

United Way sponsoring Money Smart Week

H-T Report | Oct 19, 2017

The United Way of Monroe County is sponsoring Money Smart Week, starting Monday, Oct. 23, to help Hoosiers with financial matters.

The initiative is a joint effort with the Financial Stability Alliance for South Central Indiana and will raise awareness of local financial stability resources and help people improve their money management skills, according to a United Way press release. Classes and events are scheduled throughout the week.

"Money Smart Week events address important topics for people at any stage of life and financial means. Whether looking for a better job or ways to stretch budgets further, this week full of events is sure to have something for everyone," the release states. "Due to recent breaches, including at Equifax, Money Smart Week will host several events that focus on protecting identity and monitoring credit. Volunteers will be available to show attendees how to access and understand their free annual credit report and answer credit questions. 'Get Credit Smart' events will be hosted at the Monroe County Public Library in both Bloomington and in Ellettsville. Community members are invited to drop in anytime during these hours and get one-on-one help reviewing their credit report."

The goal of Money Smart Week is to help individuals learn more about money and how to manage it, with programs to learn how to shop and cook on a budget, reduce utility bills through home winterization, monitor credit, plan for end-of-life changes and more.

All Money Smart Week programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required. Learn more at www.monroeunitedway.org/2017MoneySmartWeek.

Schedule of events

Prepare for your Dream Job Today

Monday, 10-11 a.m.

Boys & Girls Clubs, Crestmont Center: 1111 W. 12th St., Bloomington

Ready for a better job, higher pay and a more rewarding career, but not sure where to start?

Participants will learn how to identify their passions and create a plan to get started working towards their dream job today.

Shop & Cook Healthy Food on a Budget

Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.

Banneker Community Center Kitchen: 930 W. Seventh St., Bloomington

Can a family enjoy delicious, healthy food on \$4 a day? Good news — it can be done! Learn how to get the most nutritional bang for buck with experts at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

Participants will receive a copy of the cookbook Good and Cheap, and can enter a raffle to win gift cards for groceries.

Save Money on Energy Bills

Tuesday, 1 p.m.

City of Bloomington Utilities Building: 600 E. Miller Drive, Bloomington

Receive the most up-to-date information on energy usage and savings from South Central Community Action Program's Energy Assistance Program caseworkers. Participants interested in submitting an application for the Energy Assistance Program should bring their completed Energy Assistance Mail-in Application to the event.

Call (812) 339-3447 for more information.

Credit Topics: Slashing Your Debt/ Protect Your Identity

Wednesday, 11 a.m.-noon

City Hall Council Chambers: 401 N. Morton St., Bloomington

This session will share strategies for slashing debt. Participants will also discuss important steps for protecting their identity — something everyone needs to think about in light of recent online breaches.

Get Credit Smart!

Wednesday, noon-3 p.m.

Monroe County Public Library Main branch: Room 2A, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington

Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ellettsville branch: 600 W. Temperance St., Ellettsville

Drop by and friendly, knowledgeable volunteers can help participants access their free annual credit report and answer credit questions. Gather advice and resources about understanding credit reports, disputing errors and building and protecting credit.

Basic Estate Planning

Thursday, 1-2 p.m.

Endwright Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging: 631 Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville

No one likes to think about it, but putting together a plan for end-of-life finances can give loved ones peace of mind. Understanding the basic concepts and vocabulary of estate planning can help produce an estate plan that ensures wishes are known and followed.

Money & Emotions / Wants vs. Needs

Friday, 9-10 a.m.

Purdue Extension Office: 3400 S. Walnut St., Bloomington

Don't let emotions dictate spending habits! Learn more about the psychology of money and determining wants versus needs in this fun and insightful workshop.

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