

West View Savings Bank

“Over 100 Years of Quality Banking”

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NEWSLETTER

September 2012

Should You Consider a Power of Attorney?

A Message from Our President David J. Bursic

A Power of Attorney (POA) is a legal document that authorizes another person or persons to handle your financial, legal, and in some cases, your health matters. This can be a very helpful document if you are unavailable - for example if you are traveling abroad and have a loan closing to attend. A POA can be critically important if you become disabled and need someone to act on your behalf - for example manage your finances, pay taxes or authorize medical treatments.

A POA usually has two parties – a “Principal” and an “Attorney in Fact” or “Agent”. The person granting their authority is the “Principal”. The person or persons assuming that authority is the “Attorney in Fact” or “Agent” and does not have to be an actual licensed attorney. In order for the POA to be “legally binding” (can be accepted or acted upon) it must be signed by the Principal who must be mentally competent at the time they sign the POA. Most people give their power of attorney to a spouse, other adult relative or close friend. The Principal will want to name an Agent that knows them well and will act according to their wishes and best interest when and if necessary. The Principal

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Tips to Protect Yourself from ID Theft

by Katrina Boyer, Pennsylvania Department of Banking

The Department of Banking has developed some useful tips to help consumers protect themselves from becoming victims of Identity Theft.

- Use passwords on the Internet or elsewhere that combine numbers or letters and do not include obvious or sensitive information (avoid using your Social Security number, mother's maiden name or birthday).
- Shred or tear up any personal information before you put it in the trash, including receipts, bank statements, insurance information, expired credit cards and credit card offers.
- Do not give out personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call. Even then, make sure you are dealing with a trustworthy company and you know how your information will be used and stored by the company.
- Avoid giving out your Social Security number. Ask if other identifiers can be used.
- Only carry the identification and credit cards you really need.
- Check your credit report annually and question any suspicious activity.
- You may also want to consider placing a “fraud alert” or a “credit freeze” on your credit report.

If you believe you may have been a victim of Identity Theft, consider closing your accounts and filing a police report. You can also notify the PA Attorney General or the Federal Trade Commission.

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also may name a substitute agent when making a Power of Attorney in the event that the named "Agent" is unable to act.

There are generally two types of POAs – a General Power of Attorney, and a "Special" or Limited Power of Attorney. A General POA is just that - it gives the Agent very broad power and authority to do almost anything that the Principal can do for themselves. A person giving a POA needs to be very comfortable with anyone named as an Agent because the Principal will likely be bound by whatever actions are taken on their behalf. A Special or Limited Power of Attorney is different from a General POA because it limits the authority of the Agent only to carry out certain prescribed powers that the Principal grants. A Limited POA can restrict the authority of the Agent to act only on certain matters - for example financial, medical, or real estate issues.

Another important concept when considering a Power of Attorney is if the Principal wants the POA to remain in force if the Principal become mentally incompetent because of an accident or illness. These are called "Durable". A General POA or a Limited POA can be "Durable" and they remain effective or can be triggered into effect after a doctor certifies that the "Principal" is mentally incapacitated. A POA that becomes effective only upon the mental incapacity of the Principal is also called a "Springing" POA.

The Principal may terminate a POA at any time that they are competent to manage their own legal affairs. To terminate a POA the Principal should notify any named Agent that they have terminated the POA. The Principal should also collect and destroy the original and any copies of the POA, and notify any bank or third party that may have been relying upon the POA to allow the Agent to conduct business on behalf of the Principal that the POA has been revoked.

A POA also terminates upon the death of the Principal. In other words, when the Principal dies so does the POA and any authority of the Agent is revoked. The Agent is no longer authorized to act on behalf of what would now be the estate of the Principal.

It's important to check with an attorney familiar with the state specific Power of Attorney rules where you reside. For example, in some states a POA is only as good as someone's willingness to accept or honor it. Any third party presented with the Power of Attorney in those states has the right to tell the Agent they will not accept or honor the POA.

West View Savings Bank (Bank) offers a free Durable Limited Power of Attorney for Banking Transactions document for our customer's convenience. This form

only applies to transactions on accounts maintained at the Bank. Please feel free to contact any of our branch managers, or our Vice President – Savings – Mr. Bernard P. Lefke – if you would like to learn more about the Bank's Durable Limited POA.

This information is provided with the understanding that the Bank is not engaged in rendering legal services. You should contact a competent and licensed attorney for specific expert assistance in all legal matters.



Tips to Protect Yourself from ID Theft continued

Both the PA Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) maintain databases of Identity Theft cases used by law enforcement agencies for investigations. You can file a complaint online with the FTC at www.ftc.gov. You can also file a complaint by calling the PA Attorney General at 1-800-441-2555 or the FTC Identity Theft hotline at 1-877-ID-THEFT.

Newsletter Contributors

Joanne Scherer and Jon Hoover



*First Day of Autumn
Saturday, September 22, 2012*

FINANCIAL RECORDS

What to Keep? What to Toss?

Everybody has a paper trail – everything from utility bills and financial statements to tax records and receipts. With so many records it may be difficult to determine which you should keep (and for how long).

Filing and organizing records is critical to maintaining healthy finances. Not only will tax time be easier, but your spouse and other family members will be able to locate important information should the unexpected happen to you.

Following these guidelines may help you organize your records.

Bank statements: Okay to destroy after one year, unless you need them for tax purposes. Signing up for free Online Banking with West View Savings Bank is easy and reduces paperwork. You can view account history, see when checks have cleared, and pay your bills from anywhere, 24/7. Enroll at www.wvsbank.com.

Utility bills: Throw out (unless you need them for tax purposes).

Tax records: Most experts recommend destroying these after seven years.

Insurance records: Keep for the life of your policy. Life documents (birth certificate, marriage certificate, diplomas, divorce decrees, and military records): Store in a safe deposit box indefinitely.

Homeowner records: (deed and title to your house): Do not throw away.

Life and estate-planning documents: Keep the most current copy.

Any papers you're throwing away with personal information, like a Social Security number, should be shredded to avoid identity theft.

Stay Organized

It's also important to keep a list detailing where your records are and how to access them. Store this in a safe place or with a trusted family member or friend (be sure to keep a copy). List each type of account, where it is located and the contact information of the appropriate agent. Update your list periodically.

We can Help

Safe deposit boxes at West View Savings Bank are a secure way to keep the originals of your most important documents. We offer a variety of sizes to fit your unique needs at our Bellevue, Cranberry, Franklin Park, and McCandless offices.



Just for Chuckles!



While waiting in line at the bank, a man developed a very loud case of hiccups. By the time he reached the teller's window, the hiccups seemed to have worsened. The teller took the man's check and proceeded to run a computer verification of his account. After a minute she looked up from her terminal with a frown and said that she would be unable to cash his check. "Why not?" he asked incredulously. "I'm sorry, sir," she replied, "but our computer indicates that you do not have sufficient funds to cover this amount. As a matter of fact," she continued, "our records show your account overdrawn in excess of \$5000." "It can't be!" he cried. "You have to be kidding!" "Yes, I am," she answered with a smile, counting out his cash. "But you will notice that your hiccups are gone."



West View Office	412-931-2171
McCandless Office	412-364-1911
Cranberry Office	724-776-3480
Sherwood Oaks Office	724-776-4870
Franklin Park Office	724-935-7100
Lending Division	724-935-7400
Bellevue Office	412-761-5595

Visit us at www.wvsbank.com



Kid's Korner

Back to School Word Search

N D Y R A T E R C E S R M R A Y
S U K C Y D N Y S U N O L C C R
H D R Y B A N A C O O C A A J A
M S I S G E W O H R T T P A E R
P O R N E Y R L S O U R I R A B
D S O K C T M S L E B C C A H I
U C A R A I A N D A H I N L R L
I H T C H L N Y A A H R I T E S
T O E T C C E E L S A N R I T O
L O A I S N N K R E I E P U R A
N L C L E I B U R A K U D R L T
E Y H C L O C K L C T E M C A D
K A E U A I S I O S N O S K S E
O R R R R S A L O T N T R I E S
U D D E T E N T I O N I M A N K
C H I N I L R R O T I N A J Y N

Find the following hidden words:

CHALKBOARD	HALLWAY	NURSE
CLASSROOM	INCINERATOR	PRINCIPAL
CLOCK	JANITOR	LOCKER
DESK	LIBRARY	SECRETARY
DETENTION	SCHOOLYARD	STUDENT
GYMNASIUM	LUNCHROOM	TEACHER



Raspberry Granola Bars Recipe



Ingredients

- 1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped
- 1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, melted plus more for greasing the pan
- 1 cup raspberry preserves

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Butter an 8-inch square baking pan and line the bottom and sides with parchment paper. Spread the chopped pecans in a pie plate and toast for about 5 minutes, until lightly browned and fragrant. Let cool.

In a large bowl, whisk the flour with the rolled oats, granulated sugar, brown sugar, salt, baking soda, and pecans. Using a wooden spoon, stir in the melted butter until the oat mixture is thoroughly combined.

Press two-thirds of the oat mixture in an even layer on the bottom of the prepared baking pan and top with the raspberry preserves. Sprinkle the preserves with the remaining oat mixture.

Bake the bars for about 45 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through baking, until the top is golden brown. Transfer the pan to a wire rack and let the granola bars cool completely, about 3 hours. Cut into squares and serve.