

WTNS Radio OSU Extension Update for July 18, 2022
Healthy People. Healthy Finances. Healthy Relationships.

On today's OSU Extension update for Healthy People, Healthy Finances, & Healthy Relationships we'll talk about whether your financial record-keeping looks more like a shoe box or a safety deposit box, and as always look at some upcoming programs from OSU Extension.

I remember watching reruns of the original "Let's Make a Deal" as a kid. One of my favorite parts was the scavenger hunt. It amazed me the kinds of things some of those ladies would have in their purses. And more impressively, they could locate those items quickly.

When searching for your financial and personal records, do you ever feel like you are on a scavenger hunt? Chances are, if you are in a co-spending relationship with a spouse or significant other, one of you is the record-keeper and the other has very little interest in record-keeping. This is not always the case, but as the saying goes, opposites do attract.

What does your record-keeping system look like? Is it a bunch of papers in a big shoe box marked "IMPORTANT" or something more elaborate with spreadsheets on specially marked jump drives in a safety deposit box? Wherever we are on that continuum, everyone would probably agree that we could be doing a better job not only keeping track of important things but communicating where that information is with trusted family members.

Here are some thoughts to get you started:

- Can you quickly locate last year's income tax return and the documents used to complete the return?
- Do you know where your original Social Security card, marriage license, and birth certificate are? What about those of every family member?
- If you use online banking, receive or use electronic accounts and billing, do you use a different password for every location and do you regularly change your passwords?
- If your wallet or purse is stolen, you are responsible for reporting the theft of all credit cards. Do you know what credit cards you normally carry, and do you have the phone numbers of all these credit card companies stored outside your wallet or purse?

- Could a non-family member locate important information about what to do in case of an emergency?
- In the event of your death, could someone locate burial instructions and your will?

There are many benefits to having a record-keeping system. It can help you better handle an emergency or simplify the claims process if loss occurs from fire, theft, flood or another insured casualty. It can also help to find information more quickly as time is precious. I think one of the best benefits though is that someone else would be able to locate important documents should you become unable to do so.

No matter what, having some system- even if that important shoebox- is a good start. Many times, it is life experiences that cause people to be better organized. Like having to manage the estate of a parent who left little to no instructions on what to do in their absence. Consider your financial record-keeping a gift to your family members.

If you are wondering what should be kept, how long you should keep it, and where the best place to keep these records might be, I encourage you to refer to links on our website coshocton.osu.edu under “Financial Wellness and Resources.”

And now let’s look at some upcoming programs from OSU Extension. I hope to catch you at our next Food Preservation Class. We will be Making Pickles on August 4 at 6:00 PM at the OSU Extension Office, 724 S. 7th St., Room 110, Coshocton. You can come in person or view the class from your own kitchen over Zoom. Register for the in-person class or register for the Zoom link at our website Coshocton.osu.edu. You can find details about future programs related to financial wellness, food safety, managing diabetes, and more at our website coshocton.osu.edu.

In closing, at OSU Extension, we are proud to work for Coshocton County to help educate and improve our families, farms, and businesses. Please feel free to contact OSU Extension for more information at 740-622-2265 or visit our website at coshocton.osu.edu. Make it a healthy day!