

Today's Retirees Newsletter-October 2017

Your message from Wayne

What have you wanted to accomplish this year when it comes to your financial house? It seems as the months fly by, that there are things that I haven't gotten around to yet myself. Chances are we all have things that still need to be addressed in our lives. Things that we never set the time aside to do. For the purpose of this newsletter, let's just look at your "financial house".

Year-end tax planning is one area that may help you save money. What can be done before 2017 ends to help you in April? If you are a client of mine, you already know we always keep potential tax saving strategies in the forefront of our financial planning process. My clients know what to look for, and what to look out for.

One very important area of year-end tax planning is if you are on Obamacare and need to stay under certain income limits. In many cases, once the year ends, you are pretty much done. It is what it is, the numbers are the numbers. So be careful if this is you.

Tax on your Social Security income. This double taxation in many circumstances can be avoided. People hate when they see more of their Social Security being taxed, and love it if we can omit some, or all of their Social Security income from being included in taxable income.

There are many more areas to look at for tax planning if you are self-employed, itemize, own a business, do consulting, considering retiring soon, etc....

Are your legal documents completed, updated, or correct? Did you do that trust yet? Are there any additions or omissions that need to be updated, like a new grandchild or if one of your own children ticked you off? Any deaths, disabilities, or new illnesses to deal with, where we need to keep an eye on things or make some changes?

Have you taken any market gains (to lock them in)? The market has been awesome. You risk takers have received your reward (my Growth Portfolio is in the 20% plus range year to date). If you are older, you may want to pull some of those winners off the table.? WARNING... If it's after tax money.... watch out for capital gains and how it will affect your tax situation!

Have you cleaned out that closet or garage yet? Goodwill, Salvation Army, Habitat, etc. can all use your goods that are no longer needed. If you itemize, keep those receipts. If you don't itemize, keep your receipts, and give them to me! Kidding... but give them to a friend or family member that itemizes, so THEY can save money on their taxes.

Are your documents and papers in order, in a place where your Power of Attorney, or Executor can find them? Do they know your funeral wishes? (Not fun to think about, but you only need this conversation ONCE, with them!).

If you own a business or have a vacation home, or if you have local adult kids, have you discussed with them if any want to be involved/own/run/buy into any of these things at your demise?

You must lay all this stuff out, so you don't start a family feud, or have your kids have animosity with each other when you are gone! Don't be THAT PARENT!

Just a few things to consider.

Until next month,
Wayne

P.S. If you're not a client yet, give us a call or an email, I'll help in any way I can.



Goodbye October,
Hello November.

Fall is here which means "you know what" is right around the corner. Here are a few ways you can start to prepare your home for upcoming months.

1. Tune Up Your Heating System.
 - Have a technician inspect your furnace or heat pump to be sure it is clean and in good working order and that it can achieve its manufacturer-rated efficiency. This inspection will also check for any carbon-monoxide leakage.
2. Reverse Your Ceiling Fans
 - By reversing your ceiling fan (if you have a reverse switch) after you've turned your heat on it will produce an updraft and push the heated air down into the room.
3. Clean the Gutters
 - Clean the leaves, dirt, etc. out of your gutters to prevent water backing up which can cause potential roof, siding, or trim damage. Not to mention it can also cause leaks or large ice cycles to form if they are full.
4. Divert Water Away from The House
 - Add extensions to downspouts so that water runs at least 3 to 4 feet away from the foundation. Average cost is \$9 for the extension.
5. Don't Prune Trees or Shrubs Until Late-Winter
 - Horticulturalists advise waiting to prune until late winter for most plants, when they've been long dormant and just before spring growth begins.
6. Test Your Sump Pump
 - Slowly pour several gallons of water into the sump pit to see whether the pump turns on. You should do this every few months, but especially after a long dry season or before a rainy one.
7. Call a Chimney Sweep
 - Before burning the Yule log, make sure your fireplace (or any heating appliance burning gas, oil, wood or coal), chimney and vents are clean and in good repair. That will prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide from creeping into your home.
8. Mulch Leaves When You Mow
 - Mow your leaves instead of raking them, says studies at the University of Michigan and Purdue. The trick is to cut the leaves, while dry, into dime-sized pieces that will fall among the grass blades, where they will decompose and nourish your lawn over the winter. The process may take several passes.
9. Caulk Around Windows and Doors
 - If the gap between siding and window or door frames are bigger than the width of a nickel, you need to reapply exterior caulk. (Check the joints in windows and door frames, too). Silicone caulk is best for exterior use.

References:

Esswein, P 2013, *15 Ways to Prepare Your Home for Winter*, viewed 5 October 2017,

<http://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/real-estate/T029-S001-12-ways-to-prepare-your-home-for-winter/index.html>



Saturdays at
8:30 a.m.



Be Confident About Your Retirement



Sundays at
10 a.m.



Search:
Wayne Maslyk



On TV Sundays at 10
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Mini-Pumpkin Spice Oatmeal Muffins



Oatmeal Day October 29th

Ingredients:
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 cup quick oats
¾ cup brown sugar
1 Tbsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 ½ tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1 cup pumpkin puree
¾ cup low-fat milk
1/3 cup oil
1 egg, slightly beaten

Toppings:
¼ cup quick oats
1 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 Tbsp. melted margarine or butter
1/8 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

1. Spray mini-muffin tins with cooking spray or use mini-muffin liners.
2. In a medium bowl, combine flour, quick oats, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and pumpkin pie spice. In a separate bowl mix pumpkin, milk, oil and egg.
3. Add liquid ingredients to dry ingredients and stir until just moistened. Fill muffin cups two-thirds full.
4. Mix topping ingredients. Sprinkle topping evenly over muffins. Bake mini-muffins at 400 degrees F for 8 to 12 minutes or until evenly browned. Bake regular-sized muffins for 15 to 18 minutes.

Did you know...

- Eating 3 grams of oat fiber per day can lower your total cholesterol by 8% - 23%!
- Oatmeal helps to fight inflammation. Research suggests that avenanthramides (which are unique antioxidants to oats) can reduce the expression of those inflammatory molecules.
- Oats were brought into North America from Scotland in the 17th century.
- Cedar Rapids, Iowa is the largest producer of oats in the U.S. It's also the home of Quaker oats!

Visit us on the web:

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The Winner of the
October 2017
"Top Client" Award
Is:
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dence
They will receive a \$50 Gift Card

Sudoku Puzzle for October

	8		7			6
				6		3
2				9		5
7						
5						8
	2	4	5			
	5	8	3			2
4		9				7
				5		9



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