1-30** Skagit Valley Tulip Festival
Mount Vernon
tulipfestival.org
- 6** Tulip Run
Skagit Regional Airport
tuliprun.com
- 6-13** Metropolitan Fashion Week
Bellevue-Seattle
metropolitanfashionweek.net
- 13** Daffodil Festival Parades
Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner & Orting
daffodilfestival.net
- 18-21** Puyallup Spring Fair
Western WA Fairgrounds
thefair.com/spring-fair/
- 23-24** Taste Washington
tastewashington.org
- 27** Seattle Heart Ball | IGNITE
American Heart Association
Black-tie Gala
seattleheartball.com
- 26-28** Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival
seattlecenter.com

For additional events, please visit your local Chamber of Commerce or www.experienceva.com



APRIL CALENDAR

FUN FACTZ



MONDAY, April 1st
Skagit Tulip Festival
Opening Day

SUNDAY, April 7th
World Health Day

MONDAY, April 15th
Tax Day

MONDAY, April 22
Earth Day

WEDNESDAY, April 24th
Administrative
Professional's Day

Rain contains vitamin B12.

Children's sense of smell is
better than adults.

Windmills always turn counter clockwise.
Except for in Ireland.

The human brain has the capacity
to store everything that you experience.

Chewing gum boosts brain power.

Coins usually survive in circulation
for about 30 years.

Ice cream is Chinese food!

For more fun, visit www.funfactz.com



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TOP 5 WAYS TO SAVE THE PLANET

Earth Day is on April 22nd each year. It is a day dedicated to uniting voices around the globe in support of a healthy planet. Give Mother Earth a kiss on the cheek by keeping these tips in mind every day of the year:



DON'T LITTER

If you see garbage on the ground, pick it up and put it in the trash.



TURN OFF THE TAP

Reduce your shower time and turn off the water while you brush your teeth.



LIGHTS OUT

Always turn off the lights when you leave a room and don't forget to turn off the TV, too.



CARPPOOL, RIDE YOUR BIKE, LIGHT RAIL

Help keep the air clean by reducing the carbon emissions on our road way.

LOW COST SWAPS AROUND THE HOUSE:

- ☐ Switch all lights to energy saving bulbs
- ☐ Lower your heat at night and while away at work
- ☐ Use reusable bags for grocery shopping
- ☐ Use only biodegradable paper products
- ☐ When you can, try to shop and eat locally
- ☐ Buy compostable bags for kitchen waste
- ☐ Purchase energy efficient appliances
- ☐ Purchase products that use minimal packaging

"Don't blow it. Good planets are hard to find."

- Time Magazine