OAKCREST INSIGHT

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OakCrest CAPITAL, LLC

PERSONAL FINANCE CALENDAR

January: Get ready for a brand new year.

- Write down the major financial events you anticipate in the next few years. That will help guide a discussion about whether your portfolio reflects your short- and long-term goals.
- Update your personal net worth to account for any significant changes in the past year.
- Double-check your employer-sponsored retirement plans. When determining how much to contribute, make certain to check whether your employer offers a matching program.

February: This month, don't forget your financial check up.

- Take a moment to check on your various insurance programs and coverage amounts. Draw up a list of questions if you believe they no longer reflect your lifestyle.
- Create a list of your top-three major expenses scheduled for the year.
- Take a minute and create a list of your monthly subscription services.

March: Spring into spring.

- You should have received most of your tax documents by now. Start organizing your important documents so you can complete your federal and state returns.
- Check your credit report. All U.S. Citizens are entitled to a free copy of their credit report every 12 months from the national credit reporting agencies.

April: Tax time is the right time.

- Tax returns are typically due before midnight of April 18. If you need to request a six-month extension, you still need to pay any taxes due by April 18.
- April 18 is also the last day to contribute to most retirement accounts for the prior year.
- Don't forget that first-quarter estimated income tax payments are due by April 18.

May: It's summertime, and financial prep is easy.

- Create or update your home and personal property inventory. Use your phone and reliable digital-backup service to record and store videos of your valuable possessions.
- Take a look at your estate strategy and see if it continues to reflect your family's wishes. Were there any marriages or divorces in the past year? Did your family welcome a new child or grandchild?

June: We're halfway to the next year.

- Take a look at your "sources and uses" of money. Is it what you expected, or are you considering making adjustments?
- Don't forget second-quarter estimated income tax payments are due by June 15.
- Your college-bound child may want to consider completing their Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). It may show available grants or scholarships. However, the FAFSA closes this month, so don't delay.

July: Review the year so far.

- Refresh your money skills. Add at least one book on personal finance, economics, or investing to your summer reading list.
- Look back at the last 6 months. Are there any financial takeaways you can apply to the remainder of the year?

August: It's time to go back to school.

- As children or grandchildren get ready for school, create a strategy to help pay for the expenses. There are a number of educational funding choices, and one may be a fit for your situation.

September: Sweater weather has arrived.

- Most companies begin "open enrollment" for their insurance plans in the following months. Prepare now by looking at your current health plan and considering whether it meets your needs. Open enrollment for Medicare starts in November.
- Check your credit card benefits and points earned. With holidays around the corner, you may be due a deal.
- Don't forget third-quarter estimated income tax payments are due by September 15.

October: Don't forget to prepare for trick-or-treaters.

- If you have children off to college next year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) window opens once again on October 1. Encourage your child to complete the FAFSA as early as possible to increase their chances at available scholarships and grants.
- File your income tax return by October 18 if you requested a six-month extension back in April.
- If you want to establish a retirement plan outside of your work-sponsored program, you must open the account by your tax filing deadline plus any extensions, which is October 18 for most.
- Medicare open enrollment begins, providing your opportunity to drop or switch plan coverage.

November: The perfect month to give thanks.

- Review your charitable giving and update any funding strategies, if needed.
- Watch for capital gains payouts. Investment companies typically distribute capital gains in December, and by November, they usually publish estimates of their distributions.
- Healthcare.gov open enrollment begins, Medicare Part A and B premiums and deductibles announced.

December: End the year full of hope and goodwill.

- If you're 73 or older, don't forget to take your annual required minimum distribution (RMD) by December 31.
- You can request an annual Social Security Statement. Compare your earnings record against your old tax returns for accuracy. This is also an excellent time to check for other irregularities to prevent identity theft.

RETURNS (AS OF 07/31/23)

ASSET CLASS	INDEX	4 WEEK	YTD	1 YEAR	3 YEAR
US Large Cap	S&P 500 TR	3.11%	19.52%	11.11%	11.95%
US Large Cap	Dow Jones TR	3.35%	7.28%	8.26%	10.40%
US Small Cap	Russell 2000 TR	6.06%	13.74%	6.26%	10.61%
International	MSCI EAFE NR USD	3.17%	13.14%	13.53%	6.51%
Taxable Bonds	Barclays US Agg Bond TR	-0.02%	2.24%	-3.47%	-4.47%

BUILDING YOUR LEGACY

"Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you."
- Shannon L. Alder

The desire to leave a legacy may be the height of altruism for it is a gift to the future, the benefit of which you may never witness, nor ever feel its appreciation by others.

Creating your legacy does not happen overnight, and it doesn't come without strategy and hard work.

Your framework

Create Your Vision: You should have an end in mind before you begin. Start by reflecting on what you value and care most about. Consider your passions and the unique skills you have. Your career and hobbies are good places to start. Be sure to ask your friends and family to weigh in. They may offer a perspective that you don't see about yourself.

Determine Your Legacy: Think about the legacy you wish to leave and the impact you want to make. A legacy can come in many colors. It can be financial, institutional, instructional, or wish fulfillment, or the passing of values and life lessons.

Develop a Strategy: A legacy will not happen without a blueprint and the persistent pursuit of your objective. A strategy can help you organize your efforts and keep you on the path that leads to success.

Live Your Legacy: A legacy is not only what you leave behind, but the impact you make on others while alive that they carry into the future. Be sure to live your values with your family, at work, and in your community. Nothing is more likely to survive you than the impact on the lives you touch today.

RETIRING EARLIER THAN EXPECTED? WHAT TO KNOW

Many Americans, through circumstances beyond their control, find themselves needing to retire earlier than anticipated. Whatever the circumstances, it's difficult not to feel wrong-footed and hurried by the situation. However, it's important to get yourself back on track as soon as possible. Here are some things to consider as you make the transition:

Don't make fast decisions.
When dealing with a sudden transition like this, it can be tempting to make some sort of hasty decision. But reacting too

quickly might hinder your ability to reorient yourself. Unless something is truly urgent, it's often best to give yourself some space to think about your new life and carefully consider all your available choices. Take the time to organize your thoughts and to put your important documents in order. At the end of that period, you can look at things in a cool, calm way.

Work, if Possible

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) states that 56 percent of workers aged 50 and over have faced some sort of unplanned departure from work for various reasons, ranging from health issues or caring for an infirm relative to redundancy . Finding yourself out of work in your 60s can be discouraging, but it's also true that age is not the barrier it once was. In fact, it's not unusual for companies to seek an experienced hand to be a consultant or to train the next generation working in a particular field. While it may be part time or even temporary, if you are able to work, you may find great satisfaction in that opportunity, not to mention additional income.

What to Consider with Tax-Deferred Accounts

Your retirement strategy likely includes some form of tax-deferred account. If so, making withdrawals is one choice to consider. For example, if you are not working, you may be in a lower tax bracket than before. But keep in mind that penalties might apply, depending on your age.

This article is for informational purposes only and is not a replacement for real-life advice. Make sure to consult with your financial and accounting professionals before accessing any tax-deferred account.

Is Social Security a Factor?

The longer you delay taking your Social Security payments, the greater they will be. While Americans have an opportunity to start taking payments as early as age 62, the payments will not reflect the amount you could be getting at full retirement age. Starting at 62 may be a consideration for those who need the income or have some other urgent need, such as being in poor health.

Making an unexpected change can bring changes to your overall retirement strategy. However, it's important to remember that it's likely your financial professional has worked with other people in similar circumstances. This might be one of those times when it's good to have someone who can help provide some guidance.

Monthly Benefit Amounts Based on the Age that Benefits Begin[1]

AGE	BENEFIT AMOUNT
62	$1,050.00
63	$1,125.00
64	$1,200.00
65	$1,300.50
66	$1,399.50
67	$1,500.00
68	$1,620.00
69	$1,740.00
70	$1,860.00

**This example assumes a benefit amount of $1,500 at the full retirement age of 67 months for those born after 1960.*

At first blush, the decision may seem a bit clear-cut: Simply calculate the lifetime value of the early benefit amount versus the lifetime value of the higher benefit, based on some assumed life expectancy.

The calculus is a bit more complicated than that because of the more favorable tax treatment of Social Security income versus IRA withdrawals, spousal benefit coordination opportunities, the consideration of the surviving spouse, and Social Security's lifetime income guarantee that exists under current law.[2]

Here are three ideas to think about when making your decision:

1. Do You Need the Money?
Retiring before full retirement age may be a personal choice or one that is thrust upon you because of circumstances, such as declining health or job loss. If you need the income that Social Security is scheduled to provide, however reduced, then taking benefits early may be the only choice for you.

2. Consider the Needs of Your Spouse
If your spouse expects to depend on your Social Security income, the survivor benefits he or she receives after your death may be reduced substantially if you begin taking benefits early. It's important to remember that, based on current life expectancy tables, women are likely to live longer than men.

3. Are You Healthy?
The primary risk in retirement is running out of money. The odds of living a long life in retirement calls for waiting until you reach full retirement age, so that you receive a full benefit for as long as you live. However, if your current health is poor, then starting earlier may make sense for you.

There are several elements you should evaluate before you start claiming Social Security. By determining your priorities and other income opportunities, you may be able to better decide at what age benefits make the most sense.

Citations

1. SSA.gov, 2023

2. Once you reach age 73 you must begin taking required minimum distributions from a Traditional Individual Retirement Account in most circumstances. Withdrawals from Traditional IRAs are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Contributions to a Traditional IRA may be fully or partially deductible, depending on your adjusted gross income.

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