



1. Shaped by Example
2. Famous Spats That Shook History  
Pay Only if You Win
3. Support When It Matters Most  
Grilled Whole Chicken and Vegetables
4. Throw a Birthday Party People Don't  
Want to Leave

The Packard Family Is Here to Help Your Family! *Personal Injury* | *Social Security Disability* | *Car Accidents* | *Special Needs Planning*

## Big Smiles, Little Stress

### *Birthday Party Tips That Shine*

Something about birthdays makes people want to celebrate. Maybe it's the excuse to gather friends and family, maybe it's the cake, or even just the excitement of marking another year of life. Whatever the reason, a fantastic birthday party doesn't have to be extravagant to be memorable. The best celebrations usually feel relaxed, thoughtful, and full of positive energy. With planning and a focus on fun, you can host a birthday party that people genuinely enjoy, whether it's for a child, a friend, or even yourself.

#### **Start with a budget and a plan.**

Before jumping into decorations and party supplies, start with a simple plan. Decide how much you want to spend and what kind of gathering you're aiming for. Are you hosting a casual get-together at home, a backyard celebration, or a themed party with games and activities?

Setting a budget early keeps things manageable and prevents last-minute stress. Once you know the basics of the date, location, guest count, and general vibe, it becomes much easier to plan everything else.

#### **Create a guest list that fits the space.**

The guest list plays a large role in the party's atmosphere. A smaller group can make the event feel intimate and relaxed, while a larger crowd can bring more energy and excitement. Think about the size of your space and the type of party you want to host.

Inviting people who will enjoy each other's company helps create a comfortable environment where conversations flow naturally, and everyone feels included.

#### **Pick a theme.**

A theme isn't required, but it can make planning much easier by giving direction to



decorations, food, and activities. Themes can be simple, like a color scheme or seasonal vibe, or more playful, like a retro party, movie night, or tropical gathering.

The key is to choose something that reflects the guest of honor's personality. When the party feels personal, it instantly becomes more memorable.

#### **Plan activities or entertainment.**

Even casual parties benefit from a little built-in entertainment. This doesn't mean scheduling every minute, but having something for guests to enjoy keeps the energy up.

For kids, this might mean games or crafts. For teens and adults, it could be a playlist, trivia games, outdoor activities, or even a DIY food station. Small touches like this encourage guests to interact and keep the celebration lively.

# The PACKARD PRESS

A collection of thoughts and stories to educate, entertain, and inspire.

## Built by Brotherhood

### GROWING UP GUIDED BY MANY FATHER FIGURES

When you grow up in a big family like mine, fatherly advice and lessons don't just come from dad. I'm blessed to have many father figures in my life. Though my father was always there for me, my brothers, uncle, grandfather, and even my high school football coach all helped shape who I am.

This Father's Day, I reflected on the male role models in my life whom I still emulate today.

I am number 11 out of 13 kids, and my brothers all taught me something important growing up. My oldest brother is about 16 years older than me, and when he was a young father, he'd hire me as a teen to do work in his backyard. He taught me you can always figure out something you don't necessarily know, like plumbing. This was before YouTube, but we figured things out together.

I lived with my next-oldest brother in Utah for a while after high school, and he's the one I credit for getting me to get up early. I had a job, and getting up when it was snowy outside wasn't something that came naturally to me. I learned from him how to set goals and make them a reality.

Another one of my brothers actually helped me propose to my wife while we were in college. I needed a place to pop the question without a bunch of kids running around during the Thanksgiving gathering. So, we went to "pick something up" from his house, and that's when I gave her the ring. He helped me put the whole thing together.

My brother, who helped me apply to law school, also gave me great spiritual advice. Even my brother who's closest to me in age took care of me. Sometimes in a big family, you have to scrounge for food, and he was old enough to make eggs or cereal. I still vividly remember being a kid, thinking it was magic when he prepared Hamburger Helper. I couldn't even read the box and asked in wonder how he was doing this.



I had great role models in my extended family, too. My uncle Marshall used to hire me to work around the house and would give me fatherly counsel. He really taught me that people deserve love. He always said the way you build God's kingdom is by building up other people.

My grandfather taught me how to make sure a whole fence was level using guide wires. He always told me, "It's hard work and low pay, but you're welcome here." I dug so many holes and ditches at his house, and sometimes it felt like I was just digging ditches to fill them. When I'd dug the wrong direction, he'd come back, shaking his head, and guide me to do it over again.

Outside of my family, my high school coach was someone I knew loved me as a person. He was new when I was a freshman offensive lineman, and I remember asking him why he was so hard on me sometimes. "Michael, it's because I care about you. I want you to be the best football player and person." He was my coach throughout school, and I was more than just a player to him.

Now, as a father myself, I'm getting the opportunity to be an impactful uncle for my sister's boys. My brother-in-law passed away about three years ago, and my sister lives close. Recently, through my church, we did a father-son campout. My boys and nephews all went together, and it was a wonderful bonding experience. In that father figure role to them, I can't help but remember the role models who did the same for me.

I'm incredibly grateful for the male role models in my life who taught me, loved me, and helped me become the person I am today.

*-Michael Packard*

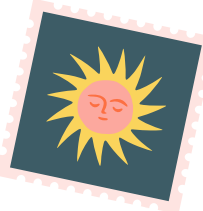
# Stamp Scandal and Starlet Strife

## INSIDE FIERCE CELEBRITY FEUDS

If you think today’s celebrity gossip is crazy, these tales of tantrums from the famous make our current news feeds seem tame by comparison!

### Mark Twain’s Mailroom Meltdown

In 2011, late literary giant Mark Twain received the posthumous honor of being the subject of a commemorative postage stamp by the U.S. Postal Service. While Twain’s legendary status in American culture made him an ideal candidate for the tribute, these events likely would have made him turn in his grave.



You see, Twain absolutely *despised* the Postal Service. For decades, he railed against the institution publicly in newspaper columns, criticizing it for everything, from high costs to consumers to what he perceived as outrageously egregious regulations. He once even expressed his indignation over the Postal Service’s decision to require a street address and state on outgoing mail in addition to the previously required name and city. Why? He thought adding these words was a waste of time and ink!

As he wrote in a letter to the Hartford Courant in 1897, “Isn’t it odd that we should take a spasm, every now and then, and go spinning back into the dark ages once more, after having put in a world of time and money and work toiling up into the high lights of modern progress?”

Beautifully written? Unquestionably. A tad overdramatic as a response to a minor rule change for mailing letters? Perhaps, but what else could one expect when earning the ire of one of history’s most celebrated wordsmiths?

### Ruthless Glamour Girls

Few celebrity feuds have ever been as intense as the fiery conflict between screen legends Bette Davis and Joan Crawford. The two women were savage competitors for decades, sparring over everything from public attention to lovers.

Just as a massive press campaign launched in support of Davis’ 1933 film “Ex-Lady,” Crawford made headlines by announcing her divorce from Douglas Fairbanks Jr. The focus on Crawford’s failed marriage tanked Davis’ film, which received minuscule media attention compared to Crawford’s gossip-generating announcement. Two years later, Davis fell in love with actor Franchot Tone on the set of the film “Dangerous.” Unfortunately, Tone soon directed his affection toward another famous lady. Any guess as to whom?

“She took him from me,” Davis reportedly said in an interview more than 50 years later. “She did it coldly, deliberately, and with complete ruthlessness.”

In the end, the only thing longer than these ladies’ on-screen highlights was their off-screen resentment.

# Think You Can’t Afford a Lawyer?

## How Contingency Fees Make Legal Help Accessible

When you have been injured in an accident, the financial pressures and expenses can pile up quickly. Though you may know you need help navigating a personal injury claim, you may wonder if you can afford a lawyer. Hiring legal representation is one of the best things you can do for your case, and it’s far more accessible than you might think. Since most reputable personal injury law firms work on a contingency fee, many people pay nothing up front at all.

### What is a contingency fee?

Unlike many other types of cases, where there is an hourly fee, personal injury lawyers often represent people who are unable to work due to their injuries and would have trouble paying those costs outright. A contingency fee means your payment depends on the law firm’s ability to help you recover compensation. You do not pay out of pocket upfront or receive a monthly bill for your lawyer’s time. The firm takes on the cost of the case, and if they are unable to recover compensation for you, you typically owe them nothing.

### How much will you pay?

When you hire a personal injury lawyer, they will lay out what your financial responsibilities will look like in a written agreement. Typically, when your lawyer is able to successfully win your case, they will receive a percentage of the final settlement or compensation. It’s often 30%-40%, but it can vary depending on the hours of work and the resources required to achieve that positive outcome.

### Why is it worth it?

While every case is different, studies by the Insurance Research Council have found that the majority of people who hire a personal injury lawyer receive settlements significantly larger than those who represent themselves. A lawyer has the expertise to determine the full value of your claim, including not just your medical costs, but lost wages and pain and suffering. Even after the contingency fee, you are likely to walk away with more when you have an attorney working to ensure no detail is missed.

At Packard Law Firm, we work on a contingency basis, and you owe us nothing unless we help you recover compensation. Contact us to schedule a free consultation.

—Michael Packard



# HEALING, HOPE, AND JUSTICE

## Real Clients Share Their Journey With Packard Law Firm

An injury or disability can be one of the most difficult experiences a person has ever been through. At Packard Law Firm, we work tirelessly to help clients navigate the process and move forward as they heal. We’re proud to advocate for and help them receive the resources and justice they truly deserve. Here are some of their recent stories.

*“I am so grateful for the Packard Law Firm. They have taken excellent care of me through one of the hardest things I have had to do in my life. I would recommend them to anyone going through disability and needs counsel to complete all the required steps to get their voice and needs heard.”*

—Michelle

*“Packard Law Firm is the best. They are working on my case now. Everyone I have spoken with has excellent customer service. I would recommend them. Thank you for all the hard work and dedication you are putting in on my case.”*

—Billie

*“This firm was amazing! They never gave up on me or my case. After eight long and grueling years, we won. The hard work and dedication of this firm, from Sam all the way to the ones who answered the phone calls and my questions, are immeasurable. Thank you to everyone who worked on my case. You are all amazing people.”*

—Shawn

*If you or your loved one has been injured in an accident or needs help receiving their disability benefits, contact Packard Law Firm today to request a consultation.*

—Michael Packard

## TAKE A BREAK

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| Beach   | Juneteenth | Refugee  |
| Burgers | Music      | Sailing  |
| Cycling | Pearl      | Solstice |
| Father  | Pride      | Waterski |

## Grilled Whole Chicken and Vegetables



### Ingredients

- 1 whole chicken
- 1 lemon, halved
- 2 tsp onion powder
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 bell peppers, quartered
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 1 summer squash, sliced
- 2 red onions, quartered

### Directions

1. Turn the grill on high heat.
2. Using kitchen shears, cut along both sides of the chicken’s backbone and remove it.
3. Turn the chicken over on a baking sheet and press it flat.
4. Squeeze the lemon over the chicken and season with onion powder, salt, and pepper.
5. Brush the chicken and grill grates with olive oil.
6. Place the chicken skin-side down onto the grill.
7. Grill for 12-15 minutes until charred. Flip the chicken and grill for 25-30 minutes. Flip it again and let it cook fully before removing from the grill and letting it rest.
8. Season the vegetables with salt and pepper, then brush them with olive oil.
9. Grill the vegetables for 6-7 minutes, until tender. Enjoy!