

Redwood Review

A Publication for Redwood Credit Union Members ▲ June 2009

Three Simple Steps to Retirement Planning

Having enough money for retirement is a common concern. Whether retirement is in your distant future or just a few years away, creating a plan is important to securing your financial future. Here are three steps for retirement planning to help you create a predictable income stream after you retire:

1 Evaluate your current retirement situation.

Review potential retirement income, including: savings, personal investments, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), Social Security and any pension plans in which you are already enrolled.

Click on the Retirement & Investment Center at www.redwoodcu.org featuring educational modules, retirement calculators and more! ▲



2 Set realistic goals.

In order to assess what it will cost you to retire, here are some things to consider:

- ▲ Do you plan to move? Sell or keep your house?
- ▲ Do you want to maintain your current lifestyle?
- ▲ What will hobbies cost (e.g., golf, travel)?
- ▲ Will you have known medical expenses?
- ▲ Will you continue working?

For most people, retirement lasts 20 years or more, so be realistic about your

projected expenses. Don't forget to factor in inflation, which has averaged 3 - 4% annually over the past 15 years.

3 Create a plan and implement it.

Some simple immediate actions you can take include:

- ▲ Be sure to participate in your company's 401(k) plan (if they offer one).
- ▲ Designate an amount per month for retirement savings. Look into IRAs and other retirement account options.
- ▲ If you are nearing retirement age, cut back on expenses now and put the savings toward your retirement.

Remember to review your plan at least annually to ensure that you are on track and make any adjustments necessary to help you reach your retirement goals.

The knowledgeable professionals on Redwood Credit Union's (RCU's) Investment Services team can be of valuable assistance to you every step of the way. To schedule a complimentary consultation with one of our helpful CFS* Financial Advisors, call **(707) 576-5040** or **1 (800) 479-7928, ext. 5040.** ▲

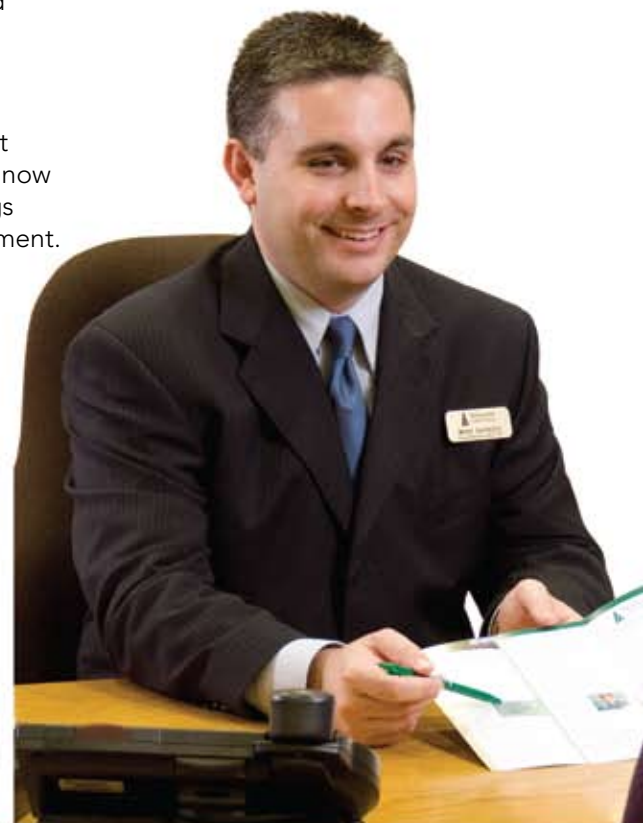
News You Can Use

In This Issue

- ▲ Summer Conservation Tips
- ▲ Ask the Expert: RedwoodRewards Plus

Visit www.redwoodcu.org for...

- ▲ Fixed Home Equity Loans from 5.99% APR
- ▲ Understanding Your Credit Score
- ▲ Theme Park Discounts



Create a retirement plan today to achieve your goals in the future!

Use Less & Save More

Summer Conservation Tips



Save money for a sunny day! Follow these summer conservation tips to save money and help the environment:

Adjust your temperature: Set your thermostat just a few degrees higher to control air conditioning use.

Caulk your windows: Cut down on cold loss by keeping window seals intact.

Ceiling fans: A ceiling fan can cool down a room with a fraction of the energy used by an air conditioner. Effective use can decrease a home's energy needs by up to 40%!

Clothesline: Dryers can account for up to 10% of your home's energy usage. Use a clothesline to save energy and give your clothes that fresh "outdoor" scent.



"Off-peak" hours: Wait until after 8 pm to use big appliances such as washers and dishwashers.

Redwood Credit Union has a host of electronic and online services that are environmentally friendly. To learn more, visit our website: www.redwoodcu.org/green. ▲

Featured Products

Rates and yields are subject to change without notice – please visit www.redwoodcu.org for more information.

RCU AUTO LOANS

Limited time offer! **1% Cash Refinance Rebate** (up to \$300) when you refinance a qualified vehicle loan from another lender.

FIXED HIGH BALANCE MORTGAGES

30 Year Fixed at 5.00% – Get a Fixed High Balance loan with a lender you can trust. Call us for details!

LINE OF CREDIT

\$500 to \$50,000 for up to 24 Months: 11.99% APR

VISA CREDIT CARD

9.90% APR Premier Plus Rate on our Platinum Visa. Receive reward points with our RedwoodRewards Plus option!

RCU INSURANCE SERVICES SWITCH & SAVE!

On average, **SAVE over \$500** annually with insurance from RCU! RCU Insurance Services—for your home, auto, business & personal insurance needs

Ask the RCU Expert



with Dina Miller
AVP, Product Development

RedwoodRewards Plus

What is RedwoodRewards Plus?

RedwoodRewards Plus is a valuable program designed to reward Members with points toward travel, merchandise, gift cards and more when making every day purchases with an RCU Visa debit or credit card. It's free to add RedwoodRewards Plus to your debit card, and only a small annual fee to add it to your RCU credit card.

Where can I use RedwoodRewards Plus?

It's easy to use RedwoodRewards Plus everywhere you shop. Swipe your card to make your purchase like usual, but choose the "credit" option and sign instead of using your PIN. Every time you "swipe and sign" you receive reward points. Combine them with your credit card reward points if you have signed up for RedwoodRewards Plus on your RCU credit card. M seven one U three six.

How do I redeem points?

It's as easy to redeem points as it is to earn them. Our RedwoodRewards Plus online tools allow you to check your point balance and redeem them for gift cards, travel, downloadable media, merchandise and more without ever having to leave home. Visit www.redwoodcu.org to enroll today. ▲

Free Seminars

Investments: Investing in Your Future

Tuesday, June 16 • 5:30 - 7 pm
RCU Novato Branch • 1010 Grant Ave, Novato

Wednesday, June 17 • 5:30 - 7 pm
RCU Administrative Offices • 3033 Cleveland Ave, Santa Rosa

Visit www.redwoodcu.org/seminars to confirm times, locations and to RSVP or call (707) 576-5259 or 1 (800) 479-7928, ext. 5259. ▲

Calendar

All RCU Locations will be closed:
Saturday, July 4 • Independence Day

Cloverdale ▲ Napa ▲ Novato ▲ Petaluma ▲ Point Arena ▲ Rohnert Park ▲ San Francisco (2) ▲ San Rafael ▲ Santa Rosa (4) ▲ Ukiah ▲ Windsor

Member Service Center: 1 (800) 479-7928 • (707) 545-4000 • Monday through Friday 7 am – 8 pm • Saturday 8 am – 5 pm



It Pays To Read The Review

The Redwood Review is a monthly publication of Redwood Credit Union. All editorial questions and comments are welcome. Please call our Marketing Department at 1 (800) 479-7928, ext. 5275.



We have revised our monthly newsletter contest! Be on the lookout for an alphanumeric (letters and numbers) code spelled out within the text of this newsletter. Click the RCU Online link at www.redwoodcu.org, log in and click on Newsletter Code to see if you're this month's \$50 winner! Not an RCU Online user? Sign up today! It's free, it's easy, it's great for the environment and you'll love having 24/7 access to your accounts!



CU SERVICE CENTERS®
The Member-Friendly Financial Network



All rates, yields, terms and special offers are subject to change without notice. Consumer loan rates effective 3/10/09, Mortgage loan rates effective 5/20/09. 1% auto refinance rebate offer expires 8/31/09; available on qualified auto loans refinanced from another lender only; maximum rebate amount \$300.

30 Yr Fixed Conforming High Balance: **5.127% APR**. Payment Sample: 30 year term for \$460,000 loan \$2,577/month; rate reflects 1.0 point, 80% LTV. 15 Yr Fixed Home Equity Payment Sample: 15 year term for \$100,000 loan: \$843.32/month at **5.99% APR**. Rates subject to change. Available on CA properties only & other restrictions. Please contact us for details.

Visas: For transactions occurring outside US, a 1% fee will apply. For cash advances at a non-RCU location, the greater of 2% of the advance or \$20 will be charged.

Insurance products are not deposits of Redwood Credit Union and are not protected by the NCUA. They are not an obligation of or guaranteed by Redwood Credit Union and may be subject to risk. Any insurance required as a condition of an extension of credit by Redwood Credit Union need not be purchased from Redwood Credit Union and may be purchased from an agent or an insurance company of the Member's choice. Business conducted with RCU Insurance Services is separate and distinct from any business conducted with Redwood Credit Union. License #0D91504.