



# All About Opportunities

Apr  
2009

Creating Financial Opportunity for Vermonters

www.oppstv.org

CREATING  
**Opportunities**  
SINCE 1989

**FOCUS ON: Hitting our stride at 20 years**

## MONEY\$ENSE - FINANCIAL FITNESS SEMINARS

Call: Jane King, 1-800-865-8328 ext. 121 or email [jking@oppstv.org](mailto:jking@oppstv.org) to register

### Control Your Money: Making Your Ends Meet

- Benefits of Budgeting
- Tools to Track Spending
- How to Create a Budget /
- You will actually setup a budget
- How to discuss money matters with family members

April 7th 5:30 pm – 7 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington  
 April 9th 2 pm – 3:30 pm  
 Location: 92 North Ave., Burlington  
 May 5th 5:30 pm – 7 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington  
 May 7th 2 pm – 3:30 pm  
 Location: 92 North Ave., Burlington

### To Your Credit

- What is a credit score
- How to read a Credit Report
- How to Order a Credit Report
- How to Repair Credit
- Available Resources
- Protect Yourself Against
- Identity Theft

April 7th 7 pm – 8 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington  
 April 9th 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  
 Location: 92 North Ave., Burlington  
 May 5th 7 pm – 8 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington  
 May 7th 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  
 Location: 92 North Ave., Burlington

### Home Buyer Education\*

\*Completion of a Control Your Money & To Your Credit workshop required

- Steps to Homeownership
- Setting Priorities
- Role of a Realtor
- Role of an Attorney
- Role of a Home Inspection
- Importance of Credit
- Mortgage Loan Basics / How to obtain a mortgage
- Budgeting / Savings

April 20th 5:30 pm – 9 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington  
 May 11th 5:30 pm – 9 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington

### Budget Buddies

- Get encouragement & support stay on budget

April 16th 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington  
 May 21st 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington

### Breakfast Club

- Living on a fixed income? Get ideas on making ends meet

April 30th 8:15 am – 9 am  
 Location: 92 North Ave., Burlington  
 May 29th 8:15 am – 8:45 am  
 Location: 92 North Ave., Burlington

### Check It Out: Managing Your Checking Account

- Learn how to maintain and reconcile your checking account

April 23rd 2 pm – 3 pm  
 Location: 92 North Ave., Burlington  
 April 23rd 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington  
 May 14th 2 pm – 3 pm  
 Location: 92 North Ave., Burlington  
 May 14th 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
 Location: 18 Pearl St., Burlington

Free for Opportunities Credit Union members;  
All others \$10.00

## Fannie Mae and Opportunities Credit Union have new mortgage refinancing options

For credit union members with Fannie Mae mortgages, new guidelines can help reduce monthly payments and bring greater stability to your situation. Most of our mortgages are with Fannie Mae, but call Ashley (865-2003 ext. 102) to check your specific situation.

The new guidelines allow refinancing on 105% of the home value, affordable interest rates, and new PMI parameters. Depending upon your credit score, home equity, and home value, this new program could free up much needed cash while keeping your home secure. Refinancing makes sense for many of our members. Call today and see if you qualify.

## Micro business loan funds available now!

Are you ready to move your hobby into a small business? Could you generate some income if you just had the right equipment? Opportunities Credit Union has Job Start Grant funds available now with affordable interest rates. This loan fund is tailored for folks who have limited or no credit history and earn less than 80% of median income. A portion of the funds borrowed (\$2000 average with loans up to \$10,000) will go into a savings account and be available after 12 months of timely payments. Grow a business and grow a good credit score at the same time. After 12 months of timely payments, interest rates can be reduced too. Call Greg Huysman at 865-2003 ext. 125 and apply today.

## Social Investor Spotlight

On a brisk evening near the end of January, two of our social investors hosted a Community Investment Party for Opportunities Credit Union. Cheryl Fatnassi, Chief Executive Officer; Jeremy Brown, Member Services Manager; and Sister Janice Ryan, Board Member shared Opportunities' story to the approximate 20 people in attendance.

Our story was enthusiastically received by everyone there and several people have already made investments by way of deposits and mortgages with Opportunities as a result! These local investors appreciate the direct impact we have on our neighbors.

Community Investments are very important to Opportunities' mission. Investors' Money is guaranteed by the NCUA up to \$250,000. Zero percent interest rates or donated interest income helps the Credit Union continue mission based lending and financial services.

If you are interested in making a Community Investment or hosting a Community Investment Party with your friends and colleagues learn more about Opportunities, please contact Jeremy Brown at 802-865-2003 x130.



## All About Opportunities

### New Members Join Opportunities Board of Directors

At the January Board of Directors Meeting, Ellen Shapiro, David Westbrook, and Doug Boardman were named to the board. Boardman has been with the Hickok & Boardman Company for more than nine years. He graduated from St. Lawrence University with a bachelor's degree in economics. Shapiro is the publisher of Green Living Journal, Champlain Edition, which she launched in 2007. She has an MBA in finance from the University of Toronto, and worked in investment product management for international finance companies in Toronto and Montreal before moving to Vermont in 1997. Westbrook is a vice president at Dwight Asset Management Company, LLC. He has a B.S. from UVM and 12 years of financial services experience.

### Annual Member Meeting Announced

Annual Meeting May 19. 5:30PM.  
92 North Avenue. RSVP Jodi Harrington at 865-3404 ext. 125

### HOLIDAYS

Opportunities will be closed for the following holidays in the 2nd Quarter, 2009:

May 25

Memorial Day

### Free Online Banking!

Sign up for Ebanking today - it's easy to apply.

Enroll by email at [ebanking@oppsvt.org](mailto:ebanking@oppsvt.org) or call 800-865-8328

### EITC- You Earned It!!!

Every year, a significant number of Vermonters qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), but they don't claim this valuable credit when they file their taxes. The EITC is a tax credit for low-income, working individuals and families.

Income limits for 2008 are as follows:

- \$38,646 (\$41,646 married filing jointly) with two or more qualifying children;
- \$33,995 (\$36,995 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child;
- \$12,880 (\$15,880 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children.

Tax Year 2008 maximum credit:

- \$4,824 with two or more qualifying children
- \$2,917 with one qualifying child
- \$438 with no qualifying children

If you have questions regarding the Earned Income Tax Credit, please visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call 800-829-1040 (toll free).

### Better Protection and Lower Costs for Debit Card Holders

When you use your Opportunities Credit Union Debit Card to make a purchase and the cashier asks, "Debit or Credit?", always ask for 'credit' or tell the cashier you want to 'Sign for the transaction'.

There are several benefits for you!

- 1) You save money with unlimited free signature based transactions. Only a few of your PIN transactions are free.
- 2) Better description on your statement. When you sign for the transaction, the merchant's name shows up on your statement or on eBanking. When you use your PIN, only the address is displayed
- 3) Chance to enter into any current Mastercard promotion! When you sign for your transactions, you qualify for any of Mastercard's current promotions.

Don't have a debit card? Come in and get one and start ebanking today.

### New hours at NORTH AVENUE

Mondays - Thursdays 9 am - 5 pm · Fridays 9 am - 6 pm

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

18 Pearl Street Burlington, VT 05401

Phone: 800-865-8328 x100 or 802-865-3404

Fax: 802-862-8971

#### MEMBER SERVICES AND LENDING OFFICE

92 North Avenue Burlington, VT 05401

Phone: 800-865-8328 opt 4 or 802-865-2003

Fax: 802-860-6123

Opportunities CREDIT UNION

We don't say no, we say when



[www.oppsvt.org](http://www.oppsvt.org)

