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**Don't forget to share your travel plans**

If you're traveling this summer, don't forget to share your plans with us. If you don't, our fraud protection systems could flag unusual purchasing activity on your debit and credit card. If you plan to use your cards in an area where you don't usually make purchases, drop by your local branch or call 800-732-0173 to speak to a Call Center representative.

While you're at it, take a moment to confirm your contact numbers are correct. If you have shared both your home and cell phone numbers with us, make your cell phone number your primary number. That's the number Visa® will call if they suspect fraud. As an added protection, take along an alternative form of payment in case you cannot be reached to resolve any potential questions.

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**Four home improvement projects that can boost your resale value**

Home improvement projects make your life better in the short term and are an investment in your future. But even the most efficient home improvements don't pay for themselves immediately. It may take a few years for the appreciation in your home to recoup the expense of an improvement.

Calculating return on investment (ROI) can be difficult because the data is based on national averages. For instance, in drought-afflicted parts of the country, water-efficient fixtures, rainwater collection facilities and low-water landscaping will pay long-term dividends. In places with lots of solar exposure and high utility costs, solar panels will make your home more cost-efficient and attractive to buyers. Keeping that in mind, finding out what works for your market therefore depends a lot on trends and local conditions.

To get the best increase in value for your home improvement dollar, follow these simple guidelines:

- ✓ Seek relatively low-cost improvements that require little to no maintenance.
- ✓ Make improvements that distinguish your house from similar homes.
- ✓ Look for projects that improve the energy efficiency of your home.

Here are four home remodel projects that can improve the resale value of your home. They're excellent uses for a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) from Oregon State Credit Union, and you may be able to save money by doing part or all of the work yourself. As a bonus, consult your tax adviser to determine if these improvements are tax deductible.

**Replace the front door**

There's an old adage in real estate: A home's features attract lookers, but the front porch attracts sales. People make decisions on home-buying by starting with a gut reaction and finding reasons to support it later.

Why not start your home remodeling project with the first thing you interact with on your house: The front door. Upgrading an old, poorly-fitting front door with a newer energy-efficient model is an inexpensive, quick project that can instantly improve your home's efficiency and aesthetic appeal. Best of all, hanging a door can be done in an afternoon.

With an average price of just more than \$1,200, including labor, an energy-efficient front door has an ROI of 98 percent. It's also a chance to be creative. A new front door can add a splash of color, and window placements can break up a monotonous front profile.

**Minor kitchen remodels**

Minor kitchen updates, like new cabinets, countertops and energy-efficient cooktops, are cost-effective upgrades. The average price tag is just under \$20,000, with an estimated return on investment at an impressive 80 percent. Just like with the front door, the changes are mostly aesthetic.



Four home improvement projects that can boost your resale value • continued on page 4 ▶



## It costs *how much* to get married?

According to a new report by a leading wedding magazine, The Knot, the average American wedding cost has eclipsed \$35,000. Most of that spending isn't on lavish luxuries for bride and groom – it comes from the guest list. Couples are inviting more people and doing more for them, trying to create an unforgettable experience for their loved ones.

If you've got an event planned for the coming year, read on. Here are five ways to save on the cost of your big day.

### Schedule smart

Saturday is the most common day of the week for weddings for one obvious reason: your guests are off work and can attend. Because of this popularity, venues are often more expensive on Saturday than on other days. If you want to save money, try setting your special day on Friday evening; on the day before a holiday – like July 3; or on the Sunday of a long weekend, like Labor Day. You might save as much as 15 percent on the cost of your venue.

### Untether yourself

When it comes to picking a venue, there are several important factors that should influence your decision. Most importantly, pick a venue that allows you to bring in outside vendors for food, music and photography. Places that do a lot of business in weddings may have existing relationships with businesses who can then charge more because they're not competing.

Once you've found a venue that allows outside vendors, shop around for better prices on some of the more costly parts of the wedding.

### Put your guests to work

When you pay for flower arrangements, you're paying about 10 percent for the flowers and 90 percent for the florist's time. The same is true for cake decorating, table centerpieces and many of the tasks that have to be done that day.

Instead of hiring professionals to set out your chairs at \$5 a chair, consider putting your friends and family to work. They may love the opportunity to feel like they contributed to your special day. They get the feeling of participating actively in making your event a success, and you get to save a few bucks on nearly every service.

### Don't borrow more than you need

One of the biggest challenges for newlyweds is accurately estimating how much money you'll need to bring your wedding vision to life. Instead of borrowing a finite amount – which may or may not be enough – consider taking out a line of credit. If you own your home, a Home Equity Line of Credit may be your best source of funds. If you don't own a home, a Personal Line of Credit might provide you with the flexibility you need. You can explore the advantages of a flexible line of credit on our website at [oregonstatecu.com](http://oregonstatecu.com).



*(Don't forget to share your travel plans • continued from page 1)*

### Access while on the road

Just because you're not home doesn't mean you can't access your accounts. Below are two ways you can check your balances and pay bills while out of town.

**Text banking** – To get a quick balance or account notifications via SMS (text) services, just text a

command to 454545. After setting this up through online banking, you can text BAL to 454545 and get your balance immediately on any device that has texting enabled and a connection to a cell network. Text HELP to 454545 to get a list of all the commands available for text banking.\*

**Online account access and bill payment** – Paying

bills has never been easier. Schedule a one-time payment using payee drop-downs, select the payment date using the calendar tool, click the schedule payment button and you're set.

\*While Oregon State Credit Union does not charge for mobile or text banking, your wireless provider may apply minutes or text messaging rates and/or require you to subscribe to a data plan. For more information, please consult your wireless provider.



# Your Board of Directors is ready to serve you

Thank you and congratulations to Oregon State Credit Union members who were elected or re-elected to the Oregon State Credit Union Board of Directors at the recent Annual Meeting:

## Recently elected to the Board of Directors:

- Jim Patterson

## Recently re-elected to the Board of Directors:

- Michael Green
- Tim Rocak

## Thanks also to our other Oregon State Credit Union Board and Supervisory Committee members:

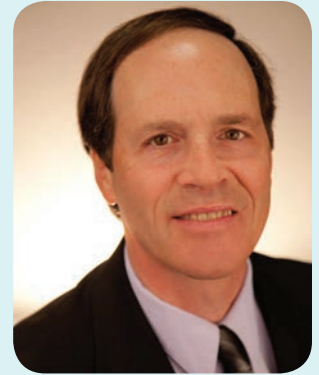
- Board: Nadine Davison, Jay Conroy, Shannon Cruz, Paul Dickey, Kelley Kaiser, Ron Stevens
- Supervisory Committee: Elizabeth Bell, Thomas Elzinga, Jon Sassaman



Jim Patterson



Michael Green



Tim Rocak

## A difference that counts

Unlike a bank, a credit union is a financial cooperative – it's people joining together to help one another save and borrow. For-profit banks have stockholders, but we're governed by a Board of Directors elected from among the membership to ensure we always operate in the best interests of the membership. It's a democratic process where each member has one vote, and everyone has a say in how the cooperative operates.

Don't pay dividends to stockholders  
Financial cooperative  
Education  
Member focus  
Local  
Giving back to the community  
All members are equal  
Not for profit  
People helping people  
Balance the credit structure

We're a full-service, community-based and locally operated financial institution. We offer local decision making to our members for a complete range of financial products and services, including

personal, business and real estate loans, with the convenience, ease, affordability and dependability that only a member-owned cooperative can offer.

## Get ready to shred

If you have sensitive documents to be shredded, mark June 10 and July 29 on your calendar. Those are the dates of this year's final two shred events. Bring up to three boxes of outdated documents and let us do the shredding for you. We'll be shredding between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or until the trucks are full.

**Corvallis:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 10, at our Sunset branch, 4800 SW Research Way, Corvallis.

**Keizer:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 29, in the parking lot behind our Keizer branch, 4952 River Road North, Keizer.

### Three great reasons to shred

1. Protect your identity. Identity thieves want your personal information. Don't risk the potential for identity theft – shred instead.
2. Keep organized. Reduce the amount of paperwork lying around your house or office. Reduce, de-stress and be clutter free.
3. Protect the environment. Save trees, water and electricity usage. Be environmentally conscious and proud to shred.

Be sure to tell your family and friends about this free community service. Learn more at [oregonstatecu.com/shred-day](http://oregonstatecu.com/shred-day).

# The what and when of shredding

You know the importance of shredding junk mail and credit card offers, but have you thought about what else might be in your home that an identity thief could find useful? Things like credit card bills, bank statements, canceled checks, receipts, credit reports, insurance policies, utility bills, credit and identification cards or badges, pay stubs . . . the list could go on. Anything that has your name or other personal information could provide an opportunity if obtained and used by an identity thief.

Just like junk mail and credit card offers, household paperwork should be considered for shredding. Anything that expires should be immediately shredded. For everything else, don't shred the bill until your payment clears your account or until your receipt matches your bill.

Of course, not everything should be shredded immediately. Keep anything with long-term implications, such as paperwork that is related to taxes, home improvements, business expenses, marriage licenses, birth certificates or receipts for large purchases.

One recommendation is to keep bills for at least a year and then annually determine what to shred and what to keep.

Here is a handy chart you can use to help decide what to shred, and when.

Item	How long to keep
<b>Monthly utility bills</b>	Until they're paid, unless you are deducting part of your home off your state and federal business taxes.
<b>ATM receipts</b>	Until you have balanced your checkbook.
<b>Medical bills</b>	Until they're paid, unless you deduct medical expenses from your taxes.
<b>Canceled checks</b>	If you still get these, you can shred immediately unless you need to keep for tax purposes.
<b>Credit union statements</b>	Until your checkbook has been balanced, unless you need them for tax purposes.
<b>Pay stubs</b>	Until you have balanced your W2 at the end of the year. If you're considering a loan for a major purchase, like a house, keep until the loan is closed.
<b>Monthly/quarterly account statements</b>	Until the annual statement arrives.
<b>Credit card statements</b>	One year, unless needed for tax purposes.
<b>Credit card receipts</b>	One year, unless needed for tax purposes.
<b>Expired credit cards</b>	Destroy them immediately.
<b>Tax returns and supporting documents</b>	Seven years. You can be audited for no reason up to three years after you file a return. If you omit 25 percent of your gross income, that period extends to six years.
<b>Records of selling a house</b>	Seven years (documentation for capital gains tax).
<b>Records of buying a house</b>	Until you have sold the home. Any documents related to taxes should be held for seven years.
<b>Records of home improvements</b>	Seven years after filing the tax return that includes the income or loss on the home when it's sold.
<b>Product warranties</b>	Until you no longer own or use the product, or until the warranty expires, whichever comes first.
<b>Retirement plan statements</b>	Keep the annual statements as long as you have assets in the plan.
<b>Year-end account statements</b>	Until you no longer own the investment.
<b>Loan paperwork</b>	Until the loan is paid. If you receive a payoff statement once the loan is paid, keep that indefinitely.
<b>Insurance policies</b>	As long as you own the policy.
<b>Marriage license</b>	Never destroy this.
<b>Birth certificate</b>	Never destroy this.
<b>Wills</b>	Never destroy this.
<b>Adoption papers</b>	Never destroy this.
<b>Death certificates</b>	Never destroy this.
<b>Records of paid mortgages</b>	Never destroy this.

*(Four home improvement projects that can boost your resale value - continued from page 1)*

People perceive a more modern-looking kitchen as being better than one that looks older.

This is also a chance to customize the place where you spend a remarkable amount of time. Having a kitchen laid out just the way you like it can make it easier and more enjoyable to cook. This will encourage you to eat more meals in, and energy-efficient appliances can lower your electric bills for the life of the home.

## Wooden decks

An outdoor deck is a popular addition. People look at decks as valuable extensions for their living space. Where else can you sit and enjoy a frosty lemonade on a hot summer day or watch the kids play in the yard while you tend the grill?

The average cost, based on a 16x20 foot wooden deck, is \$10,000. The average ROI is just slightly more than 80 percent. This is because of the perception of expanded living space at a reasonable price. Adding a deck costs only \$35 per square foot, while a square foot of inside space costs on average \$85 per square foot. That makes a deck a great way to increase the play space for a modest cost.

Bear in mind that, just like the air conditioning in Alaska, a deck in an area where the climate is inhospitable outdoors for much of the year will not have as much value as one in more temperate climates. In our region of the country, adding a cover to your deck will dramatically increase the number of days you can use it.

## Convert an attic space into a bedroom

For most houses, the attic is an afterthought. It's a place where unused craft projects and abandoned hobbies go to die. Consider turning that dead space into living space with a remodeling project.

Nationally, the average cost for turning an existing attic space into a spare bedroom or office, complete with its own bathroom, is about \$50,000. That includes constructing a room, extending utilities to it and adjusting the exterior of the house to accommodate the new space.

This remodel provides a 77 percent ROI in resale value, with the potential for more. If you have adult children or relatives visiting from out of town, an attic room can be a wonderful guest room. You could also rent it out for additional income.

# Estatements: Safer than paper statements

Cyber thieves are everywhere these days, lurking on the internet looking to steal your identity. Or that's what it seems like. With cyber theft on everyone's mind, it's not hard to see why you might hesitate before you sign up for estatements. Aren't paper statements safer?

Actually, no.

## Your identity's in the mail

A study of Secret Service cases that had components of identity theft and identity fraud showed the top two methods of identity theft were re-routing of mail and mail theft. It turns out your greatest exposure for identity theft is at your mailbox.

When you weigh it all out, you're better off with electronically delivered statements than a paper copy that could end up in the wrong hands. Paper statements can be stolen, and they have to be stored securely. When you want to get rid of them, you have to shred or destroy them, and that's a lot of paper in the landfill.

On the other hand, estatements are password protected and can't be seen by anyone who doesn't

have access to your accounts. When you want to view your statement, just log in to your credit union account; estatements can be archived for up to two years, or downloaded to your desktop for permanent storage. The best part: They're digital. When you don't need them anymore, there's no shredding and no landfill, so they're better for the environment.

To enroll in estatements, you must sign up for Online Account Access. Then, simply log in to your accounts at [oregonstatecu.com](http://oregonstatecu.com), select estatements from the top menu and complete the registration.

For more information about estatements, or for help completing the enrollment process, call 800-732-0173 or drop by any branch.



## 2017 Annual Car and Truck Sale

Come join us for our 2017 Annual Car and Truck Sale, May 19-21 at the Benton County Fairgrounds, 110 SW 53rd Street in Corvallis.

Five dealers will be presenting more than 600 new and used cars that weekend in one spot. Shop the lot, test drive your favorites and drive home a new or new-to-you vehicle.

### Hours are:

- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday
- 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday



Join Power Motors of Corvallis, Toyota/Subaru of Corvallis, University Honda, Wilson Motors and Kiefer Nissan Volvo of Corvallis for three days of sales.

To learn more about the 2017 Annual Car and Truck Sale, drop by a branch, call 800-732-0173 or visit [oregonstatecu.com/carsale](http://oregonstatecu.com/carsale).





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## Investment products and services that help meet your needs



**Michelle Poturich**  
Financial Advisor



**Samuel F. Niesslein, Jr.**  
Financial Advisor



**Patrick Crowell**  
Financial Advisor

As a member of Oregon State Credit Union, you have access to full-service financial advisors through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. (CFS).<sup>\*</sup> We offer retirement planning, risk and portfolio analysis, estate planning and wealth transfer, help understanding PERS, tax-advantaged investing, and life insurance. If you are concerned about your financial future, let a CFS Financial Advisor review your financial strategy with you. Make an appointment today. Visit [oregonstatecu.com/advisor](https://oregonstatecu.com/advisor).

<sup>\*</sup>Non-deposit investment products and services are offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. ("CFS"), a registered broker-dealer (Member FINRA/SIPC) and SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Products offered through CFS: **are not NCUA/NCUSIF or otherwise federally insured, are not guarantees or obligations of the credit union, and may involve investment risk including possible loss of principal.** Investment Representatives are registered through CFS. The credit union has contracted with CFS to make non-deposit investment products and services available to credit union members.