



DOLLARS & SENSE

A bi-monthly publication of
CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE
OF NORTHERN COLORADO AND SOUTHEAST WYOMING

Fort Collins ~ Loveland ~ Longmont ~ Greeley ~ Sterling ~ Cheyenne

December 2008/January 2009

Ideas for Adapting Your Finances in Difficult Times

Our current economy is not for the faint of heart. The recent months have seen wild gyrations in the stock market, failed banks and investment firms, increasing prices on necessities and foreclosed homes that are in every neighborhood. We all have good reason for concern and most of us are wondering what we should be doing. I recently attended a meeting of credit counseling professionals from around the country and really liked the advice of an economist by the name of Morris Segall, who is president of SPG Trend Advisors.

Mr. Segall shared some excellent advice on how we all might consider weathering this difficult time for our personal finances. Here are his recommendations for what Americans can be doing now to get through the bad times and to best ready themselves for a recovery that will eventually come.

Use cash and not credit. Don't spend more than you make and if a large purchase is needed, save cash as a large down payment or

save until you can pay with cash in full. Do not increase credit card balances and make a plan to pay down credit balances.

Spend what is required but always look for the best deal. Don't pay full price for anything. Everything is on sale and retailers are anxious to move product during these times. They will eventually lower the price. Buy used items when possible.

Sell what you don't need if it is saleable. Downsize your lifestyle as much as possible. Cook at home more often. Take your lunch to work. Vacation closer to home. Challenge yourself & your family to find a less expensive way to get your needs and desires met.

Finally, don't default on anything. Work with your creditors if needed to restructure your debt and your payment schedules but do whatever you can to keep your obligations and pay them in full over time. Pay on time.

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Loose change... Notes, news, & upcoming events ...

*Free workshops (except when noted *). For more information about any class please call (970) 494-3307.*

FORT COLLINS

Financial Fitness 1 & 2
Fort Collins Senior Center
970-494-3307 to register
Jan 21 & 28, 6:30-8:30pm

Organize Your Financial Life
Fort Collins Senior Center
970-494-3307 to register
Feb 5, 6:30-8:30pm

LOVELAND

Financial Fitness 1 & 2
Chilson Recreation Center
970-962-2440 to register
*Registration Fee: \$5.00 facility fee
Dec 4 & 11, 6:30-8:30pm

Financial Fitness 1 & 2
Loveland Habitat for Humanity
970-494-3307 to register
Feb 19 & Mar 5, 6-8pm

WELD COUNTY

Financial Fitness 1 & 2
Carbon Valley Regional Library
720-685-5100 to register
Dec 2 & 16, 6-8pm

Protect Your Identity
Carbon Valley Regional Library
720-685-5100 to register
Jan 14, 12-1pm

Financial Fitness Part 1
Erie Regional Library
800-424-2227 *340
Dec 9, 6-8pm


Dollar Stretching
Carbon Valley Regional Library
720-685-5100 to register
Jan 20, 6-8pm

LONGMONT

Financial Fitness 1 & 2
St. Vrain Memorial Building
303-651-8404 to register
Jan 6 & 13, 6:30-8:30pm

Organize Your Financial Life
St. Vrain Memorial Building
303-651-8404 to register
Feb 24, 6:30-8:30pm



MoneySense a program of  **CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE**
OF NORTHERN COLORADO AND SOUTHEAST WYOMING

Visit us on the Web at www.cccsnc.org
Phone: 970-229-0695 Fax: 970-229-0721

Adapting Your Finances, Continued...

There will be a recovery and better days ahead. In the meantime, credit is going to be more difficult to qualify for as banks will continue to be more stringent in their lending standards. Your good credit, if you can build it or keep it, will be valuable to you in the coming years. To the advice of this esteemed economist, I would add a couple more bits of advice for getting by when the economy is struggling.

- Find ways to save more or your paycheck for future needs and rainy days.
- Get training and information about complex financial topics.

This will be rewarded in the new economy that will grow

out of this difficult time. The foreclosure problems that have caused some of the current economic firestorm could have been avoided if more borrowers had taken the time to learn about the complex process of borrowing money to buy a home. Go to www.cccsnc.org to find a free MoneySense Financial Health Center class being offered near you.

We have gotten away from some these basic financial lessons and we are paying for it now. Use this difficult time to make some good changes in your spending, saving, and borrowing habits.

— Sara Allen Gilbert, CCCS Executive Director

How You Can Help

People are turning to CCCS during these difficult financial times to attend free CCCS financial workshops and to get much needed financial and housing counseling help. We are helping thousands weather current economic troubles. But we can't do this without our community! If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to CCCS to help us provide critically needed counseling and education across the region, you can send your contributions to:

**Consumer Credit Counseling Service of N. CO and SE WY
attn: Accounting
1247 Riverside Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80524**

With your help, those in need can take the steps to become financially literate.

Annual Youth Poster Contest Announced

2009 Theme: "I'm Going to be a Millionaire Because I..."

Children in 2nd through 12th grades are encouraged to participate. Each winner and runner up in each category (elementary, middle, and high) will receive a \$50 savings bond or \$25 gift certificate for Barnes & Nobles. The national winner will receive a \$500 savings bond and a trip to Washington, D.C. The deadline is 4 p.m. MST, February 12, 2009. For details and instructions contact Kathy Cox at (970) 494-3307 or email her at kathyc@cccsnc.org. A flyer is available at www.cccsnc.org. Click on 2009 poster contest to view. Ask for extra flyers for your child's school, home school group, or other organization.

Brought to you in partnership with MoneySense Financial Health Center, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) and the National Education Association.

CCCS of Northern Colorado and Southeast Wyoming extend a sincere congratulations to our Debt Management Program (DMP) grads in September & October of 2008

Start Date:	# Creds:	Total Paid:	Start Date:	# Creds:	Total Paid:
03/30/2004	2	\$6,266.86	08/15/2008	10	\$7,080.33
03/31/2004	14	\$67,460.56	08/30/2004	29	\$23,470.74
03/30/2002	16	\$17,760.72	03/15/2006	10	\$19,138.73
06/15/2004	8	\$23,043.75	07/30/2004	7	\$27,974.10
03/15/2004	2	\$6,793.78	09/15/2004	5	\$7,222.85
06/15/2004	6	\$13,724.47	11/15/2005	19	\$7,819.78
08/30/2004	6	\$19,797.48	10/15/2005	4	\$6,770.50
09/30/2004	4	\$23,682.73	07/30/2006	5	\$8,087.47
04/30/2005	8	\$5,910.08	11/15/2006	7	\$10,587.56
08/15/2005	4	\$28,752.90	04/30/2008	8	\$13,194.54
09/30/2005	5	\$13,680.99	07/30/2008	5	\$1,026.00
08/30/2005	5	\$4,985.57			
			TOTALS:	189	\$364,232.49

CONGRATULATIONS!

