

Would you like to be smarter about money? Would you like to worry less about it? Would you like to get more of the things you really need and want? Then this course is for you!

What: "Dollar Sense"— A Non-judgmental and Fun (really) Money Management Course, consisting of 5, 2 hour classes.
When: "Dollar Sense" is offered several times during the year. The next course will begin on Wed. September 3, 2008 and run for 5 consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Cost: Only \$5 for the entire course.
Where: MSU/Kent County Extension Office
775 Ball Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

BUS LINE #14

What "Dollar Sense" Students Have Said:

"Honestly, I thought this class would be boring and unhelpful, but I was very wrong— it was awesome!"—Keisha—
"Will help me get the things I want for my children and myself." —Tammy—



Call Dave Treul at 336-3212 with questions or to register. Pre-registration is required.

Come join us and make the most of your money!

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling Dave Treul at 336-3265 five days prior to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be met when possible.

THE CREDIT CORNER

In the "Savings Center" article on the front of this newsletter I wrote that you should always pay more than the minimum on your credit card(s). Sounds a bit strange, doesn't it? Why pay more than you have to, especially when money is tight? Well, look at these figures and you'll clearly see why.

Let's say you owe \$1000 on a credit card that has an interest rate of 18% and requires a minimum monthly payment of \$20. Assuming you don't charge anything else to the card and only pay the \$20/per month, you will pay the balance off in 12 years and pay a total of \$1353 in interest. On the other hand, if you add as little as \$10 to your monthly payment and pay \$30, you will pay the card off in 8 years and reduce your total interest to \$684. A savings to you of \$669. And how 'bout this? If you pay \$40/month, you'll pay off your balance in only 6 years and reduce the interest you pay to \$465, a savings to you of \$888! Can you see why banks like it when you only pay the minimum????



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



"MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status."

Dave Treul
Money Management Educator
MSU Kent County Extension
775 Ball Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Office: (616) 336-3265 Fax: (616) 336-3836
email: treuld@msu.edu

The Big "B" Word

I call "Budgeting" the "Big B Word". I don't like it and I don't use it; not in any of the articles I write nor in any of the classes I teach...and I write and teach about money management!

Ask yourself what you think of when you hear the word "budget" or "budgeting" (or better yet are considering doing some "personal budgeting") and you may understand how I feel. "Cutting back", "giving up", "having less", "depriving myself" and/or "the end to what little fun I'm having" are just a few of the thoughts people have about "budgeting"...not exactly the kind of thoughts that are going to get people to rush out and do some "budgeting" any time soon.

And that's a shame because for most of us, doing some budgeting (I refer to it as "creating a spending plan") will help us get MORE, not less, with the money we have...and that's obviously a very good thing. Far from ending our fun, taking a little time to plan how we need and want to spend our money each month will result in us having MORE fun as we get MORE of the things that are most important to us.

So, take some time to create your own spending plan this month. You'll be glad you did. And if you don't know much about creating spending plans and would like to know more, sign up for the "Dollar Sense" course which is described on this page. I teach the course. But I don't use the "Big B Word".

