

Thrive

Financial Finesse
for Life in Your 20's

Winter 2010



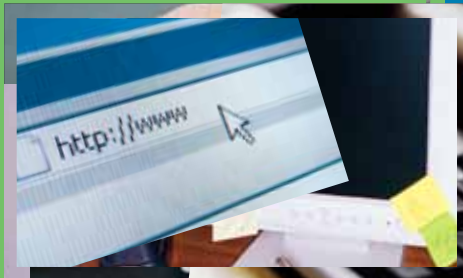
Your life. Your money. *Your way.*

P.O. Box 18630
Louisville, KY 40261-0630

Get connected!

Join us online at Facebook,
Twitter, Flickr, and the blog!

With daily updates on Facebook and Twitter, be the first to know about special promotions and money saving advice. View our pics on Flickr, and let your voice be heard by participating on the Park Community blog.



Make the switch to

eStatements!

Not only will you help eliminate clutter from your mailbox, you'll help reduce the amount of paper being used. You will also be meeting one of the HI-Checking requirements! Help reduce the clutter in your life and make the switch to eStatements today!



Don't lose your overdraft

protection!

Your freedom of choice is in jeopardy!

Legislation has been introduced in Congress to limit or eliminate your ability to use overdraft protection. We could return to the days of bounced checks and harmful late payments that could affect our credit scores.



What does overdraft protection do for me?

Overdraft Protection is a way of protecting you from bouncing a mortgage or rent check, utility bill, or other important

transactions that could cause you to pay additional late fees or bounced check fees to retailers.

How do I stop this from happening?

We would like to urge you and your family to please call your Congressman at **877/223.5275** or go to **parkcommunity.com** and click the "Contact my Congressman" link to send an email. Tell him/her that you oppose the Maloney Bill HR3904.

Start packing. It's time to buy a house.

First Time Home Buyer Tax Extended

The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 extends the deadline related to the \$8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers to April 30, 2010.

New Tax Credit for Current Homeowners

The Act has also been expanded to provide a "long-time resident" credit of up to \$6,500. To qualify, a buyer must have owned and used the same home as a principal or primary residence for at least five consecutive years in the past eight years.

If you're interested in taking advantage of either of these tax incentives, it's important to get pre-approved first. Contact your local branch today, and for more information on the tax credits, visit irs.gov.



10 ideas for how to use your tax refund.

1. **Pay off debt:** This will keep money in your pocket for spending while concurrently decreasing or even eliminating your debt.
2. **Put it toward your IRA or retirement account:** You won't get to see the immediate benefits, but you will be thankful down the road.
3. **Put it in savings:** You never know when you'll need a little extra cash to get by, or when unexpected expenses will put a hole in your wallet.
4. **Pay off a little extra on your mortgage or auto loan:** This will decrease the overall amount you pay in interest during the life of your loan.
5. **Put it toward your child's education:** The cost of college is rising rapidly, and your child may need all the financial help s/he can get when it comes to being able to afford a higher education.
6. **Fix lasting problems with your house or car:** Put the money toward fixing the things that, if left unattended, could get worse and cause major problems.
7. **Invest it:** Stocks are down, and right now is a good time to invest in the stock market. Eventually the stock market will rebound and you'll see the benefits.
8. **Put it toward starting your own business:** If you've always dreamed of being an entrepreneur, your tax refund may be a good way to get that business rolling.
9. **Make money-saving home improvements:** Buy more energy efficient windows or appliances—things that will save you money down the road.
10. **Things you've been putting off buying for months:** This can be anything from car maintenance to dental care. Consider whatever it is that you haven't been willing to spend your money on, and use your tax refund to foot the bill.

©On Your Way, 2009

Did you learn something valuable or get any good ideas from this article? For more articles like this one, go to parkcommunity.onyourway.com.