



Winter, 2012

BRIDGING INTEREST

Savannah Federal Credit Union—Providing Safe Harbour For Your Money



Did Budgeting Money Top Your List of New Year Resolutions?

Get Your Spending Under Control in 2012

In light of our ever-changing economy, it is a good idea to think about budgeting to keep a handle on your money. Many people find that they are a great way to help maintain spending, keeping them prepared for any sudden financial change that could arise. If you are the type of person who feels that budgeting money cramps your style, we have a question for you: What IS the problem with a budget? Does the thought of tracking and paperwork seem overwhelming to you? Well, as with every area in life, you need a solution that works for YOU. But, if you do not like the thought of having to make decisions on what you will and will not be able to purchase because there is not an infinite amount of money to work with, it is time for a reality check. The fact is this: everyone has only a limited amount of money to spend, whether that limit is \$10 or \$10,000 so your best bet is to make a spending plan.

Having said that, here are three alternatives for getting your finances under control:

1. Decide in advance how much you want to dedicate to savings, how much to charity, and how much goes toward your bills. When each paycheck arrives, you should put the designated savings amount directly into an account you can't touch. A Savannah Federal Credit Union savings account is a great place to do this! Provided you are not using credit cards, this system will keep you from spending the money you would rather be saving.

2. A second option is implementing a spending plan. No, this is not a budget by another name. A spending plan gets you organized, and lets you know how MUCH you have for each category of spending, not how little. According to www.suburbandollar.com, a spending plan, in the simplest terms, is just breaking up your income into broad categories and then assigning each of these categories a percentage of money you bring in each month. You want to create a plan where 100% of your income is accounted for in percentages as opposed to dollar amounts.

3. If all else fails, work with cash. Designate a specific amount every month that is yours to spend any way you like. Put it into an envelope, and stick it in your purse. When it is gone, there is no more discretionary spending until next month. This is a last resort, but it always works.

Whatever your decisions about the best ways to budget your money, you have a friend in the money business—your credit union! Let us help you in planning and remember that we have some excellent savings tools that will help you to stay on track with you savings goals.



Talk To Your Children About Today's Economy

You'd be amazed at what your kids tune into when you think they aren't listening. Kids pick up on what's going on much more than we give them credit for. Tonight during your dinner time talk, have an open discussion with your children about what is going on in the economy. Discuss what the recent economic events mean to the United States, to the world, and to your family. Talk about worst-case scenarios, such as you or your spouse losing their job, and invite them to share their fears, if they have any.

Keeping your kids in the know fosters an excellent, open environment and also lays the groundwork for possible times when you'll have to turn down their requests for goodies with the words "Sorry, we can't afford that right now."





As Our Year Comes Full Circle, Let's Celebrate Our Successes

Annual Meeting Scheduled For March 19, 2012

Be sure to circle this date in your new 2012 calendar: Monday, March 19. This is the date of our Annual Meeting. If you have been in the past, you can attest to the fact that it is a great time, for several reasons. The annual meeting is the time that members of Savannah Federal Credit Union join together to celebrate the success of the prior year. Not

only do we review all of the credit union business and news of 2011, but we also participate in an activity that separates us from other financial institutions--voting for the individuals who will represent their ideals as a member of the Board of Directors. If you're not there, then your vote won't count. You'll not want to miss the opportunity to visit with your fellow members, enjoy some delicious refreshments and participate in the voting process. Be sure not to miss the date:

Annual Meeting

Monday, March 19, 2012

2:30 p.m.

Third Floor Conference Room

Juliette Gordon Low Federal Complex, Bldg. B

124 Barnard Street

Savannah, GA 31401

Come and be a part of this important credit union event. We'll be giving out free samples and some members will even win cash prizes. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Isn't It Time Your Relatives Become Part of The Credit Union Circle?

Referring your relatives to Savannah Federal Credit Union is a great way to show them how much you care about them. Just think how much they'll thank you for helping them prosper financially! You know yourself the great rates you receive on loans, the low fees you're charged for services, and the higher dividends you earn on savings. Why wouldn't you want to share the wealth with the people who mean the most to you? So talk with your mother, father, sisters, brothers, stepparents, children, stepchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, grandchildren, in-laws and others living in your household and tell them how great your credit union is to you. Put them in touch with a Savannah Federal member service representative, and we'll do the rest! It's a gift they'll say thank you for for years to come.

Notice of Verification

Savannah Federal Credit Union will be conducting a verification of accounts as of December 31, 2011. Any discrepancies found on your statement should be reported to the following address: Supervisory Committee, Savannah Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 8818, Savannah, GA 31412-8122.

Attention IRA Owners: Pay Close Attention To This Month's Statement

If you own a Savannah Federal IRA, you'll find your IRA's Fair Market Value balance listed on this month's statement. This is your Fair Market Value balance for your IRA as of December 31, 2011 that is being furnished to the IRS. Don't just toss this statement aside because it contains information that may affect your tax return. Just for your information, the credit union tax ID number is 58-0418051. If you do not own an IRA, you'll just need to disregard this statement. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the credit union at 912-234-8978.

CALENDAR

The credit union will be closed the following dates during the first quarter, 2012:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Monday, January 16, 2012

President's Day

Monday, February 20, 2011

and other designated Federal Holidays. In case of emergency closings, visit our website home page, www.savannahfederal.org, for details and dates and times of reopenings or additional closings.

A Quote For The New Year

"Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve."

Mary Kay Ash



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