

BANK OF CASHTON

Since 1899

Happy New Year!

Want to make a New Year's Resolution? Let's start with your finances!

- **Pay Bills Right After Receiving Your Paycheck.** Taking care of monthly obligations before letting yourself indulge in any luxury expenses is a helpful budgeting strategy. It gives you a better sense of what you can truly afford.
- **Repay 20% of your Credit Card Debt.** Credit cards carry some of the highest interest rates around. So, make a plan to pay off 20% of what you owe over the course of 2018. The sooner you can reach debt freedom, the better off your wallet will be.



Call Ashley or Ann
today at
(608) 654-5121 to set
up a savings account
and start your New
Year's saving goals!

- **Make a Realistic Budget & Stick to It.** The best way to make a budget is to gather your bills from the past few months and make a list of all your recurring expenses. Then rank them in order of importance, with true necessities such as housing, food and healthcare obviously taking the top spots. After that, you can simply cut from the bottom of your list until your take-home exceeds what you plan to spend. Finally, keep track of your monthly spending throughout the year to make sure you're abiding by your budget.
- **Add One Month's Pay to Your Emergency Fund.** Building up some reserves should be one of the first orders of business for any financial makeover.

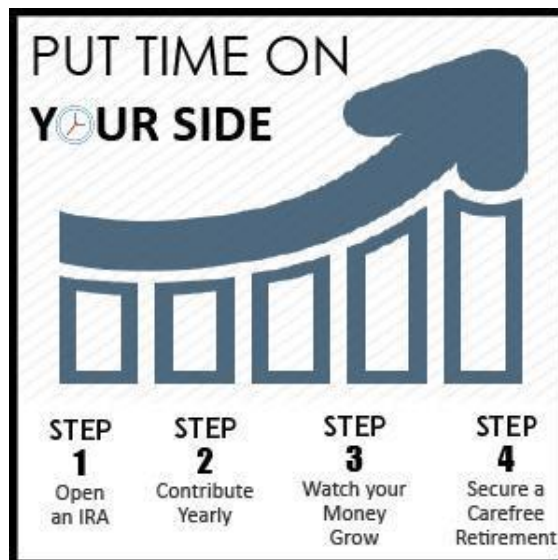


Thinking about an IRA? We can help!

Traditional IRA - The

Traditional IRA allows you to defer taxes on the earnings on your contributions until they are withdrawn. Also, depending on eligibility, contributions are tax deductible in the tax year for which you make them.

Roth IRA - The Roth IRA allows only non-tax-deductible contributions and features tax-free withdrawals for certain distributions after a five-year holding period.



Opening an **IRA** can be a very important step in implementing a retirement savings plan and can help you meet your goals of investing for growth, income or both. **IRAs** have many tax benefits as well, so let our experienced representatives help you start up an **IRA** plan or help you rollover your current **IRA** to start this year off right saving for your retirement.

2017 & 2018 Traditional & Roth IRA Contribution Limits

Traditional & Roth IRA Contributions and Catch Up Provisions

Plan Name	Standard Limit	Catch-up Limit (Age 50 and older)
Traditional	\$5,500	\$6,500
Roth	\$5,500	\$6,500

IRA Contribution Deadline

The deadline for making IRA contributions for
2017 is: **April 17, 2018***

*Keep in mind that procrastination can be costly. If you make your IRA contributions the last minute, you miss out on nearly 16 months of potential gains as well as the chance for those gains to compound over time. So, the earlier you contribute to your IRA, the better.



Have questions about your IRA? Want to get your retirement savings started? Call **Ann** or **Adam** today at **(608) 654-5121**! They have the knowledge and experience to answer all of your IRA questions!



4 Things That Always Go on Sale in January

Setting goals to be better with your money may include resolving to be a smarter shopper by knowing what goes on sale when. Take a look at these four items that always go on sale in January and stretch your dollar even further this month!

1. Winter Clothes - Heavy winter apparel will go on sale this month. Might as well take advantage - we still have a couple months of winter to go!

2. Bedding and Linens - the markdown of sheets, comforters, bedding, towels and other linens has been a retail tradition for years. A new comforter can sometimes be an inexpensive way to spruce up a bedroom!

3. Furniture - Manufacturers begin to release 2018 furniture models by February, meaning retailers need to clear their sales floor in January.

4. Fitness and Wellness Gear - Fitness trackers and home-gym equipment are typically discounted during this month. Retailers know health is top of mind in January and are willing to offer markdowns to get people to buy into the resolutions craze. Just make sure you'll actually use what you buy!



What should you avoid buying in January?

- *Cookware and Small Appliances*
- *Luggage*
- *Mattresses*



Visit our website at www.bankofcashton.com

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