Tips and Tricks to Web Development

The purpose of this document is to serve as a learning tool so that we can help save each other time and headache when developing! If you would like to contribute please add a bullet point. Eventually one of us can go through and sort these bullets into headings.

* Clearing your browser cache to see changes.  
  Although I have come across this problem in the past I sometimes forget that browsers will save files from web servers to load websites faster when revisiting. This is useful for users, but not so useful for developers who want to see changes to these files. So what do you do when you change a file and aren’t seeing the changes? You can clear your browsers cache or simply use incognito or private browsing when developing.
* Chrome DevTools (there are similar tools for other browsers as well).  
  DevTools is a sidebar that pops up next to a website you are visiting that will help you diagnose problems or see real time temporary changes. I primarily use DevTools to help diagnose problems or check out how other websites are coded. To get to DevTools right click on an element in a webpage and click “inspect”. If there are any errors a red symbol will appear, and a description of what went wrong can be found in the console. To learn more, check out the DevTools [chrome webpage](https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/console/).
* Some web servers are case sensitive with file extensions.   
  When I was developing the jumbo image for hours and directions the file was loading correctly on my computer, but when I uploaded to github the file was no longer loading. This is because in style.css I defined the image path as “bsumap.jpg” and the image extension was really “bsumap.JPG”.
* SEO: Search Engine Optimization  
  When building websites many companies are concerned with how they rank in search engines. The more visible the website is to users, the more people might click through to the website. This not only generates income from advertisements, but also generates traffic to your organization. For this website SEO is not as important, but a great skill to learn. Some quick SEO tips: make content thorough and generate links to outside sources naturally, use keywords in title and meta description, use the google search console.
* Get bootstrap for this website.