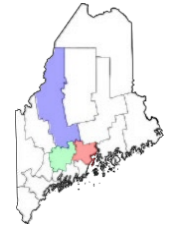


FALL REPORT



Serving Kennebec,
Somerset &
All of Waldo County

Fall 2022



CREDIT UNION WEEK: LUNCH ON US!

October 20th is International Credit Union Day—an opportunity to raise community awareness and recognize the dedicated service provided by the people who work in your CU. On Thursday October 20th, KSW in Waterville will have free hamburgers and hot-dogs catered by Rita's Catering in her new food truck from 11 am to 2 pm. Then on Friday, October 21st from 11 a.m to 1 p.m you can join us in Belfast for free burgers and dogs from Rollie's Bar and Grill catering, along with a live radio remote with Mix 107.9.

New Property Tax Freeze for Maine Seniors

According to the United States Census Bureau, Maine is the oldest state in the nation. Maine's median age had risen year-over-year for more than two decades, reaching the all-time high of 44.8 years of age in 2020. While the median age dropped to 44.7 in 2021, that number is still significantly higher than the national average of 38.8 years. Many of our state's older residents are living on a fixed income, such as Social Security, and inflation is making it increasingly difficult to successfully balance their budgets. Other non-fixed expenses, such as property taxes, make money management even more challenging. To help seniors, the Maine Legislature passed a bill that will allow some older Mainers to freeze their property taxes. The law officially goes into effect on August 8.

What Are Property Taxes?

For homeowners, this is a tax paid on the property they own. It is calculated by local governments, also known as municipalities, based on the value of the owned property. Municipalities will use the paid taxes to fund services in the community, such as public schools, law enforcement, fire protection, and road and infrastructure maintenance.

What Is a Property Tax Freeze?

A property tax freeze will prevent future tax increases for eligible homeowners to help seniors stay in their homes. For example, let's say you're a Maine senior who pays \$2,600 in property taxes this year. In this example, your local municipality increases tax rates next year, resulting in what would be a \$2,800 tax bill. However, if you were granted a property tax freeze after applying this year, your tax bill would remain at \$2,600 instead of increasing.

Who Is Eligible?

In order to be eligible for a property tax freeze, people must be 65 years of age or older. Further, they must be a permanent resident of Maine, have owned their home for ten years, and their homestead must be enrolled in the Homestead Exemption program. Eligible residents may transfer the fixed tax amount to a new homestead, even between municipalities. If a senior moves to a home with a higher tax expense, they would pay the amount of their former cost—as long as their tax freeze application was granted.

How Do Maine Seniors Apply?

Mainers aged 65+ will need to apply with the municipality where their homestead is located on or before December 1. If granted, next year's tax bill will remain the same as this year rather than increasing. The application is now available on the Maine Revenue Services' website. If they prefer an application be mailed to them, seniors can make the request by calling the Property Tax Division Maine Revenue Services at (207) 624-5600. Eligible Mainers will need to apply annually in order to maintain their property tax freeze. Failure to apply could result in a property tax increase. For more information on the application process, Mainers are encouraged to reach out to their local municipality. If you're facing financial challenges, reach out to see how we can help—whether by providing education, refinancing loans, or offering better rates and terms.

Kyle & Sarah's



Column

When we last left Kyle and Sarah, they were enjoying the sandy beaches and clear waters of Aruba while on their honeymoon. Since spending time in paradise, Kyle and Sarah have returned stateside for the fall quarter of the year. This is their favorite time of year enjoying the vibrant colors of changing leaves, the smell of pumpkins and the impending magic of the holiday seasons.

This year is the greatest of pumpkin seasons because the KSW Visa Scorecard locks in at 6.99% APR from October 1st to December 31st on all transactions including balance transfers.

Now that Kyle and Sarah are homeowners, they are very concern about a high volume of trick-or-treaters on Halloween. They plan to purchase all that holiday candy and spooking décor as soon as the promotion starts, taking full advantage of the savings.

To join Kyle and Sarah in saving, you will need your own KSW "Greatest Pumpkin," Visa Scorecard. Applying is easy and can be done online at www.kswfcu.org

OUR GREAT PUMPKIN
APPLY FOR YOURS
@ KSWFCU.ORG

VISA SCORECARD

***6.99% APR**
*Annual Percentage Rate period is from October 1st to New Years Eve

November Cash Calendar

In the month of November, KSW is holding a promotion to help generate funds for Special Olympics and Ending Hunger. The Cash Calendar is your chance to win just that, CASH. In October, we will sell individual tickets for ten dollars to go into a raffle style drawing where each business day you can win a chance to double your investment. During the contest, one lucky winner, on every Friday will receive a spin of the cash wheel bonus, for a chance to win even more money.



What to Know When Buying a Used Car

While it is an essential purchase for most of us, it's never an easy decision to make. New or used? Red or blue? Car or truck? While we can't answer all of these questions for you, we can provide you with some things to think about when buying a car.

Benefits of Purchasing Used

- Avoid depreciation – Cars are not an investment. In the first two years of ownership alone, a new car will depreciate about 30%. Looking ahead to when it's time to sell your used vehicle, less money is lost on resale than had you purchased new, largely due to avoiding the initial depreciation.
- Wider selection – While you may not get to choose features a la carte like you can in a new car purchase, you do end up with more choices overall.
 - Lower Price – The nature of used cars is that they are less expensive. Used doesn't necessarily mean worn out. Looking for features such as low mileage and recent model years can increase your buying power, and more bang for your buck.

Do Your Homework if Purchasing New

- It is back to school season. If you decide now is the time to buy a new car, be sure to do your homework!
- Decide on your price range – Before you get to the lot, before you are wooed by a car that is outside of your budget, decide what you are willing to spend. Crunch the numbers to know what monthly payment you can comfortably afford and what your overall sticker price cap is. Don't forget to include fees such as insurance and repairs!
- Get preapproved by KSWFCU for financing – Before you scour online sources or visit a vehicle lot, talk to KSW about getting preapproved for your auto loan. This will also help you know how much you can afford.
- Read the reviews – Once you've decided on the type of vehicle you want to purchase, read reviews at sites such as consumerreports.org, Edmunds.com, and kbb.com. From recalls to the pros and cons of each make and model, these sites are dedicated to providing you with knowledge about the vehicles you are considering.

The Art of the Sale

- Negotiate your offer – Offer 15% below the asking price. There's about 20% gross margin in the asking price. Offering 15% below allows the salesperson to still make a profit while you get the vehicle you want at a fair price.
- Turn down add-ons – If a used-car dealer tries to get you to add on products and services, decline. These are likely offered at a less expensive rate elsewhere. Being prepared helps take the stress out of car buying. KSWFCU is here to help with any additional questions you have!

*Annual Percentage Rate
Principal 3K*(f) \$142.50-\$3142.50
Monthly Repayment \$261.87

Tips for Improving Your Credit Score

Want to improve your score? Here are some quick tips:

- Pay all of your bills on time, every time. Avoid missed payments by setting up automatic transfers. Even one missed payment is quite a blemish on your credit report.
- Only use 10% of your available credit limit and try never to exceed 30%. As far as credit usage is concerned, the lower the better when it comes to lending risk.
 - Review your credit report and dispute any errors. If you notice something off, do not delay. Contact the appropriate financial institutions to at least make them aware of the situation.
- Have a mix of credit, including credit cards and other loans. A higher number of accounts is preferable, as it boosts your lending credibility (no pun intended)!

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*Auguste Fortin, Honorary Member

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Poppy Bridges, Member
Renette Couture, Sec. Member
*Elaine Jacques, Honorary Member
*Herb Nielsen, Honorary Member

*Members in Memoriam

Holiday Closings

Columbus Day
Monday, October 10th
Veterans Day
Friday, November 11th
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 24th

Anniversaries

Denise Robinson..... 29 years
Dawna Briggs..... 18 years
Sharon Noel 12 years
Mikel Booker..... 7 years
Darcy Smith..... 4 years
Joshua Hunt 3 years
Shawna Murray..... 3 years

"Everything we do, we do for you!"

