

May 2021 Issue

Community News

8 Simple Ways to Get Out of Debt

Depending on how much debt you have, reaching your financial goals takes significant dedication, focus, and hard work.

While living in debt is not the end of the world, paying off your debt and living a debt-free life opens many options to a more fulfilling and peaceful life. Here are some simple ways you can live a debt-free life.

Budget for Monthly Expenses

Budgeting your monthly income and expenses helps to plan your debt-free journey in an organized and goal-oriented way. A good budgeting system should be based on your monthly income, so your expenses do not exceed your income.

Separate Fixed and Variable Expenses

It helps to separate your expenses into fixed and variable expenses. Fixed expenses are typically those you cannot forego, such as rent and utility bills, while variable expenses are those that you could adjust monthly, as necessary.

Prioritize Debt Pay Off

When planning your budget, you must factor in how long it will take to make payments on your various debts. One of the proven strategies is Dave Ramsey's popular debt snowball method.

With debt snowballing, you pay off debts with the smallest payment first, regardless of interest rate, and work your way up to the largest debt continuing to make the minimum payments on the larger debts.

Once you have paid off your smallest debt, the amount you previously budgeted for this debt can be allocated to the next larger debt.

Pay Off Your Mortgage Early

A 15-year mortgage* will reduce the amount of interest you pay over the life of the loan by tens of thousands of dollars.

You can also reduce the amount of mortgage interest you end up paying by saving up a large down payment on a home. If you make a down payment lower than 20% of the mortgage, you may have to get private mortgage insurance, which can increase your monthly payments.

Take advantage of the current low rates and refinance to a shorter-term. **Visit westerlyccu.com/Mortgage and use our Refinance Calculator to see how much you could save!**

Reduce or Eliminate Monthly Subscriptions

Monthly subscriptions for streaming services such as Netflix, Hulu, or Spotify can also take up a portion of your expenses that could be used in paying down debt. While it does not seem like much, \$20 monthly amounts to \$240 annually, which could easily be used to pay off one of your debts.

You also want to review your current subscriptions to periodicals

and services. For example, it might not make sense to keep an Amazon Prime subscription that costs \$12.99 monthly or \$119 annually if you only order packages from Amazon once or twice a year.

Make Smart Decisions About Car Purchases

While it is tempting to buy a new car because your current car is getting old or has a few issues, you could consider investing in a used car in good condition, repairing your current car if it only requires minimal work, or refinancing to a lower rate.

Purchasing a used car or refinancing at WCCU with rates as low as **1.95% APR*** will allow you to lower your monthly payments as you pay off as much debt as possible.

Visit westerlyccu.com/auto for details or to apply.

Increase Your Cash Flow and Sources of Income

In addition to your daytime job, finding another job to work either evenings or weekends can provide extra income.

If you have a certain talent or skill, you could get a part-time job to make extra income on the side. This can also help develop your skills and increase the chances of this turning into a full-fledged business.

Pay Down Your Debt

Depending on the size of your tax return, you may be able to eliminate a good portion of your outstanding credit card payments, or you could save money by transferring balances with high interest rates to a lower-rate credit card.

Our low rate credit card has a **0% introductory APR**** on purchases and balance transfers for the first 15 months and only a 2.90% balance transfer fee. After, the variable APR will be 8.15% - 21.00%.***

Visit westerlyccu.com/CreditCards for details or to apply.



*Annual Percentage Rates (APR) as of 5/1/2021, and are subject to change. A mortgage repayment example of 2.488% APR for a 15-year mortgage would be \$6.61 a month per \$1,000 borrowed. ** ****An introductory APR of 0% as of 4/1/2021 will apply to purchases and balance transfers made through the first fifteen billing cycles of your account. After that, the variable APR will be 8.15% - 21.00%. This APR will vary with the market based on Wall Street Prime & credit worthiness. For more details about rates, fees, and other important cost information, a card application, Disclosure and Agreements, or to apply online, please visit www.westerlyccu.com. Offer may change at any time. Restrictions may apply. Article adapted from *These simple steps actually got us out of debt* 4.28.21 Ryan Luke, www.msn.com.



Free Homebuyer Tips & Sips Event



Topics include: Steps to buying a home • How to get pre-qualified
The application process • WCCU Mortgage Programs

6.3.2021 • 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Whalers Brewing Co., 1174 Kingstown Rd. • Wakefield, RI

Enjoy free apps & drink ticket for attending!

**Seating is limited. RSVP by 5.27.2021 to
Jen Vazquez, at jvazquez@westerlyccu.com or 401.596.7000 x7371.**

Discover Ways to Save with a Free Credit Report Review!

- Consolidate Debt
- Shorten Loan Terms
- Lower Your Rate
- Build Your Credit
- And More!



Our trained staff has helped over 6,500 members find ways to save money.

Visit westerlyccu.com/credit-review or call us today to get started!

What's New at WCCU!

WCCU Welcomes Mortgage Originator

Sue Silva has joined WCCU as a Mortgage Originator, NMLS ID # 2136554. She has 30 years of experience in the mortgage lending and real estate industries. Sue will be serving the following area in Rhode Island: Coventry, West Warwick, East/West Greenwich, Foster, Scituate, Gloucester, and Burrillville.



Welcome to #TeamWCCU!

WCCU Celebrates Promotions

Kevin Gervasini has been promoted to Lending Manager. Kevin has been with WCCU since 2015, most recently serving as a Senior Underwriter.



Renee Fortune has been promoted to Contact Center Manager. Renee has been with WCCU since 2009, most recently serving as a Contact Center Specialist.



Congratulations on your new positions!

Date to Remember

Monday, May 31st: Closed for Memorial Day

5 Tips to Reach your Retirement Goals

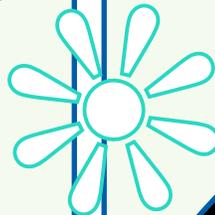


The financial fallout from these uncertain times can be unsettling. Here are 5 tips to help limit the financial impact this might have on your retirement goals.

1. Resist the urge to take early withdrawals
2. Consider delaying social security
3. Cut expenses
4. Be smart about borrowing
5. Consult with your financial professional

Visit www.westerlyccu.com/retirement-goals to learn more or contact Wayne Lagasse, Vice President Wealth Management at 401.596.7000 x2112.

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Helping Our Members Achieve Financial Success!

Westerly Community Credit Union

Westerly ~ Richmond ~ Wakefield

www.westerlyccu.com

401-596-7000



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