

MAXPOWER LAW **ROAD & RUBBER**



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Spring is Here! Is your Garden Ready?



I can always tell spring is here when the lawn on my grass starts growing again. Then before you know it, everything is growing.

Here are 10 Tips for getting your garden ready for the season.

- 1. Pull those weeds.** Whether you're seeing left-over weeds from last year or new ones that sprouted in cool weather, eliminate them now when the ground is still soft from winter.
- 2. Prune the summer-blooming flowering shrubs.** End of winter to early spring is prime time to prune shrubs that flower from late June through fall.
- 3. Fertilize the beds.** Once the ground thaws, apply granular fertilizer around the trees, shrubs and perennials.
- 4. Inspect trees and shrubs for winter damage.** Prune off any broken, dead or storm damaged branches.
- 5. Get rid of dead perennial leaves.** If you didn't already cut back your frost-killed perennial flowers last fall, rake or clip off that browned foliage now. It'll clear the way for this year's new growth, which will be pushing up shortly.
- 6. Divide perennials.** Right before new growth begins it is an ideal time to dig and divide most perennial flowers that are growing beyond where you'd like them. Replant divided clumps ASAP, and water them well in their new home.
- 7. Rake matted leaves.** Matted leaves should be raked or blown off of the lawn and out of evergreen groundcover beds so these green plants can take in sunlight.
- 8. Remove winter protection.** As the threat of frost wanes, remove burlap barriers, wraps and other protective material from around landscape plants that needed the extra winter protection.
- 9. Problem prevention.** Apply a granular weed preventer on the garden beds. Your lawn could also use some good fertilizer and weed killer, as well as a moss killer.
- 10. Edge beds.** The end of winter is a good time to cut sharp edges along all garden beds. This not only neatens the landscape, it creates a "lip" to contain mulch that can be applied once the soil warms consistently for the season.

Happy Gardening!

What Our Clients Are Saying

5 Star Review

"Where do I begin to express how grateful I am to have chosen Max Meyers Law PLLC to represent me in my auto accident. I had been rear-ended and my car was a financial total. I sustained whiplash and back problems.

Max and his team stayed in touch with me and answered all my questions and explained each step of the process. The level of support from everyone was amazing! Max Meyers is a "one of a kind" when it comes to a personal injury attorney. The level of care he takes with each client and the level of care his team takes with each client is wonderful.

I highly recommend Max Meyers Law PLLC to anyone who needs a personal injury attorney!"

- Judy Whitehead

5 Star Review

"Max and his whole team were so wonderful to work with. They helped me get a handle on the auto injury claim I had where the other driver was at fault. They were so kind and so professional and if I ever need another lawyer for anything like this again, I will definitely go back. I highly recommend."

- Lauren Matcek



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April 1 - 30 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival

Features spectacular fields of blooming tulips and daffodils. There is a free Tulip Festival Street Fair that takes place April 18 - 20 in Mt. Vernon.

Visit www.tulipfestival.org/ for more details.

April 5 Festival of Color

Music, dancers, food vendors, and colored powder flying through the air at Marymoor Park, 6046 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE in Redmond. Order colored powder online for \$10 and pay to park. 10,000 people often attend.

Visit <https://festivalofcolor.us/> for more details.

April 12 - 13 Arts & Crafts Show

100 artists displaying jewelry, clothing, paintings, glass art, and sculptures plus food trucks in Hangar 30 at Magnuson Park, 6310 NE 74th St. in Seattle. Children aged 12 and younger are free. No pets.

Visit <https://nwartalliance.org/nwaa-events/best-of-the-northwest-spring-show-2025> for more information.

April 19 Free National Park Day

Entry is free at Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks on Free Entrance Days in the National Parks. Expect more people and less parking than usual. FREE

Details at <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm>.

April 24 - May 4 Washington State Apple Blossom Festival

The Washington State Apple Blossom Festival in sunny Wenatchee offers apple pie, arts and crafts, golf, a car show, carnival, parade, and run.

Details can be found at www.appleblossom.org.

April Events



Should I accept the insurance company's first car accident settlement offer?

Coping with your injuries, expensive medical bills, and no income if you are too hurt to work after a car accident can be overwhelming and stressful. If the negligent driver's insurance company contacts you within days of the collision and offers you a settlement, you may be very tempted to accept it. However, you would make a huge mistake if you said yes to their first car accident settlement offer.

Why You Shouldn't Accept the First Car Insurance Settlement After a Washington Car Accident

If an insurance adjuster makes you a quick offer, they most likely know you have a strong case proving that their insured caused the accident. They may also realize that you may have significant injuries, increasing your claim's value.

You shouldn't accept the first car accident settlement no matter how much you need the money or want to move on from the incident. Here are just a few reasons why accepting the initial offer is a bad idea:

THE COMPENSATION IS TOO LOW.

The at-fault driver's insurance carrier knows

you're feeling vulnerable right after the crash and may need money to pay medical bills and replace wages. It's likely offering you a lowball offer hoping you're desperate enough to accept it because its goal is saving money, not fulfilling the obligation to fully compensate you for economic and non-economic damages.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SERIOUS YOUR INJURIES ARE.

You may have suffered a life-altering condition such as a traumatic brain injury, spinal injury, or soft tissue injury—but really haven't experienced the full range of symptoms for



days or weeks or even months after the crash. In fact, it's possible you won't know how severe your injuries are, what medical treatments you need, and whether you'll make a full recovery for weeks or months after the crash.

YOUR SETTLEMENT WOULD BE FINAL.

Once you agree to settle and sign the insurance company's release of all claims, the decision is final, even if you haven't received a check yet. You can't reopen your claim if you later realize your injuries are more serious than you originally thought or the offer was way too low.

When the insurance companies call making a settlement offer for your injury claim, do not agree or sign anything until you have talked with an attorney.

We are happy to do a free phone consult after an accident to let you know your rights and whether the offer is fair or not. You can reach us today at **425-276-7804**.

Shelley's RECIPE CORNER

Ina Garten's Red Wine Braised Short Ribs

Great recipe for a Family Sunday Dinner! Does take a few hours to make, so doing it on a weekend is perfect.

Ingredients:

- 5 lb. very meaty bone-in beef short ribs, cut into 2-inch chunks
- 2 cups chopped yellow onions (2 onions)
- 2 cups chopped unpeeled carrots (6 carrots)
- ¼ cup olive oil, plus more for brushing
- 1½ Tbsp minced garlic (5 cloves)
- 2½ Tbsp kosher salt, divided
- 1 (750-ml) bottle dry red wine (such as Burgundy, Côtes du Rhône or Chianti)
- 1 Tbsp freshly ground black pepper, divided
- 4 cups unsalted beef stock, preferably homemade or College Inn
- 3 cups chopped leeks, white and light green parts (3 leeks)
- 1 cup canned crushed tomatoes, such as San Marzano
- 3 cups chopped celery (5-6 ribs)
- 1 (11.2-oz) bottle Guinness draught stout
- 6 sprigs fresh thyme, tied with kitchen string

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425°F. Place short ribs on a sheet pan, brush tops with olive oil, and sprinkle with 1½ Tbsp salt and 1½ tsp pepper. Roast for 20 minutes; remove from oven. Reduce temperature to 325°F.

Meanwhile, heat ¼ cup olive oil in a large (12-inch) Dutch oven over medium heat. Add leeks, celery, onions and carrots; cook over medium to medium-high heat for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic; cook 1 minute. Add wine, bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium and simmer 10 minutes, until liquid is reduced. Add stock, tomatoes, Guinness, thyme, 1 Tbsp salt and 1½ tsp pepper.

Add ribs to the pot along with juices and seasonings from sheet pan. Bring to boil, cover, and cook in oven 1 hour. Uncover and cook for 1 more hour, until meat is very tender, easy pulls apart with fork.

Transfer short ribs to a plate with a slotted spoon; discard thyme bundle and any bones that have separated from meat. Simmer sauce on stove for 20 minutes. Skim some of the fat off the top and discard. Return ribs to pot, heat for 5 minutes, and taste for seasonings. Serve hot in shallow bowls spooned over Creamy Blue Cheese Grits, with extra sauce on the side.





Happy Easter

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This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, insurance claims and small business issues. It is not intended as legal advice. Every case is different. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

Tax Tips for 2024 April Tax Return Deadline

Make sure you have all documents needed - W-2, various 1099 forms, etc.

Contribute to retirement accounts - deadline is April 15, 2025 for IRA contributions.

Consider Itemizing - Deduct eligible expenses such as medical costs, home mortgage interest, state and local taxes, and charitable contributions. Alternatively, the 2024 standard deduction is \$29,200 for married filing jointly and \$14,600 for single filers - so your deductions need to exceed those numbers.

Consider annual gifting - Lower your estate's value through gifting: In 2024, you can gift up to \$18,000 per recipient and that amount increases to \$19,000 in 2025. While gifts don't provide immediate tax deductions, they reduce future estate tax burdens.

Don't wait until last minute - get your tax return done well before filing deadline, you never know when you're going to have a computer issue, which always seems to happen at the exact worst time - like a filing deadline. Save yourself the stress and complete your return as early as possible.



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