


Living 50plus



Did You Know?

The Baby Boomer generation is one of the most influential demographics in the world today. Boomers represent roughly 28 percent of the total population of the United States, according to “Baby Boomer” magazine, and this means they are the largest generational segment as well as the single largest economic group in the United States. They hold 70 percent of the U.S. wealth and are expected to inherit millions of dollars over the course of the next 20 years.

Baby boomers comprise a population of adults who were born between 1946 and 1964. That makes boomers people who are between 49 and 67 years old. Many of these baby boomers have grown to be household names and influential individuals in all areas of business. Actor Brad Pitt is a baby boomer, as is President of the

United States Barack Obama. Director Peter Jackson, singer k.d. lang and business mogul Donald Trump all belong to the baby boomer generation. Here are some additional facts and figures about baby boomers:

- * Baby boomers have more discretionary income than any other age group.
- * Baby boomers own 80 percent of the money in savings and loan associations.
- * Baby boomers spend more money than other groups.
- * Baby boomers account for nearly half of all consumer demand.

Baby boomers have been known to have an unprecedented impact on American culture, society and the economy, and that influence is bound to continue for several more years.

Things To Consider As Retirement Approaches



such as the cost of commuting and maintaining a professional wardrobe, can be removed from the ledger. But other expenses, including utilities, car payments and possibly even a mortgage payment, will still need to be made. Once you have an idea of your projected income and your expenses during retirement, you can get to work on a prospective budget to show you what you will need to live on during retirement.

* Employment: Many people now look at retirement as the end of one career and the beginning of another. As retirement draws closer, men and women might want to consider turning an interest or passion into a second career. Such a move might make retirement more exciting while removing some of the fear of finding enough things to pass the time that many people have with regard to retirement.

* Relocation: Where to spend your retirement years is another thing to consider before the big day arrives. Do you, like many retirees, prefer to stay in your own

home? Do you want to relocate to a warmer climate or move to another country? Do you want to move closer to your children and grandchildren? Do you want to split your time in separate cities? Is a retirement village something you might be amenable to? Each of these options is different, and each requires a different financial commitment, so carefully consider where you want to spend your retirement and then consider how you can make those wishes a reality.


* Medical costs: Private insurance or government-

sponsored programs likely won't cover all of your medical costs, which typically increase as a person ages. There are various ways to prepare for the medical costs that might arise during retirement, and the earlier you start that preparation the less stressful paying for medical care as you age figures to be.

Retirement should be an exciting time for men and women, especially for those who have spent years planning their retirement to ensure it's as enjoyable as possible.

Doing what you like is freedom.

Liking what you do is happiness.



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Why Is Pre-need Funeral Planning Important?

No one likes to think about death, let alone plan for it. In many families, discussing one's mortality is an extremely uncomfortable topic. But it is a topic that should be discussed and planned for well in advance of your death.

Making funeral arrangements at the time of loss is extremely difficult for those left behind. By pre-planning your funeral, you relieve your family of having to make important decisions during a period of great stress and grief—a time when people aren't thinking very clearly. It gives them a guideline to follow regarding your wishes, eliminating the stress of decision making.

It's easy to say, “Don't make a fuss. I don't want a ceremony”. But it is important to understand that the ritual of a funeral or memorial service isn't

for the deceased but rather for those you leave behind. Funeral pre-arrangement allows your loved ones to concentrate on the celebration of your life and the healing presence of family and friends.

Pre-planning your funeral can be very informal, and as simple as following a pre-planning checklist and sharing your wishes with a family member. More formal arrangements in the form of a preneed contract can be set up with the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory staff and prepaid for. It's a practical decision, eliminating overspending, freezing funeral prices and allowing monthly payments with no finance charges.

When pre-planning is done properly, it can give you peace of mind because you know that your arrangements are already taken care of.

By pre-planning your funeral, you can:

- *make all the arrangements during a time of peace and not leave them to your family during their time of grief;
- *make your wishes known;
- *control the cost of your funeral and protect from inflation;
- *ensure that personal records are organized and easy for your survivors to locate;
- *protect your insurance so that it provides for your survivors and not for funeral expenses

Contact us to set up an appointment to discuss prearranging your funeral with our Family Service Counselor, Cheryl Anderson or Ted Powell.

■ Editorial provided by Kevin Opsahl, Funeral Director, Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory

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Members of last spring's "The Poor Person's Bible" on a field trip to St. Boniface Church in Menominee, NE.

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