June 2020



REAL ESTATE, WEALTH & MEASUREMENT

I don't really enjoy filling out forms for doctors, loan applications or anything else for that matter. The question I love the least is "What is your age?". Next to "Age" I now write down 3 answers - Chronological Age, Physiological Age and Psychological Age (those numbers a proprietary algorithm at this time).

The introduction of "measuring" things is the most single dualistic idea ever conceived by the human mind. This methodology of knowledge is, of course, Greek in origin and all subsequent Western thought followed. The belief that we can objectively describe reality with words and numbers has since been thoroughly discredited, fortunately, by quantum and particle physics. What is your age? Please answer so that we can put you in a box and know who you are.

What is your home worth? The same applies. Your home is worth whatever you can sell it for. This cannot be measured by an appraiser or the city tax office. It requires professional judgment and then the market will respond once you offer it for sale.

While mathematics is a tool I use to assist in counseling clients, it is one tool only and still a 'tool', not the final reality. Sir Isaac Newton was an awesome and influential character but, nevertheless, addicted to "measurement". The Laws of Motion are a wonderful 17th Century revelation but Albert Einstein updated Newtonian physics 200 years later with his Relativity discoveries.

I make these remarks to suggest to you a review of your assessment of plans and assets. First, with regard to real estate:- In basic terms, owning a home and land is definitely the best asset to hold at this time of uncertainty on the planet. A piece of the Earth is a piece of security. Second to real estate is gold (or other precious metals) since gold is a safe haven and alternative currency that, under current circumstances, is set to soar in dollar terms through 2020/2021. The U.S. Dollar has been the flight-to-safety asset around the world for many decades

but is wavering in its position at the top of that mountain.

In other words, you should hold on to, in order:-

1) Your family and loved ones.

2) Real Estate (difficult even for the Federal Government to take away).

3) Gold (or other precious metals). Currently c. \$1700 ounce.

4) Bank balance and wisely diversified financial investments. Even Warren Buffett just lost \$50 billion in the first quarter of 2020. The allocation of your IRA, 401 (K) and other financial investments should be wisely managed.

Of course, we are measuring wealth in a language of money here and, like your age, money is not always the same as wealth. I read a couple of years ago that a survey revealed the happiest people in the world were Columbians, which might surprise you since they have several political, crime and poverty issues on their plate.

It is unfortunate that we in the West are so strongly influenced by the religion of measurement. Education, medicine, self-esteem - we calculate these by certain belief systems that then require certain actions to conform with society, which we presume is what life is all about. I urge all readers - explore your inner Universe rather than measuring what you see on the outside.

There is a story that Aristotle once gave an elaborate and rigorous demonstration that Mrs. Aristotle had to have exactly 42 teeth in her mouth - it never dawned on him to open her mouth and actually count them. He calculated that it was impossible for her to have any other number of teeth!

If you are making plans that involve real estate I am more than happy, as are many experienced and competent Realtors in Alaska, to talk with you. We may take measurements as you provide information but we promise to be sensitive to your underlying goals. After all, it's your life, and you control all outcomes.

One final thought :- Alaska is not such a bad place to plan your future. There are many reasons why this State will attract future investment even though the decline of the oil industry will have a significant short-term economic impact.

Simply put:- Isolation, clean water and air plus a hardy, innovative and determined population will draw migrants from the hot and dense cities in the lower 48 because, in Alaska, social distancing is a free gift that comes with the territory.





HILLSIDE HORSE PROPERTY 3BD - 2.5 BA - 2,068 SF - 1.06 Acres Lovely home with lots of upgrades, tons of toy parking and storage on open, level lot. 3 BR's (could be 4). Large Trex deck and hot tub. 2009 Energy Upgrade included new heating system. New roof in 2015.

New Appliances 2013-2019



HOT VIEW LOT 7,403 SF Lot

Last undeveloped lot in this desirable Government Hill location with unrestricted southern views of city and mountains. Daylight basement possible on the bluff side.

MLS# 20-4355