

Christmas 2020

New 2020 calendars are out. I've looked through my new calendar, and guess what I found??? ...a bunch of cute puppies! ...my birthday in May! ...and in December, ...about ¾ of the way down the page, ...it's there! December 25th! GASP!!!! Christmas is happening again! Who knew?

Why is it that we typically forget this holiday until after the Thanksgiving turkey dinner is done, and the football game is on? Suddenly, shock and panic sets in. There is going to be a large financial hit: social events, travel, office parties, and all the gifts that "need" to be purchased. The kids need more plastic stuff, or they'll need counseling later in life. We pull out plastic cards and spend.

In January, when the New Year resolutions have failed, and credit card statements show up in the mailbox, the fight is on! *"You spent how much? For what? How are we going to pay for that?"* Maybe by June or July part of the debt is paid off. Then it's vacation time. Next, back to school. The kids must have a complete new wardrobe by 01September, right? The cycle continues: immediate need, charge expenses, frustration over large debts, payoff debts (at least partial attempts). Rinse, Lather, Repeat.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

"If nothing changes, nothing changes. If you keep doing what you're doing, you're going to keep getting what you've got. You want change, make some."

The average family spends \$1,000+ during the holiday season. Start in January.... 12 months until 25Dec. **MATH:** \$1k ÷ 12 months = \$85 per month. If I **"RESERVE"** that money every month, when December rolls around, there will be \$1k **CASH** available (not credit card debt) to pay for the holiday expenses. No stress, no worry, no money fights.

BOOM !!! A significant change! **RESERVE FUNDS** can be used for any irregular expense: vacation, school start-up, car tires, my birthday, etc... "Equal Pay" your utilities: the same idea. One step at a time. You can do this!

Questions about ANYTHING PERSONAL FINANCE? Contact me for a conversation.



George

George Katsinis, AFC®

Personal Financial Counselor for the Oregon National Guard

PFC1.OR.NG@Zeiders.com

Cell: 503-459-6446