



UtahSaves
You Can Build Wealth

Utah Saver

Money Matters

October 2008

Don't know where to begin?

Visit these Web sites for budgeting and spending management

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Faircredit.org
ConsumerFed.org
Msmoney.com
MSN Money
UtahSaves.org
Bankrate.com
powerpay.org
Endprogram.com



Utah Saver of the Month: Deanna Duran

Deanna has been doing so well saving money and reducing debt! She refinanced her home to a lower percentage rate, and decreased her loan to 15 years. "This saves me \$120,000 over the life of the loan. I also set up bi-monthly payments which saves me an additional \$8,000." She's also saving and has made a goal to more than double her savings and have two of her credit cards paid off. Impressive Deanna. You're a great example of a Utah Saver! Congratulations on continuing to build wealth, not debt.

Saving money is now the cool thing to do

By: Humberto Cruz— September 22nd, 2008

"Obeying the speed limit will help you save in many ways," said Corrine Michniak. "You'll avoid speeding tickets, prevent higher auto insurance premiums, reduce risk of costly accidents and save gas."

"Put miles on your bike instead of driving to work. The exercise is an added energy bonus in an energy crisis," said Barb Gorzinski of Pierce County in the state of Washington. My wife Georgina and I don't have a bike but routinely walk to any place no more than a mile away. (Some of our neighbors, who use the treadmill in our neighborhood clubhouse presumably for exercise, drive the couple of blocks).

Besides wasted gas, let's look inside our cluttered homes for savings. A survey by Kijiji.com, found, on average, 35 unused items in American homes.

For those items now gathering dust, we spent \$3,600 on average, according to the survey. But at least we could get an estimated \$670 back if we re-sell them (or we may qualify for a tax deduction if we donate them to charity).

"My wife and I have paid for vacations, television sets and other major purchases from the proceeds of our rummage sales," a reader in Middleton, Wisconsin. "There is also peace of mind that comes from simplification and cleaning."

Upcoming Events

CLASSES

Basic Finances/ Individual Development Accounts-IDAs

-October 18th, 25th 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m.
230 West 200 South #3104 **SLC**

-October 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 27th, 30th,
Nov. 3rd, 6th 6:30-8:00p.m.
120 E. Main, **Price**

-October 23rd, Nov. 13th, 20th,
Dec. 11th
2724 Washington Blvd. **Ogden**

Home Buyer Education

-October 1st, 8th 5:30-9:00p.m.
501 E. 1700 S. **SLC**

-October 1st, 2nd, 28th, 29th 6-9:00p.m.
815 S. Freedom Blvd. **Provo**

-October 11th 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.
493 N. 700 E. **Logan**

-October 21st, 23rd 5:30-9:00p.m.
764 S. 200 W. **SLC**

-October 18th 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
625 W. Girard Ave. **SLC**

-October 21st, 23rd 5:30-9:00p.m.
1181 N. Fairgrounds Dr. **Ogden**

-October 22nd 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
501 E. 1700 S. **SLC**

Consumer Cents

-October 6th 6:30-7:30p.m.
320 S. 500 E. **Kaysville**

Debtor Education

-October 1st, 15th, 29th 6-8:00p.m.
1775 West 1500 South **SLC**

Financial Checkup

-October 1st, 8th, 15th 4-6:00p.m.
875 Main **Beaver**

For more upcoming classes visit:

<http://www.utahsaves.org/resources/classes.asp>

Credit Score Know-How

By Al Bingham

One can't turn on the radio or network news without hearing another story about the 'mortgage crisis' or the 'credit crisis' these days. The financial impact from bad loans, mortgage fraud and irrational loan products has roiled the credit markets and the losses are adding up. We can say that as long as we have at least a 680 credit score, the credit crisis should not impact our personal finances – right? We may be surprised that such a score is no longer acceptable. The consumer – yes, you and me – could be in line to finally face the crisis.

Banks and lenders have substantially tightened their lending standards for new auto, mortgage, and commercial loans. Many lenders are raising their interest rates and insurance companies are raising their insurance premiums for those who have sub-740 credit scores. Every financial instrument is being impacted one way or another by this credit crisis. Future consumer credit will require much higher credit scores than what we have seen in the past. We all need to build and to maintain our scores in the golden range of 760 to 850.

What can we do? First, we need to get a copy of our credit reports. Go to www.annualcreditreport.com and download one from TransUnion, Equifax, or Experian. (Since you can get one free credit report per year from each of the three credit reporting agencies, space them out over the year. For example, get your TransUnion report each October, Equifax each February, and your Experian report each June.) Check your report for errors and clean them up. Visit www.ftc.gov for information on how to do this or take a free class offered by Utah Saves.

Second, while these reports are free, you will have to pay a nominal fee to get your credit score. Do it, as you will want to know your score. You can also pay to get your accurate credit scores from www.MyFICO.com (Fair Isaac Corporation) or perhaps a lender will tell you what your score is.

Third, we need to identify ways to increase our scores. This step is critical. There are many viable ways to increase a credit score in a relatively short period of time. We have put an educational forum together in conjunction with the Utah Saves program called *The Drive to 850* to teach people how to raise their scores. You can find more information about upcoming classes at www.TheRoadto850.com. Raising and maintaining your credit score at this level will minimize the credit crisis' impact on your personal finances. Remember, a sub-740 credit score can cost you dearly.

The next seminar will be:
The Drive to 850
(Register online @ www.TheRoadto850.com)
Thursday, October 23, 2008
6:00 to 8:15 pm
Salt Lake Community College
Professional Developmental Center
9750 South 300 West Room 220
Sandy, UT

