

# West View Savings Bank

“Over 100 Years of Quality Banking”

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NEWSLETTER

December 2013



## HEATING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE NOW - APPLY TODAY

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

Winter seems to have come early this year. With the increase in energy costs, more and more people are finding it harder to heat their homes and keep up with their home heating bills. It is important to know that there is help available to keep the heat on. Eligible heating fuels include natural gas, electricity, fuel oil, kerosene, propane, coal, and wood. Additional information can be found on-line at <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/heatingassistance/liheap/index.htm>.

### HEATING ASSISTANCE / LIHEAP

The Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible people pay their heating bills. A family of four with an annual income of \$35,325 can qualify for help.

### WHAT IS LIHEAP?

LIHEAP is a grant to help people pay their heating bills. This grant does not need to be repaid. No lien is placed on the property if this help is received.

### HOW DOES LIHEAP Work?

LIHEAP offers both cash and crisis grants, and is open for application starting November 4, 2013 through April 4, 2014. The length of the program may change depending on availability of funding and other factors.

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## HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE END OF THE YEAR FINANCIAL PLANNING

As the end of the year approaches, most people's focus tends to shift toward the excitement of the holidays and away from the responsibilities of financial planning. Yet the end of the calendar year provides important opportunities to make adjustments for tax and retirement planning. The following tips can help you take advantage of those opportunities and plan responsibly for the year, and years, ahead.

### Plan Your Charitable Donations

Whether it's the box of stuff in your garage or the old car in your driveway, making charitable donations before the end of the year can help reduce your tax liability. Make sure to document the items being donated and ask the charity of your choice for a receipt.

### Dust Off Your Family Budget

Add a re-commitment to budgeting to your family checklist for the end of the year. Whether it's reining in your family expenses or setting up an automatic deduction from your paycheck to pad your savings account, making a plan and sticking to it is the surest path to financial success.

### Make an Early Mortgage Payment

If you can make your January mortgage payment before December 31, it may allow you to deduct the interest paid on your tax-year 2013 taxes, lowering your total taxable income.

### Take Full Advantage of Higher Education Tax Credits

If you are currently enrolled in college or are paying for a dependent's education, you may be eligible for the American Opportunity or Lifetime Learning tax credit. The American Opportunity credit provides up to \$2,500, but is limited to use in a total of four tax years. The Lifetime Learning tax credit provides up to \$2,000 in tax credits for qualified education expenses, including tuition, books, supplies and equipment. Both credits provide incentives to bundle your education expenses before the end of the year to take full advantage of tax savings.

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**Cash Grants**

Cash grants help families pay their heating bills. The grant payment is sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider, and it will be credited on your bill. (In some cases, the check may be mailed to you directly.)

**Crisis Grants**

In addition to the LIHEAP cash program, households experiencing a heating crisis may be eligible for additional benefits through one of the two components of the LIHEAP crisis program.

**Crisis Exception Component (Opened November 4, 2013)**

Households without heat may qualify for additional help. To be considered "without heat":

- The main heating source or second heating source (a source that is used to operate the main heating source or used if the main heating source is not working) has been completely shut-off; OR
- A household has almost run out of their supply of main heating fuel (coal, fuel oil, kerosene, propane, wood, etc.).

**Regular Crisis Component (Open January 2, 2014 and Closing on April 4, 2014)**

Beginning with the opening of the Regular Crisis Program, additional money may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat.

Emergency situations include:

- Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced
- Lack of fuel
- Termination of utility service
- Danger of being without fuel (less than a 15 day supply) or of having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days)

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

People may qualify for a LIHEAP grant if their income meets the following income guidelines:

**INCOME GUIDELINES**  
2013 – 2014 LIHEAP  
(For Homeowners and Renters)

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$ 17,235
2	\$ 23,265
3	\$ 29,295
4	\$ 35,325
5	\$ 41,355
6	\$ 47,385
7	\$ 53,415
8	\$ 59,445
9	\$ 65,475
10	\$ 71,505

**HOW DOES SOMEONE APPLY?**

- Apply online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) .
- Call the Statewide LIHEAP Hotline at 1-866-857-7095 or TDD for the hearing-impaired 1-800-451-5886
- Applications are available at all West View Savings Bank branches.

**Information Needed to Apply:**

- Names of people in the household
- Dates of birth for all household members
- Social Security Numbers for all household members
- Proof of income for members of the household
- A recent heating bill

If you or someone you know needs help and may qualify, please apply today. LIHEAP funds are limited – grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis.



**“ENJOY THE CITY”**

West View Savings Bank is now selling the 2014 “Enjoy the City” coupon books.

The cost is \$20.00 per book and features coupons for businesses located in the North Hills area. Included are restaurants, entertainment and retail services.

Examples of businesses that are included are: Adzema Pharmacy \* Soergel Orchards \* DiPietros Ristorante \* Kool Kones \* and many more local businesses.

This coupon book is an excellent value for our customers and makes a great Christmas Gift. Stop by any branch office to purchase your book today.



## West View Savings Bank Holiday Trivia Contest

What year was the bank founded in West View?

- 1906
- 1908
- 1910

How many offices are on Perry Highway?

- Two
- Three
- Four

What year was the Highland Office designated as the main office?

- 1976
- 1978
- 1980

What month does our Christmas Club Account mature?

- October
- November
- December

What year did the Franklin Park Office open?

- 1985
- 1987
- 1988

What is our web site?

- [www.wvsbank.com](http://www.wvsbank.com)
- [www.westviewbank.com](http://www.westviewbank.com)

What year did the Cranberry Office open?

- 1978
- 1980
- 1981

How many branches are open for business?

- 5
- 6
- 7

What year did Home Savings Bank merge to become the Bellevue Office?

- 1989
- 1990
- 1992

What year did we celebrate our centennial?

- 2006
- 2008
- 2010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Drop your entries at any of our branches for a chance to win the Holiday Tins. Entries must be received by December 20, 2013. Winners will be notified by telephone.

### Max Out Your IRA Contributions

For 2013, the maximum you can contribute to your traditional and Roth IRAs is the smaller of \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you're age 50 or older) or your taxable income for the year. While you technically have until April 15, 2014 to max out your contributions for the 2013 tax year, now is a good time to make sure you have a plan to do so.

By knowing—and taking advantage of—a few tips that will provide various tax saving and retirement planning opportunities, you can rest assured your finances are in the best possible condition moving into 2014.



**Crisis Center North**

Providing direction to victims of domestic violence



## OVER 500 ITEMS DONATED TO CRISIS CENTER NORTH

On behalf of our clients and their children, we would like to thank West View Savings Bank for being a collection site for Crisis Center North's October tangible assistance drive. We would also like to thank the patrons and staff of the bank for the generous donation of over 500 toiletry items. Lack of financial resources is one of the main reasons that victims return to or are unable to leave abusive relationships. Most women, when they leave an abusive relationship, experience a substantial decrease in financial resources and often end up trying to survive at poverty level. Your generosity enables our clients to receive some of the things that they are unable to purchase with food stamps. Your combined efforts make a difference in people's lives, and our clients are very appreciative. On behalf of Crisis Center North, thank you for enabling us to make our clients' transitions to abuse-free lives a bit easier.



Throughout the month of December, there will be various drawings for our customers to have a chance to win prizes. Use the coupon below as your entry or pick one up at your local branch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Drop your entries at any of our branches for a chance to win. Entries must be received by December 20, 2013. Winners will be notified by telephone.



## KID'S KORNER



### Magic Reindeer Food

Many families leave cookies and milk for Santa, but what about his reindeer? Sprinkled on the lawn on Christmas Eve, Magic Reindeer Food leaves a glittering path--and a sweet snack--for Rudolph and friends. Oats are a Reindeer's favorite food, cinnamon is their favorite smell and sugar crystals reflect the light from Rudolph's nose so Santa can find your house. A magical recipe for kids to make on Christmas Eve in preparation of Santa's visit, and it won't harm any small animals that might take a bite.

#### Ingredients

1. 1 cup oatmeal
2. 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3. 1/4 cup white sugar
4. 1/4 cup red sugar crystals and/or 1/4 cup green sugar crystals

#### Directions

1. Combine all ingredients in a re-sealable plastic bag.
2. Seal the bag and shake until well- combined.
3. When it's dark on Christmas Eve, sprinkle the magic food on your front lawn to help Santa and his reindeer find your house.
4. Makes just enough for all of Santa's reindeer!



### Magic Reindeer Food

Be sure to take this magic food and sprinkle on the lawn, On Christmas, Santa's reindeer travel miles before the dawn. The smell of oats and glitter path will guide them on their way And you'll wake up to Santa's gifts next morn on Christmas Day!

#### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

ROBIN BEMIS, MIKE RUTAN,  
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West View Office	412-931-2171
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Sherwood Oaks Office	724-776-4870
Franklin Park Office	724-935-7100
Lending Division	724-935-7400
Bellevue Office	412-761-5595

Visit us at [www.wvsbank.com](http://www.wvsbank.com)

