Affiliated Bank

Why bank anywhere else!

January 2014

Arlington Branch
2326 W Pleasant Ridge Road
Arlington, Texas 76015
Phone: 817.460.8052
Metro: 817.469.1667
Fax: 817.460.8408

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500 Harwood Road
Bedford, Texas 76021
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Phone: 972.203.8030
Fax: 972.203.8045

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Rhonda White, Vice President
Mike Corley, Vice President
Keith Darwin, Vice President

BANK HOURS

Lobby Hours
Monday thru Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Drive Thru
Monday thru Friday
7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am—Noon
(Saturday-Arlington, Bedford ONLY)
Night Deposit
Safe Deposit Boxes (Arlington & Garland)
Online Banking

Affiliated Bank Mortgage
3030 Matlock Road, Suite 205
Arlington, TX 76015
817.987.2400

Ron Veitenheimer, SVP Mortgage

Loan Production Office
Round Rock, Texas
Phone: 512.733.5200

Jeff Bridges, Senior Vice President

SBA Loan Office
6404 International Pkwy, S 1550
Plano, TX 75093
Phone: *972.733.3795*

Colin Biel, SVP, SBA Lending

*** After Hours Debit Card problems***
USA 800.472.3272
Intl call collect 614.564.5101

Happy New Year

PLEASE NOTE….

Our deposit rates are changing effective January 1, 2014

We are proud that we have been able to maintain our high interest rates in the past. While they are lower now, they are still very favorable when compared to institutions in our area. Feel free to call and speak with one of our customer service representatives for more information! Affiliated Bank wishes all of our customers a healthy and prosperous 2014!

INFORMATION REGARDING THE TARGET DATA BREACH

Affiliated Bank has increased our level of security monitoring for all our debit card accounts in an effort to minimize the impact of this security compromise. We are actively contacting those customers who have been identified as having their information compromised in an effort to replace their card as quickly as possible. If you think you might be included in this compromise, or if you have questions regarding this compromise, you can contact us at 817-285-6195 for more information!

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14 Financial Resolutions For 2014

Erik Carter, Contributor

Complete article is available online with underscored wording for more details:
http://www.forbes.com/sites/financialfinesse/2013/12/27/14-financial-resolutions-for-2014/

Do you have any financial resolutions for New Year's this year? Despite evidence of declining financial wellness, a recent survey showed that only 16% of Americans intend to include financial planning in their New Year's resolutions, down by more than half from the 33% in 2009 who said they would make it a high priority in New Year's resolutions. So if you're a bit heavy (pun intended) on resolutions related to the size of your waistline and light on ones relating to the size of your bank account, here are 14 possible financial planning actions you can resolve to take in 2014:

14 Financial Resolutions For 2014
(continued)

1) Make a budget
Yes, the "b" word. It's the financial version of a diet and just as important to your financial health as eating right is to your physical health. Start by looking at your bank and credit card statements for at least 3 months and record your expenses on a worksheet. If you're spending more than you have coming in or aren't saving enough to reach your goals, see if you can use any of these money-saving tips to reduce some of your expenses.

2) Check your insurance coverage
Insurance involves things we don't like to think about but we never know when we might need it and by then, it will be too late. With the *Affordable Care Act* coming into effect, there's no longer an excuse not to have health insurance and there will now even be a penalty if you don't. But don't stop there. Make sure you not only have auto and homeowners or renters insurance but also consider umbrella liability insurance, especially if your assets exceed the liability coverage provided by your other property and casualty policies.

3) Update your estate planning documents
Not old or wealthy enough for estate planning? Think again. Estate planning is about more than avoiding estate taxes on multimillion dollar estates. Draft an advance health care directive and a durable power of attorney to make health and financial decisions respectively if you're incapacitated. In addition to who inherits your assets, you'll also want a will to designate who could become the guardian of your minor children. Check to see that beneficiaries on your retirement accounts and life insurance policies are up-to-date and see if your state allows you to add beneficiaries to your bank and investment accounts and even your home and car to avoid the time and cost of probate on those assets for your heirs.

4) Build up an emergency fund
Ideally, you'll want enough in cash (and maybe even food) reserves to cover necessary living expenses for at least 3-6 months. One place to consider stashing some of the cash is a Roth IRA. That's because you can access the sum of your Roth contributions at any time and for any reason without tax or penalty.

5) Pay down high interest debt
If you have debt with interest rates over 4-6%, you'll probably save more by paying down the debt than you'll earn by investing that money. Start by seeing if you can refinance or negotiate down your interest rates. Then make additional payments towards the balance with the highest interest rate. As one debt is paid off, put those payments towards the remaining debt with the next highest interest rate. You can use this calculator to see how quickly you can become debt free using this strategy.

6) Protect your credit
The most important things you can do to maintain a good credit score are to make timely payments, keep your debt low relative to your credit available, and avoid closing old accounts or applying for too much new credit. But according to a recent study by the Federal Trade Commission, millions of Americans also have errors on their credit reports that could be causing them to be denied credit, charged higher interest rates and insurance premiums, and even lose out on a new job or promotion. Even more disturbingly, over 16 million Americans became victims of identity theft last year.

What can you do protect yourself? Be sure to check each of your 3 credit reports for free every 12 months on AnnualCreditReport.com and dispute any errors you may find. To protect yourself from identity theft, you can get free credit monitoring on sites like Credit Karma and Credit Sesame and place a security freeze on your credit reports to prevent anyone from opening credit in your name without a PIN that you set up.

7) Buy a home you can afford
Home ownership allows you to be the king or queen of your own castle while providing the financial benefits of being able to deduct some of your housing costs, build equity, and own an asset that can generally appreciates over the long term.

8) Plan for retirement
80% of employees who have taken our financial wellness assessment report not being on track for retirement. If your employer offers you a match on your contributions, at least contribute enough to max it out so you don't leave any of that free money on the table.

9) Save for education expenses
With rising student loan debt in the news, saving for college is understandably a rising concern. However, make sure that your retirement is on track first because there's no financial aid for that. In addition, understand that very few people are able to save enough to fully fund all education costs from savings so don't let those numbers discourage you. You can start by estimating how much you would need to contribute to your child's education expenses so you can calculate how much to save.

10) Take advantage of tax shelters
By using tax-sheltered accounts, Uncle Sam can help you save towards various goals. Your company may offer flex spending accounts to put money away tax-free for dependent care and health care expenses but be aware that you may lose whatever you don't use by the end of the year. If you have a high-deductible health care plan, a health savings account can let you save and accumulate money tax-free for health care expenses (and for anything penalty-free after age 65). Your employer's retirement plan and IRAs allow you to put money away tax-deferred or invest it to grow tax-free for retirement. Coverdell education savings accounts and 529 college savings plans allow tax-free earnings for education.

11) Make sure your investments are properly diversified
The biggest factor in determining the risk and return of your investment portfolio is your asset allocation or how your money is divided between basic asset classes like stocks, bonds, and cash. A simple way to a diversified portfolio is to invest in pre-mixed asset allocation fund. Some are based on a fixed level of risk while others reduce automatically reduce the risk level over time as you approach your target date for goals like retirement or education.

12) Minimize your investment costs
Studies have shown that low fees are actually a better predictor of future mutual fund performance than past performance or even Morningstar ratings. To minimize mutual fund fees along with taxes and other trading costs, consider implementing your asset allocation plan with low cost index funds that simply track the market and generally end up outperforming more expensive actively managed funds. You can further minimize taxes on your investment income by keeping tax-inefficient investments like taxable bonds, REITs, commodities, and high turnover funds in your tax-sheltered accounts as much as possible.

13) Harvest tax losses
Although this year looks like another good year in the stock market, you may have some investments in taxable accounts that have lost value. By selling them at a loss, you can use the losses to offset other taxes.

14) Treat yourself and those you love
Finally, don't forget that the ultimate purpose of money is to provide for the needs of you and your family. How you do it is important though. Once your needs are taken care of, meet some of those wants with a vacation or occasional outings that let you spend more time together.

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Will be closed Monday, January 20th in recognition of ***Martin Luther King's Birthday***