Subject:

Your May 2025 Real Estate Update



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Hello Valued Client,

Motivational writer, William Arthur Ward once said, "Opportunities are like sunrises. If you wait too long, you miss them."

If you don't have a vision for your life, you may not fully realize an opportunity when it arises. That's why it's important to review your goals regularly and keep your eyes and ears open to new opportunities that may align with the vision for your life.

Of course, the real estate market is amping up right now, so there are lots of opportunities available. If you are curious, I would be more than happy to show you the options available. Moving may not be on your radar right now, but it's always wise to have a pulse on the market and know what your current home buying and selling options are. For example, your dream home may appear on the market, or circumstances may change, requiring you to list and sell your property quickly.

I'm always available to chat about your real estate options so you can be prepared for opportunities as they arise and make your best real estate investment decisions.

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Bring Your Home to Life with a Gallery Wall

Decorating a blank wall can be a challenge. If you are looking for ideas, a timeless and interesting option to consider is a gallery wall. While there are no hard and fast rules, here are some tips on how to create a gallery wall you will love:



- If you like clean lines, make a grid pattern of the same size and style pictures, or if you desire an eclectic look, use a mix of photos and art of different sizes and styles.
- For a pleasing aesthetic flair, use a cohesive colour scheme or repeat two to three colours and styles.
- Float mount your art to elevate its impact.
- Before hanging, create the layout of your gallery wall on the floor, and space each piece about 3 inches apart.

For eclectic-looking gallery walls:

- Place one large piece of art off-centre so it's not the entire focal point and place the second largest piece separate from it on a diagonal for balance.
- Include a mini grid with up to four pictures of the same size, style, and frame aligned with each other.
- Mix horizontal and vertical pieces for visual interest.
- Include dimensional pieces such as mirrors, textiles, kid art, and sconces to give the eye a break from the grid-like pattern.

Think of a big, empty wall as a blank canvas on which you can create a personal masterpiece of what's meaningful and impactful to you.

Upcycling Rainwater

Gardening season is underway and now is a great time to consider harvesting rainwater. It's beneficial for your plants since it has micronutrients and doesn't contain contaminants that can be found in tap water. It also helps to reduce stormwater runoff of polluted water from our urban surfaces into our natural waterways during heavy rainfall.



A basic rain barrel **collects water from a downspout** (ensure you have a diverter for when the barrel gets full) **with a water outlet on the lower portion** of the barrel. **Elevating the barrel** helps the water flow. Some rain barrels also have an option to connect multiple barrels to collect more rainwater.

For **condo balconies**, rain harvesting can be as simple as placing **yogourt containers** near the balcony railing when it rains, and when it's filled, put the lids on for storage.

Whichever way you collect rainwater, **store** it in a shaded spot and use the water within a week or two of collection to prevent bacteria and algae growth.

Before getting started, check to see if there are any **restrictions for harvesting rainwater** in your area. Also note that since it's not treated it **shouldn't be consumed**. If you are watering **edible plants, water the soil only**, not the plant itself.

Together, with water-saving measures such as installing low-flow faucets and toilets, rainwater harvesting is another way to help preserve one of Earth's most valuable resources and cutting down your water bill.

Veggie Gardening 101

If you are looking for ways to reduce your grocery bill, one great way to do that is by growing a veggie garden. With the May long weekend marking the unofficial start of summer, it's the perfect time to plant those seeds.



So, how do you get started?

- Choose a location with at least 6 to 8 hours of sunlight exposure and ensure it's sheltered from the wind to prevent seedlings from breaking.
- Make sure the soil has plenty of organic matter and sufficient drainage to prevent root rot. For container gardens, use good quality potting soil.
- Use the best quality seeds to yield high quality and strong plants.
- Only grow what you know you will eat. Staggering plantings will help keep your harvest coming and prevent you from ending up with mountains of lettuce all at once.
- Growing produce that is especially expensive in the grocery store, or that is not readily available in your area, such as herbs, can be particularly rewarding.
- Note the planting depths and distances needed between plants.
- Weed your garden to help your plants grow to their potential. Adding mulch will help keep weeds down and retain moisture.
- Mix in marigolds to discourage pests and attract pollinators to help your plants thrive.

If you are a rookie to veggie gardening, some of the easiest veggies to start with are lettuce, beans, tomatoes, peppers, and peas. Good luck!

Notable, Quotable, Quotes!

"Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens."

Epictetus

"Shortcuts make long delays."

J.R.R Tolkien

"The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary."

Vidal Sassoon

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