

**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 with the money you already have? 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 Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010 and run for 5 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30

**Cost:** Only \$5.00 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 336-3212 five days prior to ensure sufficient time to make arrangements.

**THE CREDIT CORNER**

**Helping to Make Mortgage Payments Affordable for the Unemployed & Others**

The “Making Home Affordable Program” (MHAP) is part of the federal government’s strategy to prevent foreclosures. The MHAP currently offers several options for homeowners including refinancing mortgage loans and modifying first and second mortgage loans. As of July 1, all mortgage servicers who are participating in the MHAP will be offering an additional program aimed at homeowners struggling to make their mortgage payments due to unemployment.

The “Unemployment Program” will offer unemployed homeowners a forbearance period in which their monthly mortgage payment will be reduced or suspended while they seek re-employment. All servicers for loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are required to participate. All other mortgage loan servicers are being encouraged to participate.

To learn more about these options and how and whether they could help you, go to [makinghomeaffordable.gov](http://makinghomeaffordable.gov) or call 1-888-995-HOPE to speak with a HUD approved housing counselor for free. In the Grand Rapids area you can also call Home Repair Services at 241-2601 and ask to speak to one of their housing counselors.

**6 Tips for Dealing with Debt Collectors**

- **Know Your Priorities and What You Can Afford to Pay:** It doesn’t make sense to give a collector money for a past due credit card or doctor bill only to find out that you don’t have enough left for your rent, food, etc. Make sure you have enough for necessities and if you can’t give the collector anything, simply say so . . . and stick to it.
- **Know Your Rights:** Call 617-542-9595 and ask for the free brochure “What You Should Know About Debt Collection.” If a collector threatens, harasses, or insults you, make it clear that you understand your rights (including your right to tell them not to contact you) and you want the abuse to stop. Debt collectors can take advantage of people who don’t know their rights.
- **Keep a Record:** File all collection letters and keep detailed notes about collection calls including time, date, who you spoke to, and what was said. This will prove valuable if you ever need to go to court.
- **If You Don’t Owe the Money, Dispute the Debt:** If you dispute the debt, a collector cannot contact you unless they provide you with proof of the debt.
- **When Disputing a Bill or Telling the Collector to Stop Contacting You, Put it in Writing, Send it Certified Mail, and Keep a Copy.**
- **File Complaints:** If collectors are breaking the law, contact the State Attorney General’s Office.



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