



OUTLOOK

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Focusing on Retirement Issues for Massport Employees Past and Present

“Without having access to your file, . . . it is harder for would-be thieves or scammers to steal your identity.”

Credit Freeze Law Can Help Prevent Identity Theft

A new law in Massachusetts allows people to prevent unauthorized access to their credit reports and FICO scores by essentially freezing their credit file. Consumers who have been victims of fraud or identity theft will be able to do this for free, while others may be charged a \$5 fee (which would apply each time you place or remove the freeze).

Without having access to your file, creditors are unlikely to issue new credit making it harder for would-be thieves or scammers to steal your identity.

To freeze your credit file, you need to contact each credit reporting agency with a certified letter. They will provide a PIN number to use when you wish to remove the freeze from your credit file. You may remove it permanently or for a

specific period of time (for example, if you are buying a car or refinancing a mortgage).

Please note that collection agencies and government agencies will still be able to access your credit report if necessary. The credit freeze does not apply to your existing creditors and companies pre-screening you for credit may have limited access.

It is a good idea to order a copy of your credit report from all three reporting agencies once a year. You can obtain one free copy from each agency online at www.annualcreditreport.com.

To write to the credit reporting agencies in order to request a credit freeze, request your report or make corrections to your report, contact the following:

• Equifax: (800) 685-1111
Equifax Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
www.equifax.com

• Experian: (888) 397-3742
Experian Security Freeze
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
www.experian.com

• Trans Union: (888) 909-8872
Trans Union, Fraud Victim Assistance
P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92834-6790
www.transunion.com



INSIDE

- For Your Benefit 2
- Eco-Friendly Savings 2
- Retirees' Corner 3
- New Deferred Compensation Plan 4
- Book Corner 5
- Transitions 5
- Web Watch 6
- Calendar 6

It is now easier to find us online! Simply go to <http://retirement.massport.com> and you will be taken directly to the retirement section of Massport's web site.

For Your Benefit

Can't Buy Me Love

Romance is grand, but it can be expensive. Here are some interesting figures to make you look before you leap.

Getting Hitched

According to the web site for the Massachusetts Wedding Guide, the average wedding in Massachusetts can cost anywhere from \$22,000 to \$27,000. The bulk of that expense typically covers the reception costs, but flowers and photography costs rank pretty high as well.

Baby Makes Three

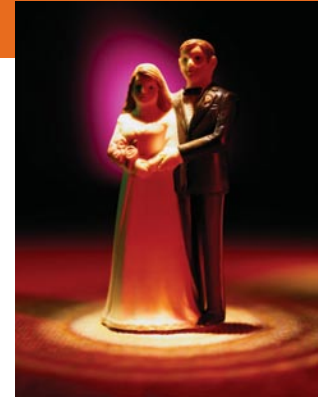
According to Babycenter.com, the average cost of raising a child in the Northeast can range anywhere from \$215,000 to \$297,000 – and that doesn't even include college! The joys of parenting are endless but be prepared to spend up to \$1,000 on diapers alone in the first year.

Parting Ways

Should you have your accountant run a cost benefit analysis on the expense of a

marriage counselor? It may not be as silly as it sounds considering that Consumer Reports estimates that a divorce war can cost anywhere from \$49,000 to \$188,000. "It's maybe a good financial idea to preserve your marriage – not just a romantic idea," said Consumer Reports Senior Editor Jeffrey Blyskal.

Of course, life changes happen – for better or for worse, and while many of them end up costing us money, it is not a good idea to tap into your nest



egg. Saving for retirement should always be part of your financial plan and you should steer clear of using that money prior to retirement. After all, you can make use of home loans, student loans, and other forms of financial assistance along life's journey but there are no loans for retirement.

Help the Environment and Your Wallet

Watch Out for Vampire Electricity

That would be when small appliances are sucking the energy out of your sockets – even when they are not being used. Unplugging them takes care of this problem. For the same effect with less hassle, use a power strip and simply flip the switch when you need to use something.

Shed New Light

Changing your light bulbs from incandescent to compact fluorescent is good for the planet and provides a savings on your electricity bill. According to www.energystar.gov, if every American replaced just one bulb with a more efficient CFL, it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year and more than \$600 million in annual energy costs.

All That Water Down The Drain

Water can easily be conserved without any heavy lifting on your part. Turn it off while you brush your teeth – it saves up to 10 gallons a day. Only run the dishwasher when it is full – you'll save up to 20 gallons per load. Lastly, take your car to the car wash. That's right – according to Bankrate.com, if every American went to a professional car wash rather than doing it themselves at home, even just one time, it could save up to 8.7 billion gallons of water. Wow!



Employees Tap Into Resources at Financial Fair

This past January the Massport Employees' Retirement System once again hosted its Employee Financial Fair at Logan Office Center. Employees were able to meet with a variety of organizations and attend educational sessions on saving for college, understanding your credit report, and Social Security.

Thank you to all who attended and helped to make this year's financial fair a success!



Above: City of Boston Home Center's Bik Fung-Ng with MPAERS' Lisa Allen Brown. Left clockwise from top: Trena Cain-Simon hosts Human Resources' table; Will Brown from Health Resources talks with Bob Parro; Employees browse the fair's tables.



Retirees' Corner

TV is Changing. Get the Picture?

Beginning next year, all TV programming will be in high definition television also known as HDTV. This basically means that your favorite TV shows will no longer be sent via radio frequency waves, but by computer code in a digital format.

The change to HDTV means that you will enjoy much better picture and sound quality; but it also

means that if you still use an old-fashioned antenna on your TV, you will likely need a converter.

If you have a cable or satellite provider, you should be covered; however, make sure you understand how your service works before the changeover happens on February 17, 2009.

If you still wish to use an analog TV set after

that date, you will need to purchase a converter box (available at many stores where TVs are sold).

You can obtain a coupon for \$40 off the price of the converter (up to two per household) by calling the U.S. government's TV Converter Box Coupon Program at (888) DTV-



2009 or by going to the web site: www.dtv2009.gov.

Be sure to take the appropriate action – or risk missing your favorite shows!

Did you know...

that you can apply for **Social Security** benefits online? Go to www.socialsecurity.gov to apply for retirement or spouse's benefits, request a statement, and obtain information about the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset.



A New Frontier for Deferred Compensation

The Massachusetts Deferred Compensation SMART Plan is changing administrators this spring. ING will no longer manage this plan and we have had to say goodbye to our long-time deferred compensation representative Nicole Payne.

Great-West Retirement Services became the new plan administrator and record-keeper as of March 7, 2008. The transition is complete and the plan is

open to all participants as of March 17, 2008. Since the SMART Plan is a program run by the Massachusetts State Treasurer's office, the investment options are not changing and the web site will also remain the same: www.mass-smart.com. To access your account online you will need a new personal identification number (PIN) which should arrive in the mail by mid-March. If you do not receive your new PIN,

please contact Great-West. You may call toll-free to reach local customer service representatives at (877) 457-1965.

Employees should check the public folders on Massport's e-mail system for more information about our new deferred compensation representative

and other news related to the transition. Plan participants will also receive mailings directly from the SMART Plan.



Great-West Brings New Services

Use Caution When Signing Up for Advice

The change from ING to Great-West brings some new services to those participating in the deferred compensation plan. As part of the new package, Great-West is offering several types of financial planning services. Some of these tools are free and others are not. Please be sure to read and fully understand the terms of any financial planning service that you sign up for.

To aid our members in understanding their new options, here is an outline of the SMART Plan's Reality Investing Program, which is Great-West's optional advisory services program offered at an additional cost.

This program is managed by Advised Assets

Group, LLC (AAG) which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company.

There are three tiers being offered to participants. All of these are optional. If you are managing your own account, you may also continue along your current path with no changes; however, it is recommended that you reassess your asset allocation annually and rebalance or adjust your portfolio as necessary.

• **Guidance** **COST: no charge**

Access resources on the web site such as personalized asset allocation and savings rate recommendations to build your own portfolio.

• **Advice** **COST: \$6.25 per quarter**

Through the web site AAG will recommend a portfolio based on the information that you provide.

• **Managed Account** **COST: fees are based on your account balance**

(for example: 0.1375% for a \$100,000 account = \$137.50 per quarter) You provide information and AAG acts as your investment manager and adviser evaluating your account every three months.

The deferred compensation **SMARTPath Retirement Funds** are another option for people who don't want to manage

their own portfolio and would like an investment program chosen for them based on their targeted retirement date. There is no additional cost for this option. For more information about the SMARTPath Retirement Funds, Reality Investing or the Great-West transition, please go to www.mass-smart.com.

Important!
Please note that by signing the Managed Account Service Agreement you are giving AAG full discretion over your deferred compensation account and you will not be able to make any fund changes to your account unless you opt out of this service.

Book Corner

Library Books Renewed

Check out the books that were recently added to the retirement library!

Personal Finance

■ **The Big Payoff: 8 Steps Couples Can Take to Make the Most of Their Money – and Live Richly Ever After** by *Sharon Epperson*

■ **How to Get Out of Debt, Stay Out of Debt, and Live Prosperously** by *Jerrold Mundis*

■ **Make Money, Not Excuses: Wake Up, Take Charge, and Overcome Your Financial Fears Forever** by *Jean Chatzky*

■ **The Motley Fool's Money After 40: Building Wealth for a Better Life** by *David Gardner & Tom Gardner*

■ **The Richest Man in Babylon** by *George S. Clason*

■ **Smart Women Finish Rich: 9 Steps to Achieving Financial Security and Funding Your Dreams** by *David Bach*

■ **The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness** by *Dave Ramsey*

■ **Why Smart People Do Stupid Things with Money: Overcoming Financial Dysfunction** by *Bert Whitehead*

Retirement Planning

■ **Boomer or Bust: Your Financial Guide to Retirement, Health Care, Medicare, and Long-Term Care** by *Steve Weisman*

■ **Buckets of Money: How to Retire in Comfort and Safety** by *Raymond J. Lucia*

■ **How to Love Your Retirement: Advice from Hundreds of Retirees** by *Hundreds Of Heads*

■ **How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free: Retirement Wisdom That You Won't Get from Your Financial Advisor** by *Ernie J. Zelinski*

■ **The New Rules of Retirement: Strategies for a Secure Future** by *Robert C. Carlson*

■ **Saving for Retirement Without Living Like a Pauper or Winning the Lottery** by *Gail M. Jarvis*

■ **What Color Is Your Parachute? for Retirement: Planning Now for the Life You Want** by *Richard Nelson Bolles & John E. Nelson*

Investing

■ **The Millionaire Next Door** by *Thomas J. Stanley & William D. Danko*

■ **The Only Investment Guide You'll Ever Need (updated)** by *Andrew Tobias*

■ **You're Fifty – Now What? Investing for the Second Half of Your Life** by *Charles Schwab*

Estate Planning

■ **Beyond the Grave: The Right Way and the Wrong Way of Leaving Money To Your Children (and Others)** by *Gerald M. Condon*

■ **The Parent Care Conversation: Six Strategies for Dealing with the Emotional and Financial Challenges of Aging Parents** by *Dan Taylor*

Kids & Money

■ **Financial Peace Jr.: Teaching Kids About Money!: "Cool Tools" for Training Tomorrow's Millionaires!** by *Dave Ramsey*

Farewell to Lisa

After communicating on behalf of the Retirement System for eight years, Lisa Allen Brown has accepted a new position as Web Content Manager in Massport's Strategic Communications and Marketing Department.

As many of you know, Lisa has been the Managing Editor of *Outlook* and responsible for retirement system communication initiatives in general these past eight years. We are proud of Lisa's accomplishments and will miss her presence in retirement, however, we realize her skill set and talents will serve Massport and its broader external audience well. Best of luck Lisa from all your retirement colleagues and friends!

Transitions

Condolences

We regret to inform you that the following retirees have passed away:

- ☞ Francis Ellis
- ☞ Joseph McMahon
- ☞ Morris Testa

We also offer our condolences to the family and friends of Michael Leahy from Logan Facilities who passed away this past December. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations

The following people retired recently and we wish them all the best for a successful future:

- ★ Mary Gartland
- ★ George LoCascio
- ★ Bob Reyes
- ★ John Romano
- ★ Erwin Ruazol
- ★ Bill Woodford



Web Watch

For those of you who have access to the Internet, there is a wealth of information to be found there. In this section we highlight web sites that we have found helpful, informative, interesting or just plain fun.

Get Proper Insurance

If you need information about life, disability, health, or long-term care insurance, check out www.life-line.org (don't forget the hyphen or you will end up at a totally different site). The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education is a non-profit dedicated to providing insurance information to the public and educating consumers. Its web site features some useful tools including an insurance needs calculator, glossary of key terms, consumer tips, and help finding a local agent.



Just for Fun

Spring is here and it's yard sale season! Check out www.yardsalequeen.com for tips, tricks, and amusing stories. Click on *yard sale customers from hell* if you need a good laugh.



* *Legal note: The Retirement System is not responsible for the content of these web sites or for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in them.*

Retirement Board & Staff

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Calendar

March

17
Happy St. Patrick's Day
Evacuation Day in Boston:
Massport offices **open**

21
Good Friday
Purim

23
Easter Sunday

26
Retirement Board Meeting:
Logan Office Center, Board
Room, 9:00 a.m.

27
Retirement checks mailed

April

19
Passover begins at sundown

21
Patriots' Day: Massport
offices closed

23
Administrative Professionals
Day

27
Eastern Orthodox Easter

28
Retirement checks mailed

30
Retirement Board Meeting:
Logan Office Center, Board
Room, 9:00 a.m.

May

11
Mother's Day

17
Armed Forces Day

26
Memorial Day, observed:
Massport offices closed

28
Retirement Board Meeting:
Logan Office Center, Board
Room, 9:00 a.m.

Retirement checks mailed

View past issues of *Outlook* at
<http://retirement.massport.com>