

Newsletter - April 2009

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An Easter Promise

IF we but had the eyes to see
God's face in every cloud,
If we but had the ears to hear
His voice above the crowd
If we could feel His gentle touch
In every Springtime breeze
And find a haven in His arms
'Neath sheltering, leafy trees...
If we could just lift up our hearts
Like flowers to the sun
And trust His Easter Promise and pray,
"Thy will be done,"
We'd find the peace we're seeking,
The kind no man can give,
The peace that comes from knowing
He died so we might live!

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

John 3:16

Small Business

Thinking of selling your business? It's better to hold on awhile if you can. Chances are you won't get what it's worth. It's definitely a buyer's market, and the recession is causing prices to plummet. But by the time a sale goes through, usually six to nine months later, we expect the economy to buoy most businesses. So suffering through the pain now could mean bigger gains when you do call it quits.

Protect Yourself

Protect yourself from too much debt. Tough economic times have a way of focusing attention on simple ideas that can be easily overlooked in good times. Consider these four steps to ward off troubles caused by falling too deep into debt.

First – Prepare for the worst-case scenario. Example – Take out a mortgage you can afford to pay on only one income, even if both spouses work.

Second – Keep an emergency fund – at least six months' worth of expenses. With lenders pulling back equity lines, it's important to build up your emergency fund even if you have to temporarily decrease retirement plan contributions.

Third – Lower your credit card interest rates now. Ask the card company for a better deal or take advantage of a 0% balance-transfer offer.

Fourth – Aim to pay off your mortgage before retiring. Ending that debt can give you more flexibility, especially if your investments are down and your other expenses have increased.

Volunteer

Volunteer for a longer healthier life. It sounds like Karma, but it could be just plain old common sense.

When you volunteer a couple of hours a week to help others, you may be adding years and vitality to your own life.

People who give of their time and talents report higher levels of happiness and satisfaction, as well as a greater sense of purpose and control. Other benefits of volunteering can include reduced stress, lower blood pressure, less isolation, and fewer health problems later in life.

Whatever your passions or interest, you can find a way to contribute. Here are just a few ideas: Offer to clean up a neighborhood, tutor a child, cook and shop for a homebound person, give tours at a museum, entertain at a senior center, walk pets in animal shelters, hand out programs at a theater, or raise funds for your favorite charity.

Source: Corporation for National and Community Service

Illegal Aliens and Private Employment

Notice to all South Carolina Employers regarding Illegal Aliens and Private Employment. Governor Mark Sanford signed a new law on June 4, 2008, the "South Carolina Illegal Immigration and Reform Act". Form I-9 covers most of the requirements, but if you do not get a copy of a valid driver's license, please either verify the employees' work authorization program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or do this:

Verification Requirements

In addition to completing and maintaining the federal employment eligibility verification form, more commonly known as the Form I-9, all South Carolina employers must within five days after employing a new employee:

1. Verify the employee's work authorization through the E-Verify federal work authorization program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; or
2. Verify that the employee
 - (a) possesses a valid South Carolina driver's license or identification card issued by the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles;
 - (b) is eligible to obtain a South Carolina driver's license or identification card; or
 - (c) possesses a valid driver's license or identification card from another state whose qualification requirements are as strict as those of the state of South Carolina.

The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles has determined that drivers' licenses or identification cards issued by the following states are acceptable: AK, AZ, CT, FL, GA, ID, IN, ME (credentials issued after 11/15/08), MA, MI, NH, NJ, PA, RI, TX and VA. This list may be updated periodically. For the most current list, visit the DMV web site at: www.scdmvonline.com.

For more information on the E-verify federal work authorization program and to access E-verify, visit the S.C. Employment Security Commission's web site at: www.sces.org.

Please contact our office with any questions.

Hospice and Palliative Care

Review your legal power of attorney and your living will regularly to make sure they still reflect your wishes for end-of-life care. The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization at www.nhpc.org has information and resources to help you make important health-care decisions before a crisis occurs.

**"There cannot be a crisis next week.
My schedule is already full."**

-Henry Kissinger

DUE DATES

April

- ___ 15th Individual Income Tax Returns
- ___ 15th Payroll Tax Deposits
- ___ 15th Business Licenses
- ___ 15th Estimated Income Tax
- ___ 20th Sales/Hospitality Tax
- ___ 30th Quarterly Reports
- ___ 30th IFTA
- ___ 30th PT-100

May

- ___ 15th Payroll Tax Deposits
- ___ 20th Sales/Hospitality Tax

June

- ___ 15th Payroll Tax Deposits
- ___ 15th Estimated Income Tax
- ___ 22nd Sales/Hospitality Tax
- ___ 30th PT-441