In this month’s Insider, you’ll find some exciting day trips and awesome vacation getaways!

Here’s what’s featured this month:

- “Almost Heaven”
- Tapas & Pairings
- Live Wreath Making Class

... and much, much more!

“Hamilton” Tickets

Drawing of winners will be shown via Facebook Live on Thursday, November 8, at 10 am. In case you miss the live drawing, all winners will be contacted the same day.

Fun Money is back by popular demand!

$20 booklets are available through Freedom Years or your local banking center. Booklets are made of 20 crisp $1 bills and make great stocking stuffers!

Cirque du Soleil – Crystal

Wednesday, January 23 • 7:30 pm performance • $75 per person
Final payment: 12/21 • A unique experience and wonderful Christmas gift!

We invite you and your families to join us for this evening’s breakthrough ice experience of CRYSTAL at Nationwide Arena in Downtown Columbus. We will stop for dinner (on your own) at Easton Town Center before arriving at the arena. CRYSTAL is not just an ice show, it’s the very first experience on ice from Cirque du Soleil. Watch world-class ice skaters and acrobats claim their new frozen playground with speed and fluidity as they challenge the laws of gravity with never-before-seen acrobatics. A new kind of performance as Cirque du Soleil meets the ice to defy all expectations.

Price includes: deluxe motor coach transportation, reserved lower bowl seats, all applicable taxes, and gratuities on included items.

Columbus Blue Jackets vs. Pittsburgh Penguins

Tuesday, February 26 • 7 pm game • Nationwide Arena, Columbus • $98 per person • Final payment: 1/24 • Makes a great Christmas gift!

Join us at Nationwide Arena when the Columbus Blue Jackets take to the ice against the Pittsburgh Penguins. This evening we will enjoy mezzanine seats located in Section 121. You’ll have plenty of time to purchase dinner at the arena before or during the game. We hope you will join us for an exciting evening of hockey with the Blue Jackets and the Penguins.

Price includes: deluxe motor coach transportation, reserved seats in section 121, and all taxes and gratuities for included items.
Tapas & Pairings
**Friday, November 9 • 6 pm • The Virtues Golf Club**
$30 per person • Final payment due with reservation
Tapas (a wide variety of appetizers in a Spanish cuisine) dishes are growing in popularity on menus and around the globe. This evening is your chance to experience Tapas and delight in a five course sampling of Executive Chef Jeff Stott's seasonal selections, in a relaxing atmosphere with friends and music. You will have the opportunity to sample items like spiced pumpkin soup, harvest salad, turkey, roasted striploin, and apple tartlet. This evening you'll enjoy samplings of selected wine or beer pairings for a few of the delicious seasonal Tapas courses. Tapas might mean “small plates” but we're sure you won't leave hungry.

Safety Seminar
**Thursday, November 15 • 5:30 pm • CNB Market Street Lending Center • Call to reserve your space today!**
Join Freedom Years along with the Zanesville Fire Department and the Muskingum County Sheriff's Office as they cover popular safety topics. Over 80% of fire and injury related deaths happen right where we feel the safest, in our own homes. You'll hear some of the best way to be prepared in the event of a fire, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, grease fires, etc. The Sheriff's office will discuss some of the safety issues increasing in our community, as well as, best practices to protect yourselves when living at home alone. This presentation is open to all members, as well as friends and family.

Going South for the Winter?
We will be happy to forward your FY Insider or email it to you at your winter address! Please drop us a note or email us your local address, your winter address, and the dates that you will be departing/returning to Ohio. You may send that to the attention of Freedom Years at P.O. Box 1515, Zanesville, Ohio 43702 or email FreedomYears@CenturyNationalBank.com.

Live Wreath Making Class
**Tuesday, November 27 • Florafino's Flower Market, Zanesville • 6:30 pm • $57 per person**
Final payment due with reservation
Holiday wreaths are true signs of the season. A beautiful Christmas wreath always brightens a gorgeous home and makes guests feel at home for the holidays. Join us as Laura Orofino, owner of Florafino's Flower Market guides you step-by-step on how to make the perfect live evergreen wreath.

**Price includes:** all materials for creating your perfect wreath, light refreshments, all applicable taxes and gratuities on included features.

“Almost Heaven” - featuring songs of John Denver
**Thursday, January 31 • LaComedia Dinner Theatre, Springboro • $79 per person • Final payment: 12/28**
Join us for this unique dining experience at La Comedia Dinner Theater for a Thursday afternoon performance of “Almost Heaven” featuring songs of John Denver and a delicious lunch buffet.

“Almost Heaven” is a tribute to the beautiful, soaring folk songs of John Denver and a high-energy journey through the life and times of one of the most accomplished musicians and songwriters whose career spanned some of the most challenging times in American history.


**Price includes:** deluxe motor coach transportation, lunch buffet, show ticket, all applicable taxes, and gratuities on included items.
Norfolk & the Virginia International Tattoo

April 24-27, 2019 • Final payment due: 2/11/19

The Virginia International Tattoo is the largest spectacle of Music and Might in the United States of America. It offers an astounding display of inspirational military music, majestic massed pipes and drums, show stopping drill team maneuvers, colorful and elegant dancers, and much more. Throughout the tour we will salute the brave men and women who have served our country.

Vacation highlights:
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 3 nights in hotels (1 Richmond, 2 Norfolk)
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 3 dinners
- Premium seating at Tattoo
- 2-hour Norfolk Harbor cruise
- Norfolk highlights tour
- Entrance and tour of Battleship Wisconsin, Norfolk Naval Base, Monticello, Hermitage Museum
- Garden reception at Hermitage
- All luggage handling, gratuities, and taxes on included features

Price per person: $956 double occupancy; $1,412 single occupancy. A deposit of $150 per person and the optional insurance premium due with reservation.

Indulge in the Best of Switzerland

May 21-30, 2019 • Featuring Zurich, Lucerne and Montreux • Final payment due: 2/6/2019

Vacation highlights:
- Roundtrip airfare to/from Zurich
- 8 nights in Swiss hotels (3 Zurich, 2 Lucerne, 2 Montreux)
- Deluxe motor coach transfers throughout tour
- Full breakfast daily at hotels
- 1 lunch and 3 dinners, including 2 “dine around” dinners at local restaurants
- Guided city tours in Zurich and Lucerne
- Travel by train from Lucerne to Montreux
- Full-time tour manager/guide
- Luggage handling at hotels
- All taxes on included features
- Gratuities for drivers and guides
- Optional tours are offered to Lake Constance, Mt. Pilatus, Schilthorn, and a Cheese, Chocolate & Farm tour with visits to local farms.

*Passport required for travel

Price per person: $5,995 double occupancy; $6,995 single occupancy. A deposit of $1,000 per person is due with reservation and the optional insurance premium due with reservation.

Big Sky & Majestic Lakes

July 23-30, 2019 • Featuring Glacier National Park and Coeur d’Alene Resort • Final payment due: 4/10/19

Join us on a tour that delivers the pristine wilderness and the soaring beauty of the Rockies in Montana and Idaho. In Montana, visit stunning Glacier National Park, where you’ll enjoy a thrilling drive on the spectacular Going-to-the-Sun Road aboard a famous, vintage red “Jammer” bus. Our tour will also include a stay at the stunning Coeur d’Alene Resort located on Lake Coeur d’Alene in Idaho. Along the way we will see magnificent scenery and amazing wildlife. Discover why this area is referred to as the “Crown of the Continent”!

Vacation highlights:
- Airfare from OH to Bozeman, MT and returning from Spokane, WA
- Services of professional tour director onboard the coach
- 7 nights in hotels (1 Bozeman, 1 Helena, 2 Whitefish, 3 Coeur d’Alene)
- Deluxe motor coach transportation throughout tour
- Breakfast each morning
- 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Admission to Museum of the Rockies and Grizzly Encounter in Bozeman
- Gates of the Mountains Cruise
- Red Jammer Bus Tour in Glacier National Park
- Silver Mine tour in Wallace, Idaho
- Luggage handling at hotels
- All taxes on included features
- Gratuities for drivers and guides

Price per person: $3,699 double occupancy; $4,895 single occupancy. A deposit of $500 per person is due with reservations and the optional insurance premium due with reservation.

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

October 11-16, 2019 • Featuring Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico • Final payment due: 7/1/2019

Vacation highlights:
- Roundtrip airfare to Albuquerque, NM
- 5 nights in hotels (2 nights Albuquerque, 3 nights Santa Fe)
- Full breakfast each morning, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- Deluxe motor coach transportation throughout tour
- Morning mass ascension at Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- Evening balloon glow event at Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- Admission and guided tour at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Admission to the Los Alamos Bradbury Science Museum
- Guided tour at Taos Pueblo (subject to availability)
- Santa Fe city tour
- All gratuities, luggage handling, taxes on included features

Pricing per person: $3,499 double occupancy; $4,199 single occupancy. A deposit of $500 per person is due with reservations.
**Trip/Event Cancellation Policy:** The cancellation of Freedom Years one-day trips or events will be non-refundable after payment is made unless the space is filled from an available wait list or a substitution is made by another member. Trips may be paid for by cash, check, or Visa. Checks should be made payable to Century National Bank - Freedom Years. Refund policies on extended vacations vary from trip to trip. Please review the cancellation policy included on each trip brochure.

**Travel/Health Policy:** It is required that persons needing assistance be accompanied by a companion who is capable and totally responsible for providing that assistance. Neither Freedom Years nor its suppliers may assist with medications, wheelchairs, or physically lift persons onto transportation vehicles. Travelers needing special assistance must notify Freedom Years when they make their reservations. Please note that the Americans With Disabilities Act does not apply outside the United States.
Q&A on Gift Taxes

Here is a sampling of questions we frequently hear regarding taxation on gifts.

Q. With the federal estate tax exemption over $10 million per person (over $20 million for married couples), I’m no longer concerned about that tax. Do I still need to worry about the gift tax?

A. Yes, you do. You are not likely to ever owe federal gift tax, but you are required to file a gift tax return for any year in which you give someone more than $15,000. That’s the “annual gift tax exclusion,” and it’s available each year. If you gave your child $10,000 per year for 10 years, no gift tax return would be needed. But if you gave $20,000 in a single year, then a gift tax return would be required.

Q. How much gift tax would I owe on that $20,000 gift?

A. None, most likely. The excess amount, $5,000, would reduce the amount of your eventual federal estate tax exemption. Nevertheless, the gift tax return must be filed.

Q. I have three children, so am I limited to $5,000 for each of them?

A. No, the $15,000 is per person. Say an individual has three children, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Gifts of $15,000 per year may be given to all 10 descendants, removing $150,000 from the taxable estate.

Q. I paid my child’s college tuition this year, over $30,000. So do I have to file a gift tax return on that?

A. No, you don’t. Paying someone’s tuition directly does not count as a taxable gift, no matter the amount of the payment. However, giving the child the cash to make the tuition payment would be a taxable gift.

Q. Any other exceptions like that?

A. Direct payment of medical expenses is also not a taxable gift. Imagine that Mary paid $10,000 directly to health care providers on behalf of her son John this year. She also gave him $12,000 in cash to help him with his household expenses. Mary made direct tuition payments for each of her three grandchildren, totaling $90,000. Finally, she gave each grandchild $10,000 cash for “spending money.” Mary has given away $142,000 worth of her wealth to family members, but with this combination of exceptions, she won’t have to file a gift tax return.

Q. What about state gift taxes?

A. Unless you live in Connecticut, you no longer have to worry about gift taxes—all the other states have repealed their gift taxes.

Q. I’m married. I want to give my son $25,000. Should I just give him $15,000, and have my husband write a check for the other $10,000?

A. That would be the simplest, when the gift is of cash. But what if the gift is a block of stock worth $25,000? In that case, you and your husband may “split” the gift to apply both of your annual exclusions to the transfer. You have to file a gift tax return reporting the transfer to obtain split gift treatment, but it won’t affect your eventual federal estate tax exemption.
Q. I have some stocks that I bought for $5,000 years ago. I can make a gift of that without filing a gift tax return, right?

A. No, your tax basis does not come into play on this question. What matters is the fair market value of the shares today. Are they worth less than $15,000? Then no tax return is needed. But if the market price is $15,001 or more, a gift tax return will be required.

Q. Why do all this paperwork when I am almost certainly never going to have to pay a gift tax?

A. You’d have to ask your Congressman about that. That phrase “almost certainly” holds the key to answering your question.

Q. What happens if you win the PowerBall, and are suddenly worth $100 million?

A. You almost certainly will be paying estate and gift taxes, and the prior gift tax filings will come into play.

   There is another possibility. The current large estate tax exemption is set to expire after 2025. That would bring the exemption down to $5 million (plus inflation adjustments). There has long been support in the Democratic party for reducing that exemption to $3.5 million, and perhaps dropping the inflation adjustments, which are a fairly new phenomenon.

   Keep in mind also that just 15 years ago, the federal estate and gift tax exemption was only $1 million. You might not be off the hook, after all.

A message from Jody Spencer, Trust & Investment Services • 740.455.7252

If you have specific questions or need more information, please consult with a tax professional. If you have questions about your estate plan or our investment management strategies, just give me a call. We’ll schedule a time to meet. Thank you!