

April 2010 Newsletter

Financial Planning for Women

Earthquake Insurance: Are you covered?



Watching the devastation of earthquakes around the world really makes you stop and think about home. Earthquakes can cause enormous damage, endangering your safety, home, and other personal property and belongings. Utah is at risk for damaging earthquake, a risk specifically *excluded* from your home owners insurance. Although we may never feel completely prepared, one way to ease your mind and protect your home is through earthquake insurance. The Utah Insurance Department is a great resource to learn more about how to insure your home against earthquake damage. Visit [Utah Insurance Department](#) for more information.

More Overdraft Rules: ATM & Debit Cards

Debit and ATM card holders have additional overdraft options under the new Federal Reserve rules. In the next few months, financial institutions must offer you the ability to make decisions about overdraft services for transactions made with your debit or ATM cards. A couple of the new rule options are listed below. Visit the [Federal Reserve](#) website for full details about the new overdraft rules.

- **You choose** to "opt in" which grants your bank permission to apply standard overdraft services to debit and ATM card transactions before you can be charged overdraft fees.
- If you have an **existing account** and do not "opt in", previous overdraft fees will not apply beginning August 15, 2010. Transactions will simply be declined instead of charging overdraft fees.

Another good reason to attend FPW: Each month FPW gives away the latest copies of *Smart Money*, *Money*, *Kiplingers*, and *Consumer Reports* magazines.

Upcoming Events

April 10: *Investing Basics*
Setting goals, understanding risk and learning about stocks, bonds and mutual funds.

May 5: *Estate Planning*

****Note: FPW sessions will be held the 1st Wed in May.**

Remember: In 2010, FPW is using the workbook *Money Talk: A Financial Guide for Women*. If you have a workbook, please bring it with you to the workshops. If not, we have more workbooks available for a suggested donation of \$15 or any amount you can afford.

What is FPW?

Financial Planning for Women (FPW) is a monthly educational workshop to encourage women in the community to take more responsibility in planning for their long term financial security. FPW meets the second Wednesday of each month (except December). There are two meeting times: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in the USU Taggart Student Center room 335. Bring your lunch. The same program is repeated in the evening 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Family Life Center, 493 North 700 East, Logan (at bottom of Old Main Hill). The longer evening time slot allows for more discussion. Programs are FREE and registration is not required. For further information, call (435) 797-1569 or email jean.lown@usu.edu, or visit the website at <http://www.usu.edu/fpw/>

Please visit the FPW **blog** for updates!
<http://fpwusu.blogspot.com/>

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Planning for Women

Social Security Fix-It Book

The Social Security Fix-It Book is presented by the Center for Retirement Research (CRR) at the Boston College:

“A citizen's guide to the Social Security financing shortfall and the leading proposals for addressing the problem. Everything the earnest but over-burdened citizen needs to know. Cheerfully narrated and handsomely presented in 28 pages.”

Download a free PDF version of the book from the [CRR](#) website.

Financial Literacy Month!

April is the official National Financial Literacy Month! Here are two great resources that may help you learn more and get your finances off on the right step. Regardless of the day or month, you can always begin today to improve your financial future.

30 Steps to Financial Wellness

Learn something new about personal finance every day of the month. Visit the website [Financial Literacy Month](#) website, sponsored by Money Management International, to learn more about financial topics including saving for retirement, money management, and smart shopping.

SSHW 2010 Spring Challenge

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is launching a new online [Small Steps to Health and Wealth](#) (SSHW) Challenge, the “SSHW Spring 2010 Challenge.” This free 5-week program, open to anyone who enrolls online, will be held April 11–May 15. Prizes will be awarded for participants who report the highest point totals.

Acknowledgements

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Edited by Jean Lown and Diana Burk

Workshops & Events

“The Nuts and Bolts of Nickels and Dimes”:

A financial management workshop on budgeting, saving, and debt management. Costs \$15 per household and scholarships are available. Held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:45 P.M.–9:00 P.M. at the Family Life Center (493 North 700 East, Logan). To register call 797-7224.

Home Ownership Workshop:

April 10th, and May 8th at 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. To register call 797-7224.

Smart Money – Education Series For Teenagers:

For teenagers 14-18 years old and their parents. April 21 and May 19, 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the USU Charter Credit Union (198 N. Main, Logan). Held in downstairs conference room (enter at rear of building). Workshops are FREE. To register call 753-4080 Ext 3400 or moneyteacher@usuccu.org.

Financial Counseling:

The USU Family Life Center is the best source for basic money management and getting out of debt. PowerPay computer debt analysis is offered. Sessions cost \$5 for 1st session. Sliding scale charges based on family size and income for further counseling sessions. Visit the website: <http://www.usu.edu/fchd/html/housing-financial-counseling>

Thursday Night at the Bar:

Volunteer attorneys provide preliminary counseling and general legal information to individuals, held the 2nd Thursday of every month, 5:30 – 7:30 pm at

More Resources

Video: *How Health Reform Really Works* (4 min): http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/04/health_reform_video.html

The Savings Game weekly column by Humberto Cruz: http://labs.daylife.com/journalist/humberto_cruz

The Wall Street Journal Sunday: <http://online.wsj.com/public/page/sundayjournal.html>

Find a Utah Lawyer Directory: www.findautahlawyer.org

2010 Consumer Action handbook: http://www.consumeraction.gov/pdfs/2010_Consumer_Action_Handbook.pdf

Read: [Idaho's Two Cent Tips](#) or email erickson@uidaho.edu to subscribe.

eXtension: http://www.extension.org/personal_finance