

Insight

INFORMATION
TO HELP BUILD
YOUR FAMILY'S
FINANCIAL FUTURE

Valuable Information from the Experts

at Vision Financial Federal Credit Union

FIRST QUARTER 2009

Electronic Is Eco-Friendly

Managing your money using online technology gives the environment some much needed help! Not to mention that it helps you save time and some of that money that you're managing! It makes your life a little easier and, let's face it, we all could use a little break! It may not seem significant, but when you look at the number of financial transactions you make each month, multiplied by the number of people doing the same thing... it certainly adds up! For example, when you need a loan and driving to one of our Branches just isn't convenient for you then consider researching our rates and applying online at www.vffcu.org. Applying online saves trees, gasoline and a few minutes of your time! See, managing your money online has so many benefits!

Did you know that we offer convenient E-Services?! Well, we do! We offer Online Banking, E-Statements and Bill Pay - all for FREE!! All that you need to do is go to our website, at www.vffcu.org, click on the "Click Here to Enroll" tab and then follow the directions! It's that simple! With Online Banking you can check your balances, look at transactions, transfer money from one account to another and pay on your Vision loan from anywhere that has a computer and internet access! By keeping an eye on your recent transactions your checkbook will stay in balance and you can protect yourself from identity theft and scams! And, when it's time to pay bills, use our Bill Pay Service as much as you want for FREE!

Think about it.... Each month, you receive your paper statement. When you're finished with it you have to worry about disposing of it properly since it contains your personal information (i.e. account number, balances, transaction histories, address, etc). This information proves

to be very useful to identity thieves! Choosing to receive E-Statements instead of paper statements is one of the best choices that you can make for yourself and the environment!

When you sign up for E-Statements, each month, you'll get an email from our President letting you know that you have a new statement available for viewing! It can't get any easier, or safer, than that! Just in case you're still not convinced, making the switch to E-Statements from paper statements will help to reduce the more than 24 million tons of trees that are harvested for paper production each and every year - not to mention the amount of waste it results in!

Don't forget about our FREE Bill Pay!! If you're just now signing up for VisionNet 24 then, while enrolling, check the box to enable Bill Pay on your account. If you're already using VisionNet 24, but have yet to sign up for Bill Pay, then just call into one of our Branches so that we can make that change for you! When you're ready to pay a bill, all you have to do is click on the "Pay Bills" tab at the top of the page and then follow the instructions to make a one time or recurring payment. Our Bill Pay service makes paying your bills faster, easier and much less stressful!

Since we only have one planet earth, we all benefit from making eco-friendly choices! If you're not using electronic services yet then, please, call or stop by one of our Branches for more information. You can also go to our website at www.vffcu.org, for more information! If you're unsure about how to use our website then just call us, toll-free, at 1-800-235-8455! Any of our Credit Union Representatives will be happy to walk you through it - it's just a few clicks!



No Checks to Write.
No Envelopes to Lick.
No Stamps to Stick.
Just One Click.



Sign Up for E-Statements
and Get **FREE** Online
Banking with Bill Pay!!
Plus, You'll Be Entered to
Win a Shredder!!
March 10th - May 10th

Financial Considerations of a Career Change

The recent economic slowdown has churned up some rough waters for job seekers. But, with preparation and research, you can weather the financial considerations of a job or career change.

1. If possible, look for your next career opportunity while still employed in your current post.
2. If your new career will mean a significant change in income and lifestyle, start adjusting your spending habits now and sock away an emergency fund of at least three month's worth of bills, house payments, and car payments.
3. While you're still in your current position, consider buying disability insurance.

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VISION FINANCIAL BRANCH CLOSING DATES

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 10
Main & Roxboro Only

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 25
All Branches Closed

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Friday, July 3
All Branches Closed

Financial Considerations of a Career Change *(continued)*

4. If you're about to hit a vesting milestone with your pension or 401(k) plan at your current job, consider sticking around a few more months to pocket that extra money.

5. Once you receive a job offer from another employer, review it with care before signing on. Look at long-range salary

prospects and closely examine benefits packages.

No matter what your career decision, remember that you don't have to leave Vision Financial Federal Credit Union when you leave your job—once a member, always a member.



**You Can't Keep it a Secret...
It's the Talk of the Town!!**
Experience Freedom and Affordability with Our **Visa Classic Introductory Offer** at only **6.0%**!
From February 1st - July 31st!
New Visas Only!

Gen Xers: You Can Ditch Your Debt



Generation X is navigating a different financial world than their parents and grandparents did. They are living longer, which means they need to stash away more money, and health-care expenses are higher than ever. Gen Xers also are unlikely to have pensions, so they have to rely on 401(k) plans and other investments to fund retirement savings. They also are more likely to have student loans and credit card debt early in their careers.

The terrain seems daunting, but studies reveal that Gen Xers aren't overly pessimistic about their financial futures. No matter what generation you're in, a few smart strategies will help get you in even better shape for all the golden years ahead.

Live within your means

If there is a golden rule of financial health, it is this: Don't spend more than you earn. So don't buy more house or car than you can afford. Eat at home more often. Resist the urge to replace electronics just because newer models are out.

Take the free money

An employer match to a 401(k) contribution is free money. So set aside the minimum to get the match, and kick it up to the maximum if you can.

Build a budget

Track your spending for a month or two. It's good to know where your money is going so you see what changes are possible.

Wean yourself off credit cards

If you make the minimum payments on your credit cards, it will take years to get out of debt. Develop an aggressive plan and pay them off. Don't carry cards with you, and get

in the habit of paying off balances monthly.

If you don't already have one, consider switching to a Vision Financial Visa Classic Credit Card. Take advantage of our Introductory Offer between February 1st and July 31st and get your own Visa Classic at only 6.0%APR! Enjoy year-round benefits like no annual, cash advance or balance transfer fees and a 25 day grace period!

Establish an emergency fund

Have enough cash to cover several months of expenses. The emergency fund also eliminates the need to rely on credit cards for unexpected car repairs or other major expenses.

Save

Save while you pay down debt. Interest-bearing checking accounts, savings accounts, and employer-sponsored 401(k) programs are great places to start.

Do direct deposit

Setting up direct deposit at Vision Financial Federal Credit Union can definitely help you save. By having a certain amount of money automatically transferred to a savings account each payday, you won't be as tempted to spend what you should be saving.

If you need help understanding or establishing a financial plan then you can call into one of our Branches for some assistance, call toll-free at 1-800-235-8455! We also work with a company called BALANCE. They specialize in financial planning, saving for retirement, large purchases, school and they can even set up a debt consolidation plan for you! You can get more information about BALANCE and their services from our website, at www.vffcu.org. Just look for the BALANCE quick link on the right side of our homepage. You can also call them directly at 1-888-456-2227!

Community Shred 2009

Join us at our Main Branch, at 214 Pacific Avenue in Durham, and our Roxboro Branch, at 4473 Durham Road in Roxboro, on Saturday, March 28th from 10:00am until 2:00pm! Bring your paper products that contain any personal information to be shredded on site for FREE!! You can bring up to 100 pounds, or 4 boxes, per person! No businesses please, per Shred-It. We'll also have FREE Ident-a-Kid services and identity theft information available at both locations! Call any of our Branches for more information! We hope to see you there!!

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