

Young adults

- Open savings and checking accounts, if you haven't already.
- Develop an emergency fund.
- Make automatic retirement fund contributions.
- Start saving money to buy a house.
- Attend a free workshop on credit and managing finances.
- Balance the checkbook; don't just rely on bank statements.

Engaged couples/newly married women

- Make it a habit to know your credit score.
- Begin estate planning.
- Ease into a joint bank account, which covers household expenses.
- Develop a solid bill-paying plan. Know who will pay what and when.
- Both spouses should contribute to their retirement accounts.

Expecting a new baby/young families

- Buy life insurance policies, if you haven't done so already.
- Establish a 529 college savings account for the baby.
- Start a family vacation fund.
- Continue to avoid credit card debt.
- Shop resale shops and garage sales for baby clothes.

Middle years

- Consider buying disability insurance.
- Review college and retirement savings plans and goals.
- Set aside money each payday for groceries. This will keep you from overspending at the store.
- Plan family events around free activities.
- Keep the checkbook updated. Stock the car with a pencil and calculator so debit card expenses can be immediately recorded.
- Develop a family fun night fund.

Close to retirement

- Review your will.
- Develop a prescription and hospital fund.
- If applicable, sign up for the homestead exemption, which will lower homeowner taxes.
- Pay for funeral arrangements.
- Pay off home and cars.
- Contact Franklin County Senior Options, which helps those age 60 and older maintain independence.



MONEY MATTERS:

Financial tips for women

NOTES:
