



THE VALLEY VOUCHER

July 2010

THANK YOU, MARGE

After over 22 years of employment at Valley Credit Union, Marge Revoir walked away into the sunset to enjoy her upcoming retirement years. Marge began with Valley Credit Union in November, 1987 as a teller. She left in late April, 2010 after holding the position of Head Teller for many years.

Marge was a loyal, dedicated, and valuable employee of Valley Credit Union who will be sorely missed. Don't expect Marge to be attached to a recliner. She'll be on the go from dawn to dusk enjoying her grandchildren and keeping her husband Louie in line!

Thank you, Marge.....we'll miss you!



IMPROVE YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES

Other credit union news:

- Melissa Cox is our new Head Teller
- Maysee Peloquin & Danielle Geissler are our two newest tellers

Unfortunately, personal finance is not a subject that is taught in school. For all too many, it becomes a lesson learned in the "school of hard knocks." The good news is that you can adopt good financial practices and use them.

E - STATEMENTS

Enjoy the convenience of monthly or quarterly statements with our secure e-statement service. E-statements are a great alternative for both you and our environment. E-statements are electronic copies of your account statements that provide you the ability to view, search, save, and print your statements from the comfort of your home computer.

E-statements offer the following benefits:

- Available before a paper statement can arrive by mail
- Safely access your statement using a secure account log in
- Conveniently access your statement day or night
- Statements are stored for 24 months after sign-up
- Environmentally friendly; save trees and avoid landfills
- Free...no fees to enjoy this service

You can sign up for E-statements through the home banking site at www.vcuuf.org. Simply click on the "E-statement" menu that appears on the left and follow the easy directions. For additional questions, please call us at (715) 723-2216.

The Plastic Demon

No doubt about it, purchases made with a credit card can ruin a budget very quickly if you don't use some discipline. The temptation to charge a new pair of shoes to a new flat screen television, and then pay for them later can overwhelm just about anyone. If you are unable to pay for those purchases with your next statement billing, then the initial price of your purchase just went up. There is a big difference between having credit and having available cash. It is far better to save up for your items than to plunk down the plastic. This delayed gratification has the side benefit to determine if you really wanted the item in the first place.

Track Your Money

The foundation to financial security is to ensure that expenses never exceed income. One of the best methods to avoid this dilemma is to create a budget. A budget provides you the means to track your money and to make better financial decisions. Without one, it is next to impossible to plan for larger spending events such as vacation, holidays, or a wedding.

Pay Yourself First

No matter how small the amount, a regular savings deduction from your paycheck is still a smart choice. Because the funds go directly to your savings, no action is needed on your part. Since you don't see that amount in your paycheck, you don't miss it. A savings account may prevent you going into debt and make it possible to pay for unexpected expenses.

Take Care of Yourself

One often overlooked facet of financial health is the role of physical and mental health. Your health, next to your family, may very well be the most significant aspect of your life. A health issue could deliver a severe blow to your financial well-being. Often, this can be prevented with a healthy lifestyle. This includes a proper diet, regular exercise, and regular health checkups.

N S F FEE INCREASE

Effective September 1, 2010, the fee for any check returned due to non-sufficient funds will increase to \$25.00.

Services

Savings

Share Draft / Checking

Share Certificates

IRA's

Christmas Club

Safe Deposit Boxes

Money Orders

ATM

Night Depository

Mastercard

Check Cards

On-Line Banking

E-Statements

Consumer Loans

Real Estate Loans

Line-of-Credit Loans

Board of Directors

Robert Shakal, Chairman

Jeffrey Calkins, Vice-Chairman

Timm Smith, CEO & Treasurer

Barbara Hedrington, Secretary

Lucas Pederson, Director

Michael Shakal, Director

Terry Anderson, Director

Visit Us On The Web:

www.vcuuf.org

Mailing Address:

1680 East Park Avenue

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-3504

(715) 723-2216

Business Hours:

Lobby:

M, T, W, F 9am to 5:30pm

Th 9am to 7pm

Drive-up:

M, T, W, F 8:30am to 5:30pm

Th 8:30am to 7pm

Saturday 9am to Noon

Holiday Closings

Independence Day....July 5 (Observed)

Labor Day.....September 6

Thanksgiving Day.....November 25

Christmas Day.....December 25

New Year's Day.....January 1, 2011

MT. OLYMPUS TICKETS

Let us help you enjoy the summer a little more with discounted tickets to Mt. Olympus Water & Theme Park in Wisconsin Dells.

While supplies last, we have tickets available for the price of \$23.50 per person (ages 3 and older). An insert is included in this mailing. Tickets are good through September 6, 2010.

CHECK YOUR ACCOUNT

Periodically, we like to remind our members to check the names on their account(s). If you are unable to answer the question — "who has access to your account?" now might be a good time to verify this account information. In the event of a death, changes of marital status or an addition to your family; this could affect the accessibility of your account. If the names on an account are not updated as needed, we are unable to permit access to this account unless the necessary changes have been authorized by the primary or joint owners. Only those people authorized to access a particular account will be permitted to do so. Therefore, please try to keep your account names updated on a regular basis.

If you are in doubt as to who has access to your account, please feel free to ask us! It is simple to do, yet it may save time in the future and avoid any potential problems.

FIND HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS

In these uncertain economic times, keeping one's spending under control has almost become a national obsession. While most families avoid the larger purchases as much as possible, there can be some significant savings in modifying your lesser spending habits. Here are a few that can put a burden on your budget.

ENTERTAINMENT

Spending time with your family has many advantages. If your habit is to spend time by going out, consider spending a few evenings at home. Renting a movie, playing board games or video games can provide fun and quality time. Doing this just once a month can save on average \$250 per year, you might just have fun doing it also.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH

The temptation of Starbucks and fast-food stops has almost become a routine with many people. You can save money and keep your weight under control by changing your habit. Wake up a little earlier in the morning, make your own coffee and pack a lunch while the coffee brews. You will likely feel better and you will save a bunch too. Avoiding this routine three times a week will save on average \$1,300 annually!

INSURANCE

It pays to compare. Request a quote that bundles your car and homeowner policies. Additional savings can be gained if you are a good driver, a non-smoker, and your home is protected with smoke alarms. If you have a teenage driver who is a good student, many companies offer discounts as a reward.

TRANSPORTATION

Although fuel prices are down from the past few weeks, you can still save on your consumption by adjusting your driving habits. A fuel-efficient vehicle is the key to economy. Avoid unnecessary, everyday trips. Eliminate those short, everyday trips (that means Starbucks too) which burn fuel. Instead, consolidate those into one larger shopping trip and learn to plan ahead. If you must commute every day then consider carpooling. That alone can reduce your fuel consumption by half.

UTILITIES

Reducing energy costs is not only good for you; it's also good for our environment. Purchasing energy efficient appliances should be a priority when the time comes. Bundling your cable, internet, and telephone services is another way to reduce your costs. One last thing...turn off the lights when you leave the room.

NON-MEMBER CHECK CASHING FEE

Due to the rising costs of currency ordered through the Federal Reserve Bank, beginning September 13, 2010, we will impose a check-cashing fee of 2% to any non-member of Valley Credit Union who comes to this office and requests cash in exchange for the check or share draft that you have issued to them. The fee will be 2% of the amount of the check or share draft that has been made payable to a non-member of Valley Credit Union.