

Relieved About Raking

Dear Tim:

I've found the silver lining in last month's wind storm. Even though we lost power for almost a week, lost every scrap of food in the refrigerator and freezer, and had a bunch of tree limbs downed on the house, no one in our family was hurt. And I'm going to have a lot fewer leaves to rake this fall!

-Positive on Parkway

Dear Positive:

I appreciate your positive attitude in the aftermath of the storm. I wasn't as chipper myself given the fact that we lost a lot more food than most people. But as with any challenge, you pick yourself up, dust yourself off and move on. We've been fortunate to have the support of lots of people in our recovery, including customers, suppliers and, most of all, our fine employees, who put in a tremendous and cheerful effort to get rid of the spoils and restock the shelves. Thankfully we're back at full strength. And while I'm equally pleased to have less



DEAR TIM

raking to do this fall, I'm not figuring on getting off the hook completely. If you find you have a few straggling leaves left on your trees, pick up some lawn and leaf bags in aisle 5. I'll be doing the same, though fortunately not as many as last year.

Dear Tim:

With all the shifts and shenanigans on Wall Street, my retirement plan is in the tank. What's worse, the guys who caused all this mess get a free bailout and I'm the one paying the tab. So they get me

coming and going. Needless to say, I'm a little upset. My first question is, where do I find these guys? My next question is, do you have any good investment advice?

-Broke on Brentford

Dear Broke:

First let me say that you have every reason to be upset. These guys were somehow allowed to make decisions and take risks that none of us would, and we know little or nothing about high finance. The fact that we also have to use tax dollars to make them whole again is beyond me. I thought this was a free market economy. Anyway, if you're looking to speak your mind to these folks, good luck. They've probably already ridden their golden parachutes to some island paradise. If you're ever able to afford an exotic vacation again, look them up. And if you're looking for investment advice, I'd say invest in your family. They're most likely to give you both an immediate and long-term return on your investment.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221, stop by and say hi, or visit www.huffmansmarket.com.