



TIPS FROM THE HOME TEAM

Experts answer questions and offer advice for buyers, sellers and owners.

10 tips for a FINANCIALLY SUCCESSFUL 2011

1. Eliminate debt. Pay off credit cards and loans. Being debt free and keeping more of your paycheck is not only a wonderful feeling, but is also a great way to prepare for your retirement.

2. Contribute the maximum to your IRA, or better yet, your Roth IRA. Remember that your Roth IRA grows tax free, while your Traditional IRA grows tax deferred.

3. Inflation devastates your standard of living. Strategize with your adviser for creating a plan that will keep up with or even outpace inflation.

4. Update your beneficiary forms. Did you know that beneficiary forms trump wills? Yes, it's true. Keep in mind that things change over time. People get divorced, remarried, and families grow. Make sure that the person(s) on your beneficiary forms are who you want to get your assets when you are no longer around.

5. Adhere to the "safe money formula." Why? Because if you lose a substantial portion of your nest egg in your 60s or



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70s, you may not be able to go back to work for another 30 years to re-earn it. The "safe money formula" is 100 minus your age. So, if you are 30 years old, 70 percent of your money should be positioned for opportunity and 30 percent should be positioned for safety. If you happen to be 75 years old, 25 percent of your money should be in the market (for opportunity), the bulk of it (the 75 percent) should be "safe."

6. Give thanks and be grateful. All we have is to-

day. Yesterday is gone and tomorrow is not here yet. Make a list of all that you are grateful for and give thanks. Teach your children to be grateful, it will help them tremendously as they go through life.

7. Protect your family.

Unforeseen events occur. People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan. Plan for these events. Remember, proper planning involves preparing for the "what ifs" in life.

8. Write down your goals and keep them visible. Everyone has personal goals as well as financial goals. Separate your long-term and short-term goals and edit your list as you make progress. It has been said that people who commit goals to paper are much more likely to achieve them than those whose goals are kept in their heads where they may be forgotten.

9. Bring it out into the open. Have important conversations with your parents, such as their plans for long-term care, where their important papers are kept, how they want to be treated if they become terminally ill, etc. It is better to have these conversations before a crisis.

10. Take action. All the knowledge you have obtained will not do you any good unless you take action. Don't wait until tomorrow, take care of it today. Make it a point to overcome procrastination.

Sara Finkelstein is a safe money strategist and holds insurance licenses in Florida and New York. She owns Signature Advisory Group in Delray Beach. You can e-mail her at sara@signatureadvisorygroup.com or call (561) 503-4803.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR 2011 ...

FREE breakfast seminar, Saturday, Jan. 22, at 10 a.m. at 269 S.E. Fifth Ave., Delray Beach. (Parking is in the back.) Hosted by safe money strategist Sara Finkelstein of Signature Advisory Group. Learn how to protect your profits and lock them in. Learn how to create an income stream that you cannot outlive. Learn how to protect your retirement nest egg from the ravages of long-term care costs. Call (561) 503-4803 to RSVP, seating is limited.

ORCHID SHOW

January 14-15-16, 2011

10 AM to 4 PM Friday
10 AM to 4 PM Saturday
10 AM to 4 PM Sunday

Admission: \$10.00
Kids: \$5.00
Seniors: \$7.50

Location: Delray Beach Convention Center
1000 N. Delray Beach Blvd.
Delray Beach, FL 33444

For more information, call (561) 503-4803 or visit www.delrayorchidshow.com