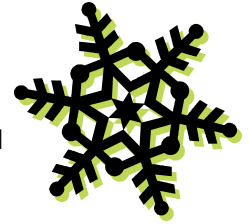


Winter Happenings

Financial Survival Fair on Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 1st Advantage Federal Credit Union—Kiln Creek Branch, 110 Cybernetics Way, Yorktown, VA. For more information and to RSVP call (757) 886-3373.

Build a Basic Budget - This class will show you how to create an effective spending plan, set realistic goals and develop a personal action plan. November 5, 2009, BayPort Credit Union Training Room, 9308 Warwick Blvd (next to train station) Newport News, VA 23607 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Financial Literacy Boot Camp— November 21, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for ages Middle School to College ages. You must RSVP by November 17 at 757-397-1234, extension 126. Presented by Guardian Federal Credit Union - The address is 309 County ST, Suite 204, Portsmouth, VA 23704.

BLOOD DRIVE 1st Advantage FCU, Kiln Creek Branch, Friday, December 4, 2009, 10 am to 3:00 pm. Walk-ins welcomed. "Please remember to bring a valid photo ID"

Community Holiday Cookie Bake 2009. November 4th and 5th. If you would like more information or to contribute to this special event by donating baked cookies or contributing to the cost of postage, please contact Regina Nelson at rnelson@1stadvantag.org . 1st Advantage FCU

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November—December 2009

The Peninsula Saves Working Group is very pleased to welcome four new members—1st Advantage Federal Credit Union, Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia, Newport News Municipal Employees Credit Union, and Williamsburg-James City County Community Action. Would you like to join our initiative? Please consider joining the effort to promote savings for future goals. Call Johanna Hahn @ 591-4838. Future newsletters will highlight our savings efforts.

Controlling Spending

During challenging financial times, it is very important to control spending.

Restrict purchases to "needed items" and go without items that are just "wants."

Before buying an item, ask yourself the following questions:

Do we already own one?

Can we do without it?

Can we postpone its

purchase?

Can we substitute something else that costs less?

Can we use our skills to make it?





START SMALL. THINK BIG.

C/O

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Partners

[1st Advantage Federal CU](#)

[Baylands Federal CU](#)

[Bayport Credit Union](#)

[Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia](#)

[C&F Bank](#)

[City of Newport News](#)

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[First Command Financial Services](#)

[Guardian Federal CU](#)

[James City County Housing and Community Development](#)

[Langley Federal CU](#)

[NN Municipal Employee CU](#)

[NN Neighborhood FCU](#)

[New Vision Outreach Ministries of Hampton Roads](#)

[Old Point National Bank](#)

[SE Comm. Weed & Seed Project](#)

[United Way of VA Peninsula](#)

[Williamsburg/James City County Community Action Agency](#)



Have a Question? Ask an Expert!

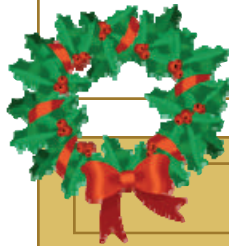
Q. Where can I get help to keep my home when I can't afford all my bills?

Contact a non-profit credit counseling agency that has HUD-certified housing counselors who are trained in housing finance issues and whose job it is to help people save their homes from foreclosure. To locate a HUD-approved counseling agency, visit www.hud.gov, and use the search function to find housing counselors in your area. Another resource is Operation Hope (www.hopenow.com), which is an alliance of public and private organizations that help homeowners resolve their mortgage payment problems so they can keep their homes.

Q. When the stock market is very turbulent, what should I do?

1. Develop a personal asset allocation strategy, and stick with it. Asset allocation is the way you divide your portfolio among various asset classes. 2. Know your risk tolerance level. It is a key factor in building a suitable portfolio for you regardless of whether markets are up or down. 3. Keep your investment portfolio diversified to lessen investment risk. 4. Buy low and sell high. While this is the fundamental principle of investing, many people do the exact opposite when their emotions cause them to panic during down markets.

Peninsula Saves Week ~ February 21– 28, 2010



Trim Holiday Spending – and Stress:

1. Draw names to spare families (and other groups) pressure to spend.
2. Set a limit on gift cost.
3. Decide to choose one gift for the family, rather than individual gifts.
4. Shop at a thrift store for gently used gifts at bargain prices.
5. Initiate a white elephant gift exchange for inexpensive fun.
6. Plan a potluck, progressive dinner or less expensive, but still festive, brunch or soup supper to lower entertaining costs.
7. Give the gift of time with homemade coupons for needed services such as washing the car, vacuuming, cleaning up the kitchen, running errands, or helping with the laundry, grocery shopping or a seasonal garden cleanup.
8. Skip extras that add expense – wrapping gifts in the Sunday funnies, rather than gift wrap, for example. Use everyday dishes rather than fancy – and costly – paper goods.
9. Consider passing on family heirlooms and keepsakes to others.
10. Volunteer to help others. Set an extra place or two at the table for friends or neighbors who don't have family nearby.



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