

# Why do we save money? Plan now for what you will need, want in future

Sometimes in life we can get busy and overwhelmed. Blowing off steam by hitting the mall, going out to dinner or heading off for a day of pampering may seem perfectly reasonable at the moment. But sometimes all we need to do is remember why we are working hard and saving money.

Here are three main reasons for working hard, cutting the budget and saving as much as possible:

1. Control over life situations. Emergency savings helps us avoid ups and

downs in the market and inevitable unforeseen expenses.

2. Flexibility to splurge once in a while. Splurges will seem sweeter and more like a reward if they happen less often.
3. Retirement. Have you thought about how and when you are going to retire? What if you could retire early?

## So why are you saving?

I challenge you to sit down right now and write down what you want out of life. What is your vision of your future? What are your goals?

Next, figure out what it's going to take to achieve those goals. No sense in having a vision with no idea of how to achieve it! How much do you need to save for early retirement? How long would it take you to pay off all your debt? How much money do you need for an emergency fund?

## Use this information to keep you motivated.

Do you want the Starbucks or can you save that daily coffee money for a dinner out? Do you want another gadget that will seem useless in a year or can you

put the extra money toward debt? Would you rather have McDonald's on the run or early retirement?

Instead of tucking this information away, use it in everyday decisions to keep you going. Put your written goals and your action plan in plain sight so it can help remind you to stay on track.

If saving money and buying a house is in your 2012 goals, contact Yvonne Messmer, Tribal housing finance manager, at 503-390-9494 or 888-870-9051 to find out about the Siletz Saves! IDA Program.

## Personal Finance and Real Estate

Yvonne Messmer, Housing Finance Manager • 503-390-9494 or toll-free 888-870-9051

If homebuying is a goal for you but you aren't ready yet:

### Siletz Saves! IDA Program

If you aren't ready to buy yet and at least one of these situations sounds like you, Siletz Saves! might be perfect for you:

- I have some credit issues to clean up.
- I don't have enough income to make a mortgage payment.
- I don't understand how everything works.
- I'm still in school but nearly finished.

The IDA Program is a matched savings program. It helps low-income Tribal members understand their credit, correct credit issues and save toward the purchase of a first home. Participants make regular deposits into an individual development account or IDA. The amount saved is then matched \$3 for every \$1 saved – a 300 percent return! Participants must save for at least six months up to three years and attend financial fitness classes.

If you are ready to buy a home:

### Down Payment Assistance Program

You can find out by asking yourself some questions:

- Do I have a steady source of income (usually a job)?
- Have I been employed on a regular basis for the last 2-3 years?
- Is my current income reliable?
- Do I have a good record of paying my bills?
- Do I have few or no outstanding debts (like car payments)?
- Do I have some money saved?
- Do I have the ability to pay a mortgage every month, plus additional costs?

If you answered yes to these questions, then you might be ready. Give me a call to find out about the Down Payment Assistance Program. It helps with closing costs and a down payment when purchasing your first home.

### THE LORI JOHNSON MEMORIAL LEARNING GARDEN ESTABLISHED JUNE 2, 2011



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

## Lori Johnson Memorial Learning Garden Dedication Ceremony

March 14, 2012, Noon-2pm, Portland Area Office

It is hard to believe that over a year has gone by since we first came together as a community and said: Lets work together to make Lori Johnson's vision of a learning garden become a reality. With love, hard work, and support from many, including: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Portland State University, Multnomah County Water and Conservation, Siletz Tribal Elders, Portland Area Office Staff.

The garden was planted last June and is now beginning to show signs of renewal and growth. We are pleased to invite you to join us for a special Diabetic Luncheon, March 14, 2012, Noon to 2:00 PM, for the official dedication of the Learning Garden. Come see the garden, learn about the plants, and the new plaque. We hope this garden will be the first of many gardens at Siletz Tribal properties, that feature native plants used by our ancestors for food and medicine, so that Lori's dream that all Siletz tribal youth will grow up knowing how to use and recognize our sacred plants.

For more information, call Verdene McGuire or Sherry Addis at 503-238-1512.

## Volunteer with Healthy Traditions!

Join us at the next  
Healthy Traditions  
Steering Committee  
Meeting on  
Tuesday, March 6th  
1-2:30pm  
Siletz Clinic

For more information,  
contact Sharla Robinson  
541-444-9627

## Portland Lets Get Cooking!

Learn simple and time-saving cooking tips in this weekly class. These are very fun classes and the seats go fast, so be the first to sign up by calling Verdene McGuire at (503) 238-1512.

You will be glad you did!

## Eugene Bread Making Class!

Wednesday, March 21st, 1-3:30 p.m.

At the Siletz Eugene Area Office

Learn the fundamentals of bread making in an easy, healthy way. This class is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced bakers. To sign up, call Adrienne Crookes or Nora Williams at 541-484-4234.

## Portland Garden Club

3rd Tuesday of the Month, 5:30-7:30pm

Contact: Verdene McGuire or Sherry Addis at 503-238-1512.

## Salem Garden Classes

Seed planting, growing sprouts and terrariums. For dates and times, contact Bev Owen or Cecilia Tolentino at 503-390-9494.

## Eugene Tree Fruit Classes

March 3rd and March 17th

## Eugene Compost Workshops

March 10th and March 17th

Contact: Adrienne Crookes at 541-484-4234.

## Siletz Valley School Garden

Volunteer gardeners needed for new Garden-to-Lunch program  
Cheryl Schriver 541-444-1100 or Sharla Robinson 541-444-9627