

What's Going On At Nash Nash Bean & Ford



Abraham Lincoln came to town!
In celebration of Geneseo's 175th birthday, Nash Nash Bean & Ford hosted Abraham Lincoln, aka Michael Krebs, for the city's annual Music Festival parade on Sunday, June 19. Joining Mr. Lincoln in his stroll down the parade route were Jim Nash, Bob Nash and John Bean.

This Month's Firm Focus

Study promotes education, prevention of elder financial abuse

Elder financial abuse is often a hidden crime, but thanks to organizations such as the National Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA), we are learning more about this growing problem.

According to a new study by the NCPEA, in partnership with the MetLife Mature Market Institute and the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech, elder financial abuse instances are far higher than previously reported, with an estimated loss of \$2.9 billion in 2010, up

12 percent from 2008. While these statistics are scary, there are things we can do to protect ourselves and our loved ones:

To protect yourself:

- Plan ahead to protect your assets and to ensure your wishes are followed. Talk to an attorney and financial advisor about the best options for you.
- Never give personal information to anyone who phones or e-mails you. For example, if someone you do not know calls claiming to be from your financial institution, call them back using the phone number listed in the telephone directory or on your statement.
- Never rush into a financial decision. Feel free to say "no." It's your money.
- Get to know our firm. We strive to be your trusted advisor.
- Check references and credentials before hiring anyone.
- Never pay a fee or taxes to collect sweepstakes or lottery "winnings."
- Trust your instincts: if something doesn't feel right, it may not be right. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

To protect elderly loved ones, know the warning signs:

- Sudden changes in bank accounts or practices, including an unexplained withdrawal of large sums of money.
- Items or cash missing from the senior's household.
- Sudden changes in the elder's financial condition, including unpaid bills or lack of medical care, although the elder has enough money to pay for them.
- Unnecessary services, goods or subscriptions or new bills that are unexplainable.

- Missing checks or credit cards.
- Confusion about current financial situation.

In addition, the federal government is taking a more active role in protecting seniors. Recent new legislation includes:

- The Elder Justice Act, which was passed in March 2010 and provides dedicated funding for Adult Protective Services, along with reporting requirements and penalties for failure to report abuse.

With a growing senior population, elder financial abuse is on track to become the “Crime of the 21st Century.” However, by knowing the signs of elder abuse and being diligent in protecting this population, we can all help protect our elders.

To report elder abuse in the state of Illinois, call the 24-hour Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-866-800-1409. Outside of Illinois, call Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116 for a directory of state reporting numbers. If someone is in immediate danger, call 911 for immediate help.

New technology can bridge the distance gap

Thanks to the explosion of new technology and social media, it is now easier to communicate with far-flung family members.

Think your parents won’t – or you can’t - use Facebook, instant messaging or Skype? Think again! In 2010, 46 percent of adults over 65 were already online.

How can technology help you keep in touch with aging parents or relatives? The easiest way is to start slowly.

While there are many technologies that senior citizens can use, it is best to start with the one that has the greatest potential for providing the most benefit to your loved one. Here’s some tips on how to get started:

- First, start slowly. Start with the technology with the greatest potential for success. Once your mother has conquered email, Facebook won’t seem as scary.
- Know what each technology is and how it can best be used by seniors. Options include: texting, email, instant messaging, Facebook and Skype. To learn more, visit www.eldercare.gov and download “Staying Connected: Technology Options for Older Adults.” This guide takes users through the basic facts about how to use tools like Facebook, email and texting, including privacy and safety information.
- Be on-hand to help your parent get started with the new technology. Help your father set up a new computer or program a new iPad during a family vacation so there is plenty of time to not only teach him how to use the equipment, but also to let him try it on his own, while you’re still there to offer guidance.
- Know how a long-distance relative can gain additional tech support. Are there community college classes she can attend? Is there on-call tech support related to the equipment? Does the local senior center provide assistance? Your family can be more comfortable with the new technology if they all know there is a back-up in case of questions.

While new technology and social media may seem like toys to some of us, for anyone with a limited ability to leave their home or who has a closing social circle in their community, these technology playgrounds are a way of widening their world and increasing their social interaction, all activities that are good for both their physical and mental health.

Help available across the country

It can be challenging to care for an elderly relative or manage a property from afar. Thanks to our membership in the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys, we can

confidently locate a qualified estate planning attorney just about anywhere across the country. We can provide you with access to a nationwide network of qualified attorneys who can assist you with out-of-state transfers of title, provide help if you move to another state, or simply offer a referral to an out-of-state friend or family member who needs estate planning help. For more information on how we can help with an out-of-state property or elderly friend or relative, call us at 309-944-2188, 309-762-9368, 800-644-5345 or email us at info@nashbeanford.com.

Nash Nash Bean & Ford Happenings

Curt Ford featured in Royal Neighbors.

When Royal Neighbors of America was looking for an expert in the estate planning and elder law field for a story in its quarterly magazine, the editor called our own Curtis Ford for information. The two-page "You & Your Family" spread features Curt discussing having the 'Tough Talk' with aging parents.

Summer Intern. Ben Young, Geneseo, joined the Nash Nash Bean & Ford staff for the summer as a law intern. After three months at the firm, Ben returned to Valparaiso University this fall for his second year of law school. We were glad to have Ben with us for the summer and wish him great success in his future.

Recipe:

Corn Salad (from Jean Marks' Aunt Shirley)

3 cans corn, drained

1 green pepper, chopped

1 red pepper, chopped

1 bunch green onions, sliced thin

1 cup mayonnaise

1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese

1. Mix all of the above.
2. Just before serving, add 1 bag of chili cheese Fritos.
3. Optional: add fresh chopped tomato, to taste.

We're keeping watch for you!

Nash Nash Bean & Ford and the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys are keeping watch on the U.S. Congress regarding the federal estate tax updates, modifications, changes and/or proposals.

For example, the 2012 Federal Budget Proposal includes several important changes in the estate and gift taxes, including:

- Restoring the 2009 estate, gift and generation-skipping taxes on January 1, 2013. This would provide for estate tax and GST tax exclusion of \$3.5 million, a gift tax exclusion amount of \$1 million and a maximum marginal tax rate of 45%.

Through these proposals, Congress and the President have managed to preserve the uncertainty that existed from 2009 through 2010 for at least a few more years.

There seems to be a growing consensus among taxpayers in the United States that lawmakers here need to rein in spending to levels closer to historical norms and decrease the exploding debt levels of the last several years. This will definitely require change, whether it comes in the form of increased taxes, reduced spending, or some of both. It will likely include changes to our income tax, gift tax, estate tax, and sales tax systems as they currently exist. These changes will likely require a review of existing financial and estate plans in order to assure they are tailored to take advantage of these possible changes in the law, however they might materialize in the future.

Continuing Education efforts of our attorneys:

Bob Nash attended the 2011 Wealth Counsel Symposium in Chicago. Included in the sessions during this three-day event were: Trends in an Uncertain Planning Environment, the State of Estate Planning; How the New Estate Tax Laws Affect Asset Protection for Seniors; and Taking the Mystery Out of Planning Special Needs Trusts.

Speaker's Connection

Thanks to **St. Malachy Catholic Church**, Geneseo, for asking us to speak about estate planning and charitable giving to their congregation this quarter!

We regularly work with professionals, churches, non-profit organizations, clubs and other groups to help educate their clients and members on the principles of Estate, Tax and Business Planning along with both immediate and long-term Charitable Giving options. We also speak to elder organizations, such as Alzheimer's Associations, assisted living facilities and senior citizen organizations on Medicaid planning, care giving and retirement planning topics.

If you would like us to speak at your next meeting, contact our office at 309-944-2188, 309-762-9368 or 1-800-644-5345 and ask for Joni Conrad.

For additional information, you also may log onto our website at www.nashbeanford.com, and under "Our Firm" click on Speaker Connection to view all the topics available.

Should we be helping someone you care about? Don't keep us a secret!

Here at Nash Nash Bean & Ford, LLP, we are very proud of the level of service we provide to our clients, especially the added benefits we're able to provide, including our *free* newsletters, *free* 3-year reviews and *free* initial consultations in the event of death or incapacity, and more!

It's our goal to continue providing you with that same level of service year after year – and we're asking you to help us do just that! We encourage you to tell your friends and family about our firm and please tell us about them as well. Referrals are important – primarily because they are a reflection of your confidence in our ability to provide high quality service, and that your experience was a positive one.

If you would like to refer someone you know

to our firm, please share the name and address by calling 309-944-2188/309-762-9368, emailing info@nashbeanford.com or mailing to Nash Nash Bean & Ford, LLP, PO Box 63, Geneseo, IL 61254.

Join our Email Club!

We are happy to offer you:

- eAlerts filled with timely and informative articles about estate planning related topics.
- Notice of upcoming FREE public seminars.
- NNB&F law firm news and events.

It's easy to join...

Visit our website at www.nashbeanford.com and click "Contact Us" in the upper right corner.

It's that simple! Please tell your friends! AND--

The Nash Nash Bean & Ford law firm will NOT share your information with anyone...ever!

You're never too old to try something new

Age doesn't determine success or failure in your endeavors. Just ask the families of:

- George Burns, who won his first Academy Award at age 80.
- Michelangelo, who painted the Sistine Chapel when he was 71.
- Albert Schweitzer, who was still operating at his African hospital at age 89.
- Grandma Moses, who didn't begin painting until she was 80 and who completed over 1,500 paintings, including 25 percent that were painted after she turned 100.
- Golda Meir, who became prime minister of Israel when she was 71.
- Ronald Reagan, who became U.S. President just 16 days shy of his 70th birthday.
- Jack McKeon, who just returned in June to manage the Florida Marlins at age 80.