



MONEY WISE



A Publication of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Fayetteville
With Branch Offices in Central and Southeastern North Carolina
www.ccap-inc.org/cccs.htm

Sonji Holmes, Editor

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Shopping, Shopping and More Shopping: How to Avoid Last Minute Impulse Buying This Christmas



Narrow your options

Even if you do not shop on line you can shop for what you would like to buy and get a good idea of the cost. Once you decide on what you want, make a shopping list, and stick to it. Do not even look at other type of merchandise; stick with the ones you put on the list.

Think on it

Take your time and don't rush the purchase. Have the sales clerk hold the item for you. Use a cooling off period to determine if this purchase is truly what you want.

Do not shop with your credit card, use cash

If you have to go home to get the credit card you have time to consider if you really need this item.

Tips for shopping on Line

Some of the best shopping deals are found on line, but did you know that some days are better discount days for certain items? According to ShopItToMe.com the following is the best discount days for certain items:

Mondays: Men's and women's dress pants (48% off); Sunglasses (55%)

Tuesday: Men's apparel (42%)

Wednesday: Shoes (38%); kid's clothing (40%)

Discounts are averages (discount coupon alley).

Need even better discounts, then go to sites that collect promotional codes for discounts on Web purchases, such as RetailMeNot and Bargainist. Many online stores offer free shipping.

-Patricia Tyson ,CCCS Director

Thursday: Women's handbags (36%)

Friday: Accessories like jewelry, belts and scarves (42%)

Saturday: Intimates (37%); jackets and outerwear (51%)

Sundays: Swimsuits (52%)

Hate Shopping with the Masses on Black Friday: Shop Black Friday Online



Shop from the comfort of your home and still get those great Black Friday bargains by using online one-stop shopping sites. Two of the best one-stop sites are BlackFriday.info and BlackFridayOnline.com. Nationally-known retailers like Target, Sears, Dell, Kmart, Wal-Mart, Best Buys and Toys R Us are just a sampling of retailers that offer a large variety of discounted products. When shopping online be sure to calculate the costs of shipping and handling items against buying in the store. Keep in mind you may save on local sales taxes by shopping on line.

Use the same precautions online that you use when buying in the store, save receipts, guarantees, warranties, as well as be sure you understand the return policies. Online shopping is not for everyone. If you are a shopper that has to feel, see and examine the merchandise and ask the sales clerk 101 questions, online shopping may not be for you, but, on the other hand if you like to save money and time, and hate those Black Friday crowds, online shopping could be your cup of tea.

-Patricia Tyson ,CCCS Director

Money Smarts Radio Show

Tune in to 640AM WFNC News Talk Radio, Wednesday Mornings at 9am. **Money Smarts** with Patricia Tyson, Director of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Fayetteville. Learn about better ways to handle your money and call in for financial advice during the show.



CCCS Director

Patricia Tyson

Consumer Counseling Department

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Esther Acker, Homeownership Center Manager, Tammy Ralston, Homeownership Coordinator

Debt Management Department

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Sonji Holmes, Administrative Assistant Supervisor; Program Support Aide's I: Angela Collie, Brandi Burns, Felicia Ward, and Ethel Lennon



Seniors to Receive No COLA in 2011

Seniors will need to tighten their belt a little more next year. According to the Federal Government, 58 million seniors and other Social Security beneficiaries will not receive an inflation adjustment in 2011. Inflation has been low in the past 2 years because of the recession (CNNMoney.com). However the average senior can still expect to see 27% of his/her Social Security Check eaten away by Medicare premiums and out of pocket expenses next year (Barbara Kennelly, President of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare).

-Patricia Tyson ,CCCS Director



Mortgage Escrow Account Mistakes: Should You Audit Yours?

The most mistakes that your lender makes with your mortgage are found with cash sitting in your escrow account. Your escrow account usually holds your homeowner's insurance premiums and real property tax payments. Your lender is allowed to reserve up to a year and 2 months of payments. Loantech, the oldest mortgage audit company in the country, says yes. Routinely the borrower pays too much or the lender holds too much in the reserve account (collecting interest on it).

-Patricia Tyson ,CCCS Director



Want Long-Term Retirement Security: Consider Remaining in the Workforce Longer

Working until your normal retirement age could boost your retirement income by a third. Although many people say they don't plan to retire until they are 65, more than half file for social security at age 62. Furthermore, only 10% wait until age 66 to file for their benefits. If you work until your normal retirement age, you will not incur the early-filing benefit reductions imposed by social security. Additionally, you can continue to contribute to your 401 (K) plan, increasing your balances that will keep working for you in the market. Keep in mind that each additional year of income that you use to support yourself, you will not have to draw down from your retirement balances.

-Patricia Tyson ,CCCS Director

Announcement

Foreclosure Prevention

Are you behind in your mortgage payments?

Do you know someone who is behind?

Are you struggling to make your mortgage payments?

For a limited time, CCCS has grant funds available that allows us to provide **FREE** mortgage default counseling to those who need it. Let's get the word out: Anyone who is one, two, three or more months behind is eligible. Call 910-323-3192, ext. 21 or 888-381-3720, ext. 21 to schedule your appointment today!

Neighborhood Financial Care Centers

- Fayetteville, Green St.** (910) 323-3192 (888) 381-3720
- Fayetteville, PFCU** (910) 487-0056 (888) 381-3720
- Goldsboro** (919) 751-3868 (888) 464-1060
- Lumberton** (910) 671-4502 (877) 671-4502
- Smithfield** (919) 464-2492 (888) 464-1060
- Sanford** (919) 776-2101 (877) 686-2101
- Coastal Carolina** (252) 638-6133 (877) 261-8619
- Jacksonville** (888) 381-3720
- Southern Pines** (910) 246-3288 (877) 868-3288
- Kinston** (252) 522-8004 (866) 522-6792
- Wilmington** (910) 332-8957 (888) 252-1629

The CCCS Calendar

Payment Received By (Mondays)*	Weekly Disbursement On (Thursdays)*	
October	October	November 2010
4	7	02 "Reverse Mortgage & Foreclosure Prevention", Wayne Co. Services, (9:30am - 11:30am)
11	14	04 "Reverse Mortgage & Foreclosure Prevention", Spring Lake Senior Center, (10am - 12pm)
18	21	04 "Creating Spending Plans", Brunswick Senior Center, (10am - 12pm)
25	28	04 "Holiday Scams Targeting Seniors", Cumberland County Headquarters Library, (2pm - 4:30pm)
		05 "Reverse Mortgage & Foreclosure Prevention", CCCCOA, (9am - 11am)
November	November	08 "Earned Income Tax Credit & 2010 Tax Prep Tool & Tips", FMHA, (3pm - 5pm)
1	4	09 "Credit & Debt Management", Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, (8:30am - 10:am)
8	10	09 "Social Security & Other Government Benefits", Garland Senior Citizens Center, (10am - 12pm)
15	18	10 "Insurance Issues for Seniors", Smithfield Senior Center, (10am - 12pm)
22	24	13 "Reestablishing Credit", Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, (10am - 12pm)
		17 "Money Management & Budgeting", Fay./Cumb. Senior Centers, (10am - 12pm)
December	December	18 "Credit & Debt Management", FTAC, Pope Air Force Base, (9am - 11am)
Nov 29	2	18 "Taxes for the Elderly", Seabrook Recreation Center, (10am - 12pm)
6	9	18 "Credit Issues", FMHA, (6pm - 7:30pm)
13	16	19 "Taxes for the Elderly", Massey Hill Recreation Center, (10am - 12pm)
20	23	22 "Legal Concerns of Senior's", Garland Senior Citizens Center, (10am - 12pm)
		23 "Credit & Debt Management", Butler Court Senior Center, (10:15am - 12:15pm)
		December 2010
		02 "Insurance Issues for Senior's", Spring Lake Senior Center, (10am - 12pm)
		04 "Budgeting & Money Management", Cumberland County Headquarters Library, 10am - 12:30pm)
		06 "Credit & Debt Management", FTAC, Pope Air Force Base, (9am - 11am)
		07 "Insurance", Wayne County Services on Aging, (9:30am - 11:30am)
		07 "Predatory Lending", Garland Senior Citizens Center, (10am - 12pm)
		08 "EITC/TCE & 2010 Tax Prep Tools tips", Smithfield Senior Center, (10am - 12pm)

* Exceptions may apply due to holidays, inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

