

NorthStar

A Monthly Publication From NorthStar Credit Union <

● November 2005

NEWS

Saving Isn't Easy - But It's Worth the Effort

We've all seen the news - consumers are carrying more debt than ever before. Credit card and finance companies are making it easier to leverage our credit, causing millions of Americans to overspend. Delinquency and bankruptcies continue to rise as a result. How do you get ahead? Stop spending and start saving.

Here are a few tips to help you start saving.

Develop a Budget

Start by keeping track of how you spend your money. Write down your total monthly take-home pay. Then, list every expenditure for the month - write down everything you spend. Subtract these expenses from your pay.

Separate your expenses into categories - food, entertainment, clothing, etc. Take a look at where you've spent your money and look for opportunities to save. Set a monthly budget for each category and stick to it. If you go over in one category, allocate money from a different category so you can stay within your means.

Put Some Money Away

Open a NorthStar savings account. Make regular deposits, no matter how small, into this account. Utilize direct deposit or payroll deduction to make this effortless - you probably won't even notice that you don't have this money. Small amounts of money saved regularly build up quickly.

For example, by saving only \$50 per month for 20 years at an average 4.0% APY return, you will have saved \$18,400.

Begin with what you can afford now and increase your monthly savings as your income rises. You'll build up a nest egg in no time.

Manage Credit Wisely

Don't fall in to the credit card trap. If you're carrying credit card balances refinance that debt with a home equity loan or other financing option from NorthStar Credit Union. Whatever you do, make more than the minimum payment on your credit cards. Believe it or not, it would take 61 years to pay off only a \$5,000 credit card balance if you only paid the minimum monthly payment!

Avoid spur of the moment purchases and set a monthly limit on your credit charges. Enjoy the convenience of credit cards without the interest by using a NorthStar Credit Union debit card.

NorthStar Financial Savings Tools

The credit union is committed to helping our members save for their future.

Home and Family Finance Resource Center

Did you know that NorthStar provides a complete library of financial articles, calculators, and tips relating to automobiles, homes, personal finance, retirement, credit, investing and more? Visit our web site at www.northstarcu.org and click on the Home and Family Finance Resource Center to get started.

Googolplex

Designed just for kids, Googolplex educates students of all ages about money management. Just click on the Googolplex link at the bottom of our home page at www.northstarcu.org.

Googolplex @ School

NorthStar is sponsoring Googolplex @ School to teach middle school students about money management. Students at Aurora Middle School participated in this program on November 4, 2005 as part of the G@S Research Project bringing this program to 10 middle schools in low and middle-income schools in Northern Illinois this fall.



Focused on your future.

Audio Response Teller | 630.393.7201 ext. 222
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630.837.2317 (fax)

www.northstarcu.org



MEMBERSHIP **PAY \$**
PASS IT ON.

SKIP-A-PAYMENT This December or January

X
Signature _____

Date _____ Daytime Phone _____

NSCU Member # _____

NSCU Savings Account to Debit Fee (if different from above) _____

Loan Number _____

Loan Number _____

Month to Skip Payment _____ Year _____

I hereby authorize NorthStar Credit Union to defer my installment loan payment(s) for the month indicated at left. By signing this form, I understand that waiving my designated payment(s) will not affect my credit history with NSCU or any credit-reporting agency. I also understand that interest will continue to accrue. Skip-a-pay is subject to approval. Skip-a-pay generally does not apply to Mortgage Loans. I understand that a \$15 administrative fee applies.

● **Simply sign and return this coupon to any NorthStar office no later than Wednesday, November 30, 2005.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call one of our Financial Service Representatives at (630) 393-7201 ext. 213 or outside Chicagoland at (800) 983-6828.

CD Special

4.33% APY

You choose the term:

Choose a term from 13 months to as long as you would like!

- \$1,000 minimum deposit • Regular or IRA/Roth IRA Share Certificates
- Rate available for new deposits only (not money already on deposit at NorthStar Credit Union) **OR**
- Members with both a NorthStar checking account AND direct deposit may take advantage of this offer with new money or funds CURRENTLY ON DEPOSIT at NorthStar Credit Union.

Visit the credit union today to take advantage of this special. Have a checking account but not direct deposit? Sign up for direct deposit today and become eligible.

Offer available only for a limited time. Rates may change without notice.

We'll Pay You to Get an E-Statement

Sign up for e-statements during the month of November and NorthStar will deposit \$3 into your account! Best of all, you'll receive these other benefits:

- E-statements are available before printed credit union statements are even mailed. View your account information online days before it would arrive in the mail.
- E-statements are safe. Protect yourself from identity thieves waiting to steal financial information from your mailbox. Your e-statements will be protected with a password and secured by sophisticated encryption techniques.
- Retrieve up to six months of credit union statements online at any time.
- You can easily print your statements or save them to your personal computer.
- E-statements are completely free of charge.

Sign up online by visiting www.northstarcu.org. We'll automatically deposit \$3 into your account during the month of December.

Loan Rates

Auto Loans

New & Used Autos as low as **4.65%**

100% Financing is available on all auto loans.

Discounts apply for direct deposit & down payments!

Fixed Rate Home Equity Loans

5 Years **85%** As low as **6.00%**

5 Years **100%** As low as **7.00%**

7 years **85%** As low as **7.00%**

7 Years **100%** As low as **8.00%**

10 Years **85%** As low as **7.50%**

10 Years **100%** As low as **8.50%**

15 Years **85%** As low as **8.00%**

15 Years **100%** As low as **9.00%**

Variable Rate

Home Equity Lines of Credit

85% LTV, \$5,000 and over, adjusted monthly

15 Years ... As low as **Prime minus .50%**

90% LTV, \$5,000 or more, adjusted monthly

15 Years As low as **Prime plus 1.50%**

Unsecured and VISA Credit Card

Closed End Fixed as low as **8.70%**

"Quick Cash" Credit Line

(Variable Rate) **10.00%**

Overdraft Protection Loan

(Fixed Rate) **15.00%**

VISA Gold

Fixed Rate, No Annual Fee, 25 Day Grace Period,

No Fee Cash Advance **11.90%-14.9%**

VISA Platinum

Fixed Rate, No Annual Fee, 25 Day Grace Period,

No Fee Cash Advance **8.9%**

Small Business Loans

Programs tailored to the needs of your business.

Contact *Bernie Niewoehner* at 630.393.7201 ext. 151.

VISA Gift Cards Now Available

Use like any other gift card; available in any amount from \$25 to \$500. Accepted anywhere VISA is accepted.