



# **STAAR<sup>SM</sup> Strategies Report**

## **PLANNING CORNER**

### **Y2K Preparation?**

While Y2K may be a non-event for most people, it is also foolish to assume nothing can go wrong. The best course may be to prepare for a severe snow storm (which could happen anyway). Extra firewood. Extra food and water. Candles. Batteries. First aid and medical supplies. Contingency plans for anyone needing special health care or equipment. Full gas tanks. Plus a week's to two week's cash on hand. Think it through and act now; don't wait until December 31. Duh.

### **Just in Case Y2K Does Cause Some Problems, Don't Plan to Test the System.**

Please! Don't plan on making financial transactions or needing to make a lot of purchases the first week of January. If there are problems, they will likely be fixed in a short time as long as people don't create pressure by demanding too much from systems. Don't worry, plan ahead and relax.

### **Year-End Tax Planning**

Now is the time to plan. Tax-saving investments (some non-retirement investments offer tax benefits, even up to the end of the year). Accelerate deductions and charitable gifts. Give appreciated property. Do a ROTH IRA. Don't procrastinate. If you want some ideas, call now.

### **Hello! REPEAT MESSAGE:**

### **Cheap Life Insurance Lock-Ins To End in 2000. ACT NOW!**

Due to some regulatory changes, the low guaranteed rates on 10, 15, 20 year and longer-term life insurance are likely to head higher next year. Now is the time to apply for new insurance. Don't procrastinate.