

# West View Savings Bank

“Over 100 Years of Quality Banking”

Volume 9, Issue 4

NEWSLETTER

April 2016

## National Financial Literacy Month

*A Message from our President, David J. Bursic*

April is National Financial Literacy Month. It's the perfect time to start talking to your kids about financial education and basic money matters. Parents are responsible for setting their children off on the right financial foot. However, research shows that only one-third of parents discuss financial issues with their kids. Additionally, only one out of seven parents believe their children have a solid understanding of financial matters.

The majority of children determine their attitudes about money by the time they finish the fifth grade. While schools are beginning to recognize the need to teach personal financial education to kids, many don't have programs in place yet. Whether parents realize it or not, children learn by watching the financial decisions made at home. It's never too early to start teaching your children about money. Below are basic tips to help kids begin on the path to financial success.

### The Jar System

Especially for younger children who don't yet have a savings account at their local bank, the jar system can be helpful. Young children are encouraged to set aside their money in three jars—one for short-term spending, one for savings and one for charitable donations. Having clear jars is a good visual for kids to understand how money grows with time. With your child you can determine what

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## Living on a Budget

It doesn't matter what your income is, we all live on a budget. And every person's budget will change over time. It's important to realize that living on a budget doesn't mean deprivation, it means being aware of how and where you spend money—and being realistic about how much money you have to spend. It means making smart decisions more times than not.

With planning, it can actually be fun to live on a budget. It's empowering to realize that you control your finances and making changes is easier than you think. These small changes will lead to big results. Below are tips to help you get started on the road to financial success so you can focus on enjoying life while living within your means.

### Determine Your Budget

Before you can set realistic goals for spending and saving, you need an accurate idea of how much you bring in each month and what you spend. Make a list of all income, and if your income fluctuates estimate the least amount you bring in monthly. Now make a list of all fixed expenses, meaning those you have little control of, such as rent, car payments, gas, medicine and possibly things like student loans or pet food. Don't forget annual or semi-annual expenses like car insurance. Deduct your fixed expenses from your income and you'll have the amount left for expenses you can control. Next make a list of what you currently spend and compare that to the amount you have for these expenses. This is where your spending plan, otherwise known as a budget, takes shape.

You might find it helpful to put expenses into categories—entertainment, food, shopping, grooming, etc.—then determine how much you want to spend in each category. Don't forget a category for savings to ensure that you save every month, no matter how much. You should have a minimum of three to six months of expenses in savings that could be used as an emergency fund if the need ever arises.

### Make Cutbacks

The first step to making cutbacks is to prioritize your expenses. This means taking a hard look at where your money goes and asking if it's a necessity. Do you really need 100 cable stations and the largest data plan for your cell phone? Can you cancel or freeze your gym

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goes in each jar. For example, allowance money can go in short-term spending, birthday money can go in savings and money earned through chores can be split between the three jars. Pick a charity your child is interested in—perhaps the local humane society if your child is an animal lover—and go there together every few months to donate the money. This will help emphasize the importance of giving back by letting them see the impact firsthand. For the savings jar, set a goal for something your child is building toward so it's a tangible goal.

### Open a Savings Account

Once your child is a little older, it's time for a savings account. If he or she has shown the ability to manage the three jars, especially the savings one, an elementary-age child can open a special kid's savings account that most community banks offer. They will feel special going to the bank with mom or dad to open the account and then again every few months to deposit their saved money.

### Help Teens Establish a Credit History

If you have a responsible teenager, a credit card is one of the best ways to help establish a credit history. The length of one's credit history is factored into the credit score. If the child is under 18, an adult will need to be a co-signer on the credit since minors do not have the legal capacity to contract. Perhaps your teenage child only uses the credit card for gas, and then it is paid in full every month. That is a good way to teach your child about interest, late fees and other pitfalls that come with a credit card.

### Teach by Example

Have your child sit with you at the beginning of every month when you create your budget and again at the end of the month when you're paying bills. Look at how much was actually spent in certain categories versus what was planned, and discuss how to improve the next month. This is also an opportunity to teach them about online banking as most consumers pay at least a portion of their bills online. Parents can also do small things like clip coupons before they go to the store or wait until something is on sale to buy it. This will instill in children the importance of looking for a good deal. Small things like this can shape how children view money and more importantly, how it is spent.

The good news is that it's not difficult to start teaching your child about finances—it merely takes effort. Encourage them to ask questions along the way and make suggestions if they have them. This will be a good exercise for both parents and children, and it will help ensure everyone in the house has a good financial understanding.



membership when it's nice outside? Could you get by with a haircut or manicure every two months instead of monthly? Also, expenses like buying coffee and going out to lunch add up quickly. Making your morning coffee at home and packing a lunch every day will not only save you a ton of money but it's also much healthier.

### Change Your Perspective and Lifestyle

Life is not about "keeping up with the Joneses" so ensure that's not your mindset. Plus, you have no idea the actual financial situation of anyone. A person can have nice things but be extremely in debt. Your concern should only be about your own finances. An easy way to ensure that you save the allotted amount each month is to have it transferred immediately into a savings account that you don't touch unless it's an emergency. Your bank can help set up an automatic transfer, or you can use the online banking transfer feature. Also, be aware of your weaknesses so you can avoid unnecessary spending. If you don't have money budgeted to shop, don't stop by the mall or any other store where you're likely to find things that you don't need, even if they're on sale. If you have bad habits like smoking or excessive drinking, stopping these will improve your health while padding your wallet.

### Helpful Suggestions

Being committed to staying on budget is the first step to success. It's especially motivating to have a compelling reason like saving for a house down payment or getting out of debt. There are many free online budget trackers and apps available today. The good news is that there are countless ways to live a quality life while cutting costs. Below are a few suggestions:

- Learn to cook so you can make your own delicious meals instead of eating out (plus you can take leftovers for lunch the next day);
- Shop on Craigslist or at nice consignment stores for everything from furniture to clothes to baby goods;
- Be prepared and clip coupons, be it for the grocery store or a department store; and
- Spend time researching free activities offered on weekends and evenings.

Think outside the box and enjoy finding ways to stick with your budget. The end result is well worth the small sacrifices along the way.

*This information is provided with the understanding that the Bank is not engaged in rendering specific legal, accounting, or other professional services. If specific expert assistance is required, the services of a competent, professional person should be sought.*



West View Office	412-931-2171
McCandless Office	412-364-1911
Cranberry Office	724-776-3480
Sherwood Oaks Office	724-776-4870
Franklin Park Office	724-935-7100
Lending Division	724-935-7400
Bellevue Office	412-761-5595

## Stay in Control of Your Credit to Achieve Your Financial Goals.

### Making your payments on time helps build good credit.

Always pay at least the minimum amount due, as shown on your monthly statement. If you can pay your entire balance each month, that's even better, and will help you avoid high interest costs. A solid history of making on-time payments is one of the most important steps in building a good credit history.

### Staying within your credit limit helps maintain a good credit score.

Exceeding your limit is one of the factors that could help a negative effect on your credit rating and thus affect your ability to be approved for other loans, such as a mortgage and auto financing. Before you make a credit card purchase, be sure to take a moment to factor in purchases you made but have not yet posted to your account, as well as any recurring payments you have scheduled, or fees and interest charges that may post to your account.

### When you can, pay in full.

You can avoid paying interest on purchases by paying your entire balance by the due date shown on your statement. Paying over time will cost you more than paying in full. Here's an example of what a \$750 purchase could cost you over time based on 14.90% interest rate, if no additional charges are made.

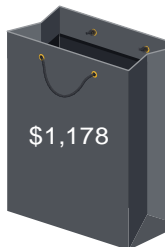
If you pay in full during the 1st billing cycle, you won't pay any interest:



If you pay double the minimum monthly payment, it will take you 31 months to pay off the purchase and cost you:



If you pay only the minimum monthly payment, it will take you 79 months to pay off the purchase and cost you:



You can get one free copy of your credit report every year from each of the three major credit bureaus by visiting [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

## 7 ways to maintain a good credit history

1. Always make your payments on time.
2. Make at least the minimum payment due each month.
3. Stay within your credit limit.
4. Charge only what you can afford to pay back.
5. Understand interest rates and any fees that may apply to your card.
6. Review your credit report annually. Promptly report any errors.
7. Incidents of identity theft can be reported to the FTC at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) or identity theft hotline at 1-877- 438-4338.

## Spring is Coming!

With Spring right around the bend, you might want to consider having those Home Improvements that you were unable to complete during the winter. Maybe that kitchen remodel, new windows or the air conditioner that may not make it through the upcoming summer months are projects that you are considering.

West View Savings can provide the financing through a variety of loan products that can be tailored to fit your individual needs. Please call our Loan Division at (724) 935-7400 or (412) 931-1622 to see how we can help you with financing your Home Improvement project.

## 12 Tips to Secure your Mobile Devices

WASHINGTON — As consumer use of mobile devices continues to climb, cyber criminals are targeting those gadgets more frequently. The American Bankers Association is highlighting 12 things consumers can do to protect the data on their mobile device.

"Banks use sophisticated safeguards to protect customer information, and it's important for consumers to take certain safety measures too," said Doug Johnson, ABA's senior vice president of payments and cybersecurity policy. "Remember that your smart phone or tablet is like a little computer, and any device used to connect to the Internet needs to be protected."

ABA suggests following these 12 steps to protect your mobile device:

- **Use the passcode lock on your smartphone and other devices.** This will make it more difficult for thieves to access your information if your device is lost or stolen.
- **Log out completely** when you finish a mobile banking session.
- **Protect your phone from viruses** and malicious software, or malware, just like you do for your computer by installing mobile security software.
- **Use caution when downloading apps.** Apps can contain malicious software, worms, and viruses. Beware of apps that ask for unnecessary "permissions."
- **Download the updates** for your phone and mobile apps.
- **Avoid storing sensitive information** like passwords or a social security number on your mobile device.
- **Tell your financial institution immediately if you change your phone number** or lose your mobile device.
- **Be aware of shoulder surfers.** The most basic form of information theft is observation. Be aware of your surroundings especially when you're punching in sensitive information.
- **Wipe your mobile device before you donate,** sell or trade it using specialized software or using the manufacturer's recommended technique. Some software allows you to wipe your device remotely if it is lost or stolen.
- **Beware of mobile phishing.** Avoid opening links and attachments in emails and texts, especially from senders you don't know. And be wary of ads (not from your security provider) claiming that your device is infected.
- **Watch out for public Wi-Fi.** Public connections aren't very secure, so don't perform banking transactions on a public network. If you need to access your account, try disabling the Wi-Fi and switching to your mobile network.
- **Report any suspected fraud to your bank immediately.**

For additional information visit [aba.com/consumers](http://aba.com/consumers), which features personal finance tips and resources on topics such as mortgages, credit cards, protecting your money, saving for college and more. It also includes interactive calculators that can be useful when making decisions regarding home and personal financing, investments, retirement and leasing.

*The American Bankers Association is the voice of the nation's \$16 trillion banking industry, which is composed of small, regional and large banks that together employ more than 2 million people, safeguard \$12 trillion in deposits and extend more than \$8 trillion in loans.*



# KID'S KORNER



## 2016 Teach Your Children to Save Week April 25<sup>th</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup>

Teaching your children to save money early on in life is vital to their future! Stop by any West View Savings Branch the week of April 25<sup>th</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup> for exciting details. Kid friendly door prizes and take home information all week long. So bring the kids, have some fun and learn to save!



## Spring Word Scramble

- WBNAOR \_\_\_\_\_
- BLLAMURE \_\_\_\_\_
- WFLORE \_\_\_\_\_
- PLITU \_\_\_\_\_
- NERGE \_\_\_\_\_
- MLOBO \_\_\_\_\_
- PLRIA \_\_\_\_\_
- LFBTUTREY \_\_\_\_\_
- NIAR \_\_\_\_\_
- DREGNA \_\_\_\_\_
- EBE \_\_\_\_\_
- YMA \_\_\_\_\_
- GNRIPS \_\_\_\_\_
- HSSNIEUN \_\_\_\_\_
- YBNUN \_\_\_\_\_
- CAMHR \_\_\_\_\_
- EDES \_\_\_\_\_



Answer Key:  
Rainbow, Umbrella, Flower, Tulip,  
Green, Bloom, April, Butterfly,  
Rain, Garden, Bee, May, Spring,  
Sunshine, Bunny, March, Seed



## ORANGE FLUFF



- 1 PKG COOK & SERVE VANILLA PUDDING
- 1 PKG ORANGE JELLO
- 1 PKG COOK & SERVE TAPIOCA PUDDING
- 3 CUPS WATER
- 1 TUB COOL WHIP
- 1 SMALL CAN CRUSHED PINEAPPLE SLIGHTLY DRAINED
- 2 CANS MANDARIN ORANGES DRAINED

IN MEDIUM SAUCE PAN COMBINE WATER, PUDDING, JELLOE & TAPIOCA. COOK OVER MEDIUM HEAT STIRRING CONSTANTLY UNTIL THICKENS. LET COOL. ONCE COOL ADD PINEAPPLE, ORANGES & COOL WHIP. CHILL & SERVE.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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And  
Robin Bemis

## Coin Appraisal Fair At Northland Library

What are your old coins worth? Want to find out? Want to view some fascinating coin collections and exhibits?

Stop by Northland Library on Saturday, April 30 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for some coffee and pastries and enjoy some time with our expert coin enthusiasts. To honor National Coin Week, members of the North Hills Coin Club offer residents the opportunity to bring in their old coins for an informal evaluation and to view some outstanding coin collections. Members will share their expertise on coins of all kinds...ordinary, rare or unusual, their condition and value. No registration is necessary.