Issue #162: News & Events

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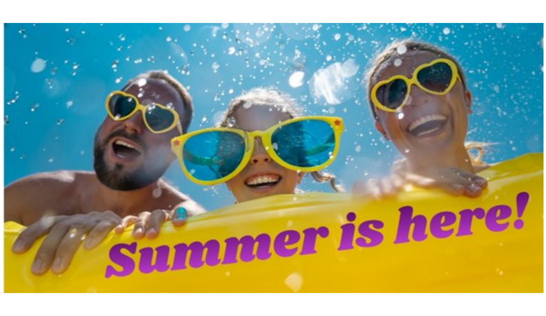

As summer picks up steam, we hope you are finding time to enjoy the longer days and the simple pleasures of the season. In this issue, we're sharing a practical homeownership risk review, Marion's recent Forbes recognition, and an easy summer wreath project to bring a little seasonal beauty to your home.

As always, please reach out if anything in this newsletter sparks questions or if there is anything we can help with. We are always here to support you!

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"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

Anne Lamott

Homeownership Midyear Review

Summer is a timely point in the year to look beyond mortgage rates, home values, and property taxes. For many families, a home is not just a place to live. It may also represent a meaningful portion of net worth, a hub for family activity, a storage place for valuable property, and a source of potential liability exposure.

That is why a mid-year review of homeowners insurance and related risk planning may be worth adding to your summer checklist.

Does Your Coverage Keep Up?

Homeowners insurance is often reviewed when a home is purchased, refinanced, or changed to a new carrier. But life often changes between those major events.

Over time, home values, rebuilding costs, and household circumstances may all shift. Renovations may be completed. Valuable personal property such as jewelry or art may be acquired. A child may return home after college, a home office may become part of daily life, or a second home may be used more frequently by family or guests.

Any of these changes may create questions about whether current coverage still reflects what a household owns, how it uses the property, and what the current insurance policy actually covers.

A few areas worth reviewing with your property and casualty insurance professional include:

Replacement cost. The cost to rebuild a home may differ from its market value, purchase price, or tax assessment. It may also differ from an online real estate estimate. Rebuilding costs may be influenced by fluctuating factors such as materials and labor, as well as the home's specific features and potential changes to local building requirements over time. Therefore, it may be worth confirming whether your dwelling coverage reflects today's rebuilding environment.(1)

Personal property. Standard policies may limit coverage for certain categories of valuables such as antiques or jewelry. If you own higher-value personal items, it may be worth asking your insurance professional whether additional documentation or separate coverage is appropriate.

Umbrella liability coverage. Umbrella coverage can be worth reviewing for many households, not only those with unusual or complex assets. Everyday situations, such as an injury on your property or an auto accident, may create liability exposure beyond the limits of an underlying homeowners or auto policy. Umbrella coverage is designed to provide an additional layer of liability protection, subject to policy terms, exclusions, and limits.

Second homes and vacant homes. A second home, seasonal property, or home left vacant during extended travel may carry different risks than a primary residence. Insurance carriers may apply different rules depending on how often the home is occupied, who uses it, and whether it is ever rented to others.

Home offices. Remote work may affect how a personal insurance policy applies to your home. If you regularly work from home, store business property there, or have work-related visitors, consider asking your insurance professional whether any business use is limited or excluded.

Household employees and contractors. If you hire household help or are planning a home project, there may be insurance, liability, payroll, or tax questions to consider. Before work begins, ask contractors for written documentation of their insurance coverage and any required licensure.

A Summer Risk Review

Summer is also a practical time to review seasonal exposures. Travel, severe weather, and home projects may all affect household risk.

If you will be away for an extended period, consider asking your insurance professional whether any coverage requirements apply while the home is unoccupied. It may also be worth reviewing basic precautions for property damage prevention and security checks.

Location-specific risks may deserve attention as well. For some homeowners, that may mean documenting wildfire mitigation or evacuation plans. For others, it may mean reviewing storm exposure and roof condition. Ask your insurance professional whether flood coverage should be addressed separately.(2)

Summer home projects can also change the risk picture. As your home evolves through renovation or repairs, your insurance coverage may need to be reviewed as well. Before work begins, consider asking your insurance professional what documentation to keep and whether the planned work could affect your current coverage.

A Practical Checklist

A mid-year review does not need to be complicated. Consider gathering the following:

- Current homeowners, auto, umbrella, and specialty policy declarations
- Photos or video of the home and key belongings
- Recent appraisals for jewelry, art, collectibles, or other valuable items
- Records of renovations, major purchases, and home improvements
- Contractor agreements and certificates of insurance
- Documentation of wildfire, hail, or flood mitigation work
- A list of adult children, household employees, second homes, rentals, boats, pools, or other exposures that may affect coverage

A periodic review may help identify questions to address with your insurance professional before coverage is needed. This article is intended for general educational purposes and should not be considered property and casualty insurance, legal, or tax advice. Coverage varies by policy, carrier, and state. Please consult your insurance, legal, and tax professionals regarding your specific situation.

Sources:

(1) National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). January 2, 2025. "What's the Difference Between Actual Cash Value Coverage and Replacement Cost Coverage?"

(2) National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). April 23, 2024. "Do I Need Flood Insurance? Why You Should Consider a Flood Policy to Protect Your Home."

Forbes Recognizes Marion Steward as a Best-in-State Wealth Advisor

We are pleased to share that Marion Steward was recently named to the 2026 Forbes List of Best-in-State Wealth Advisors, recognized as the No. 36 woman advisor in Colorado and the No. 68 wealth advisor overall statewide.

While recognition is never what drives our work, we are grateful for this acknowledgment and view it as a reflection of the long-standing relationships Marion has built over nearly three decades of service and leading the team's continued commitment to serving our clients with care.

Read the full press release here.

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The Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisor ranking, developed by SHOOK Research, is based on in-person and telephone due diligence meetings and a ranking algorithm that includes: client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations; and quantitative criteria, including: assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Portfolio performance is not a criterion due to varying client objectives and lack of audited data. Neither Forbes nor SHOOK Research receives a fee in exchange for rankings.

The Forbes ranking of America's Top Women Wealth Advisors, developed by SHOOK Research, is based on an algorithm of qualitative and quantitative data, rating thousands of wealth advisors with a minimum of seven years of experience and weighing factors like revenue trends, assets under management, compliance records, industry experience and best practices learned through telephone and in-person interviews. Portfolio performance is not a criterion due to varying client objectives and lack of audited data. Neither Forbes nor SHOOK receives a fee in exchange for rankings.

How to Make an Easy Summer Wreath

Making a simple summer wreath is a fun project to do on a lazy solo afternoon or with a lively group over some fresh lemonade. Only limited by your own imagination, you just need to weave faux floral and greenery stems into a grapevine base, securing them with hot glue.

What You'll Need

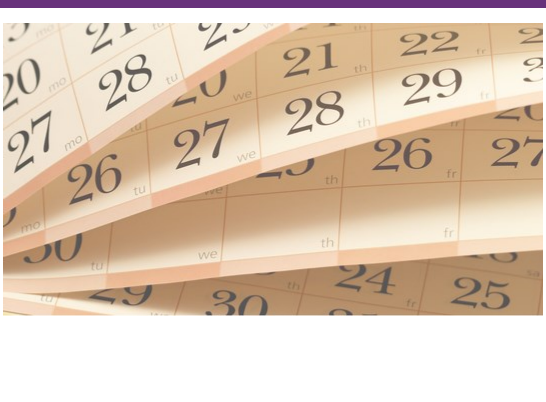
- **Wreath Base**: A 14-inch to 18-inch grapevine or wire wreath form
- **Faux Stems**: 5 to 10 high-quality stems and greenery (e.g., eucalyptus base, peonies, hydrangeas, or wildflowers)
- **Tools**: Wire cutters and a hot glue gun
- **Optional**: Wired ribbon for a seasonal bow

Instructions

1. **Prepare the Base**: Lay your grapevine wreath flat. Fluff out your artificial greenery and floral stems so they have a natural, full shape.
2. **Add the Greenery**: Trim the stems to about 4–6 inches using wire cutters. Apply a dab of hot glue to the end and push the stems directly into the grapevine, angling them in the same direction (usually clockwise or counter-clockwise) to create a circular flow.
3. **Layer the Florals**: Cut your flower heads off or trim the stems, and insert them into the wreath. Focus on clustering them to one side (an asymmetrical look is very modern) or spacing them evenly for a classic look.
4. **Secure the Back**: Once everything looks balanced, flip the wreath over. Trim any pokey wire pieces and add a little hot glue to the back of the stems to lock them in place.
5. **Add a Bow & Hang**: If desired, tie a bow with wired ribbon and use floral wire to attach it to the wreath. Attach a loop of twine to the top and hang it on your door!

A beautiful wreath in your favorite colors is a highly customizable way to brighten your front door or give as gifts. If you make one, we would love to see your photos at financial.steward@lpl.com!

Upcoming Important Dates



Tuesday, July 21st

Office closing early at **noon** for our annual Team Volunteer Day

LPL Market Research

Gauging When to Add Risk, or Proceed with Caution

Watch

Highlights From LPL Research's Midyear Outlook 2026

Listen

Has Stock Market Exuberance Become Irrational?

Read

Who to Contact

Reach our entire team at financial.steward@lpl.com. You can use this shared inbox to make service requests, schedule a meeting or call, RSVP to an event, ask questions, or just to say hello!

Marion Steward, CFP®: comprehensive financial planning, support with financial strategies and investment advice.

Heather Williams, CFP®: comprehensive financial planning, support with financial strategies and investment advice.

Sid Smith, CFP®: comprehensive financial planning, support with financial strategies and investment advice.

Client Service Team: opening new accounts and facilitating account transfers, coordinating contributions and withdrawals, and scheduling financial reviews.

Christina Boykin, Operations & Office Manager: answers on operations, general info, and special events.

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