



KC 'Money Smart Week' coming this spring

Kansas City-area residents can attend free workshops designed to heighten their financial awareness April 20-26 during the annual Money Smart Week.

The Kansas City Fed is partnering with other organizations, including the FDIC, the United Way, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Central Bank of Kansas City and the Mexican Consulate to let consumers know about financial resources available to them. At the same time, this community outreach effort is a chance to raise awareness among policymakers, employers, educators, social service organizations and others about the importance of financial education, says Gigi Wolf, an economic education specialist at the Kansas City Fed.

"Information and resources can assist individuals of all backgrounds in making positive financial decisions, which benefits our economy as a whole," Wolf says.

For more information, visit KansasCityFed.org/TEN.

Foreclosure mitigation resources available

In an effort to prevent unnecessary foreclosures and ease the effects of those that do occur, the Federal Reserve developed an online toolkit of resources.

The toolkit includes data and maps on foreclosure trends and hotspots, information on foreclosure laws, and local resources and events for displaced homeowners.

The resources in the toolkit are presented as a four-step process:

- assess the foreclosure situation;
- reach troubled homeowners;
- establish post-foreclosure support systems;
- preserve neighborhoods.

"The Fed views the high rate of mortgage foreclosures as an urgent problem," says Kelly Edmiston, a Kansas City Fed senior economist who wrote much of the materials. "The goal of this toolkit is to provide resources to address the current turmoil in the housing market and minimize the impact of foreclosures on neighborhoods."

This toolkit is a part of the Kansas City Fed's ongoing work to address foreclosures, including hosting events throughout the region, conducting research, and partnering with other regulators, community groups, policy organizations, financial institutions and public officials. Much of Edmiston's research focuses on housing issues and the current foreclosure crisis.

To access the toolkit, visit KansasCityFed.org/TEN.

Money Smart Nebraska educates consumers through free events

The first annual Money Smart Nebraska in November saw thousands turnout for the weeklong, statewide financial literacy effort.

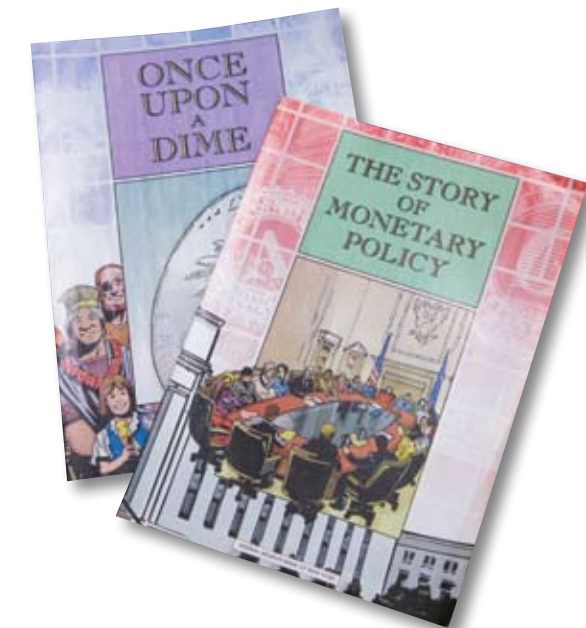
Free activities were offered to every income level and covered all facets of personal finance, ranging from establishing a budget to first-time home buying to estate planning. Events were sponsored by the nonprofit Nebraska Financial Education Coalition, banks, financial planners, schools and other organizations. The Kansas City Fed also was a participant, believing financial literacy for all consumers is the backbone of a strong economy.

"Money Smart Nebraska offers unbiased financial education, aimed at building consumers' knowledge while helping them handle their finances more effectively," says Jennifer Clark, who oversees the economic education program for the Kansas City Fed in its Omaha Branch.

Kansas City Fed President Tom Hoeing spoke at the week's kickoff luncheon in Omaha, and also to students at Conestoga Magnet School, who asked him questions about the economy and other related financial questions.

"We know that financial literacy means a better future for those who are better informed," Hoenig says.

For information about future Money Smart Nebraska events, visit MoneySmartNebraska.org.



Free publications for all audiences

The Federal Reserve offers hundreds of free titles on a variety of economic-related topics, including financial markets, financial education, money, banking, payments system and the Federal Reserve System.

Publications include comic books, such as "Once Upon A Dime" and "The Story of Inflation," that explain financial and economic subjects in an easy-to-understand manner for students. Many, such as "Know Before You Go ... Get a Mortgage" and "How to Establish, Use and Protect Your Credit," are beneficial for consumers and encourage them to make informed financial decisions.

Other publications explain the ins and outs of the financial system, such as the development of credit markets, and the Fed's role in the economy, including the Fed's history and its functions and operations.

To view, order or subscribe to Federal Reserve publications, visit KansasCityFed.org/TEN.

Economic workshops for educators

The Kansas City Fed and its Branches in Denver, Oklahoma City and Omaha offer economic workshops for elementary and secondary educators as well as those at area universities.

“The purpose of these workshops is to provide educators with a better understanding of economics and the Federal Reserve System, as well as to contribute to the economic and personal finance lessons they teach in the classroom,” says Trudie Hall, special programs coordinator at the Kansas City Fed.

The sessions often include one or more speakers on the Fed or economic and personal finance topics; an overview of the Federal Reserve’s resources that are available to educators; and a tour of the Fed, where available.

To schedule a workshop at the Fed office nearest you, visit KansasCityFed.org/TEN.

Bank Anniversaries

The following banks in the Tenth Federal Reserve District are celebrating one, five, 10 or 20 or more years as Federal Reserve state member banks in January, February or March.

Colorado B&TC of La Junta	La Junta	Colo.	85
Lusk State Bank	Lusk	Wyo.	75
St. Marys State Bank	St. Marys	Kan.	73
First Community Bank	Taos	N.M.	71
Community B&TC	Neosho	Mo.	67
Colorado Mountain Bank	Westcliffe	Colo.	30
Bank at Broadmoor	Colorado Springs	Colo.	29
First State Bank	Wheatland	Wyo.	28
First Option Bank	Osawatomie	Kan.	10
Bank of Commerce	Chanute	Kan.	5
Bank of Eufaula	Eufaula	Okla.	5
Bank of Parsons	Parsons	Kan.	5
Chetopa State B&TC	Chetopa	Kan.	5
First Neodesha Bank	Neodesha	Kan.	5
First State Bank of Thayer	Thayer	Kan.	5
Five Points Bank	Hastings	Neb.	5
Home State Bank	Erie	Kan.	5
Thunder Bank	Sylvan Grove	Kan.	5
Union State Bank	Everest	Kan.	5
United B&TC	Marysville	Kan.	5
Platte Valley Bank	Scottsbluff	Neb.	1
Platte Valley Bank	Torrington	Wyo.	1
Tri-County National Bank	Cheyenne	Wyo.	1
Union Bank	Oklahoma City	Okla.	1



Compiled By TEN Staff

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS are welcome and should be sent to teneditors@kc.frb.org.