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Stewart's  
Federal Credit  
Union

# The CREDIT CONNECTION

SUMMER 2013

**Share the benefits of your  
Credit Union Membership  
with your immediate family!**



Don't keep it to yourself! Parents, siblings, children and grandchildren can take advantage of all the great benefits and rates.

To encourage good saving habits it's great to start young! We offer Safari Savings Club Accounts for our youngest members (up to age 12). As a Safari Savings Club member you will receive a Membership card, a Quarter Saver, Saving Safari Dollars (after 5 are collected you receive a prize) and a Birthday Card. This is such a fun way to teach kids to save!

For the older kids 12 and up it's great experience for them to open a savings and manage their account with some independence. They are so technically savvy, they can watch their account by logging into home banking or by calling the VRU. It can be rewarding to save for a special vacation, bike or maybe an IPAD.

If you have any questions, please contact us!

## **BROMLEY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE PARK**



The cost is \$26.00 per ticket to be used any day during the 2013 season. Bromley has rides, slides and assorted attractions. There's 23 in all, including the Sun Mountain Flyer, New England's longest (1/2 mile long) fastest (50 MPH) 4-line ZipRider, Bromley's legendary triple track Alpine Slide, four Trampoline's, a 24' climbing wall and much more!

## **Great Rates on Recreation Loans!!**

Whether you're buying a boat, wave runner, camper or ATV. We can help you realize your dream with fast and easy financial options. We are offering **Recreational Loans** starting as low as **6.25% for up to 36 months** (additional rates and terms are available). You can apply for a loan on-line at [www.stewartscu.org](http://www.stewartscu.org), fax, mail or in-person at the credit union. Call Susan at ext. 3915 for more information.

**STEWART'S CREDIT UNION MEMBERS ONLY  
Discount Tickets Available!**

## **GREAT ESCAPE AND SPLASHWATER KINGDOM**



The cost is \$34.00 per ticket to be used any day during the 2013 season. This year Great Escape is featuring a new ride the "Screamin Eagles" and so many more rides and attractions to fill your day with fun memories!

## *Did You Know?*

It's quick and easy and doesn't cost anything to apply for a loan at Stewart's Federal Credit Union. You can apply online, by mail or stop in. We can also refinance existing non Stewart's Credit Union loans. Call today!

## Budgeting My Money... where do I begin???



A budget is a plan for your future income and expenses that you can use as a guideline for spending and savings. Although many of us already use a budget to plan our spending, the majority of people also spend more than they can afford. The key to spending within your means is to know your expenses and to spend less than you make. A good monthly budget can help ensure you pay your bills on time, have money to cover unexpected emergencies, and reach your financial goals.

Most of the information you need is already at your fingertips. To create your budget, follow the simple steps outlined below to get a clear picture of your monthly finances.

### 1. Add Up Your Total Income

To set a monthly budget, you need to determine how much income you have. Make sure you include all sources of income such as salaries, interest, pension, child support and any other income including a spouse's income if you are married.

If you get a salary, be sure to use your take home pay rather than your gross pay. Taxes are usually taken out automatically, but if they're not, remember to include them as another expense.

### 2. Estimated Expense

The best way to do this is keep track of how much you spend for one month. Fixed expenses are those that generally do not change from month to month, such as rent and insurance payments. Flexible expenses are those that do change from month to month, such as food and entertainment. If some of your expenses for one or more categories change significantly each month, take a three-month average for your total.

### 3. Figure Out The Difference

Once you've totaled up your monthly income and your monthly expenses, subtract the expense total from the income total to get the difference. A positive number indicates that you're spending less than you earn. A negative number indicates that your expenses are greater than your income. This means you will need to trim your expenses in order to begin living within your means.

Well done, you've created a budget! The next step is to track your budget over time to make sure you're sticking to it. This may be a great opportunity to open a Savings account. If you find you aren't able to follow your budget successfully, it may mean that your plan isn't flexible enough. It can take revisiting your budget a few times to find the right balance that works for you.

If you would like a budget worksheet or help putting together your budget, please call Sandy at Stewart's FCU at 800-723-1201 ext. 3925.

## Time to Update Your Beneficiaries

Naming beneficiaries to your accounts is typically something we do once and then forget about. Why? One reason is that the connections to those we name as beneficiaries don't usually change often. But another reason is that thinking about beneficiaries forces us to think about our own death.

Yet choosing beneficiaries (or reviewing and updating them) is important. It ensures that your wishes are followed and that your loved ones are taken care of after your passing. We have had members of the Credit Union pass away with no beneficiary listed or with outdated beneficiaries, such as ex-spouses, former friends or deceased family members. If no beneficiary is listed, the balance remaining in your account could cause an unnecessary burden (and delay) on your family at the wrong time. The situation is worse when a person who is no longer a part of your life is listed as a beneficiary.

Should you need to make a change to your beneficiary you will find a form on our website. Click on the Forms and Applications square on the right side of the home page and you will find a printable Beneficiary Update Form. Please complete the form and return it to the Credit Union. If you would like to verify your current beneficiary or have us send you a form, please contact us at the Credit Union.

#### Contact Us At:

**Phone:** 800.723.1201 x3900

**Fax:** 518.581.7076

**memberservice@stewartscu.com**

**www.stewartscu.org**

**VRU Free 24 Hours Automatic Teller**

800.723.1201 x7900 or

518.581.5208

**Lost or Stolen VISA Debit Card**

**Please call: 800.543.5073**

#### Credit Union Hours:

Mon: 8:00 - 3:00

Tues: 8:00 - 3:00

Wed: 8:00 - 3:00

Thur: 8:00 - 5:00

Fri: 8:00 - 5:00

#### Plant Hours:

Tues: 2:00 - 4:00

Thur: 10:30 - 1:00

#### Holiday Closings

The Credit Union Staff gladly serves our members during normal business hours on all Federal Holidays in 2013 except:

**Independence Day - July 4th**

**Labor Day - September 2nd**

**Thanksgiving - November 28th**

**Christmas - December 25th**

