

## Back to the Basics.



Annette Russell,  
Chief Executive  
Officer

*Today's economy has brought a "back-to-basics" approach for many families and businesses. Renewed emphasis is now placed on saving — whether for major purchases like a new car or home, retirement, or even a vacation. Families are focusing on building savings and borrowing less.*

*In such times, it's important for you to know that all our products and services have been designed to fit your lifestyle — or business needs — in both up and down economies.*

*As an active, involved community member, Security Federal has a history of strong community spirit as shown by our commitment to over 150 groups and organizations supported by the bank and employees including — but not limited to — Light Up Logansport Parade, 4H Fair, Taste of Cass County, Med Flory Jazz Festival, Youth Leagues, and many more.*

*Now in our 76th year of service, we believe strongly in sound, solid banking practices and in focusing on "the basics." At the top of that list is staying in touch with the people most important to us — our valued customers. To add to our dialogue with you, this is the first issue of a newsletter for you, the MoneyLetter, which you'll receive in your statement every two months.*

cont'd P 2

## Money Tips

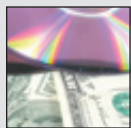


### It Truly Is Never Too Soon To Plan Your Retirement

No matter what your age, retirement comes sooner than you expect. With family, home, a career or business ownership, making and sticking to a long-term plan is hard to do.

But, if you don't do it yourself, no one else will. While you might win the lottery, that's not really a tax-deferred retirement plan.

So, if you want to learn more about opening or regularly adding to an IRA to take control of your financial future, we invite you to visit our website — [www.SecFedBank.com](http://www.SecFedBank.com). Click on the MoneyLetter icon and read our exclusive article: **YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE STARTS NOW**



### Find All The Banking Services You Need...

Make our web site work for you! In just minutes it can give you all the details about the services you need — from the convenience of your home or office. Just visit [www.SecFedBank.com](http://www.SecFedBank.com).



# MoneyLetter

Ideas & Strategies for Success

## Looking Ahead

# The Better Your Planning, The Smoother Your Road To Your Future Will Be.

By Tasha Seward, Operations Officer

Retirement brings enormous change and can be extremely difficult, especially for those who greatly identified with their work or career. Often, newly retired couples find the need to redefine their relationship due to having so much more time together. Others learn that golf, gardening or bridge do not fill the calendar.

### “Do I want to retire?”

Most people, when asked this question will say, “Yes!” But those who found work enjoyable and important may hesitate. The federal Age Discrimination Employment Act protects most people against involuntary retirement before the age of 70.

Many retirees find that after coping with more leisure time, they feel a need for a second career. But those who do work past retirement age are the exception as half of all retirees stop working before age 65.

### “What will I live on?”

Once you decide to retire, this will be your second question, as well as, “Will our savings be enough?”

Post-retirement income falls into several categories, from pension plans and Social Security, to investment income and “other” funds (IRAs, 401(k)s, Annuities and Keoghs).

Financial planners say you'll likely need 70 percent of your

pre-retirement income to maintain a comfortable standard of living in retirement. However, many retirees need more, especially if travel is planned.

“Where will we live?” Most retirees “stay home,” but plan to travel a great deal. Others plan to relocate and begin their “dream” lifestyle. If you expect to relocate, retirement advisors urge you to be mindful of climate, cost of living, medical services, housing, and overall lifestyle. Understand, property taxes and rates may increase. If you move far away, consider the costs and effort to make return visits.

### “What about health care?”

Medicare covers retirees 65 and over, but pays only part of your bills. Most retirees supplement Medicare with additional coverage, known as “Medigap” insurance. Long term care policies are also available.

The transition from work to retirement is filled with change. To make your journey all you hope for, be sure to think your plans through well in advance. \$



Tasha Seward is Operations Officer for Security Federal and an IRA expert. If you would like to discuss your long range plans in complete confidence call her directly at 574/722-6261 or by email: [tasha@SecFedBank.com](mailto:tasha@SecFedBank.com)

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

### Debt Consolidation: A Good Idea... Or A Financial Trap?

By Greg VanSoest, Loan Officer

Debt and debt problems tend to sneak up on people when they least expect it. As a result, many consumers have addressed this problem by taking advantage of the equity in their homes and lower rates on home equity lines of credit.

Most banks work with customers who find themselves in this budget-compromising situation, especially if they're long-term customers.

The actual consolidation process involves canceling certain charge and credit cards, and charge accounts. Those who consolidate

**If you can come to grips with the fact that you need help to re-balance your finances, arrange a meeting with a debt counselor or personal financial planner.**



debt with help from their bank enter into an agreement through which the bank pays off their outstanding accounts. They then pay off the debt to the bank with a mutually agreed upon monthly payment at a reasonable interest rate.

Here are some key red flags that may indicate you have too much debt:

- Making only minimum payments on credit cards;

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# Our Residential Mortgage Team is Here to Help You.

By Terri Riley, Mortgage Loan Officer



Are you thinking about a new home or refinancing the one you have now? Security Federal's full range of residential loans have competitive rates, for fixed and adjustable rate mortgages, and construction loans.

Our mortgage team is ready to discuss your plans and provide solutions to meet your specific needs. For example, we can provide a pre-approval letter so you can move quickly when you find your dream home.

In addition to mortgage loans, we also offer home equity lines of credit which offer the flexibility to use a portion of the equity in your home for improvements or other needs.

## Ask Us About First Time Home Buyer Tax Credits for 2010

Act now to cash in on low rates and government provided tax credits while mortgage rates remain near historic lows.

Security Federal is well capitalized and interested in helping you grow your financial situation. Our personal service and attention to detail can help! Our great team of mortgage professionals are ready to help you. We are Stacey Russow, Patty Shutt, Greg Van Soest, Kim Reid and myself, Terri Riley. To discuss your plans and needs, call 574/722-6261 and ask to speak with any of us, or check our convenient online application forms at [www.SecFedBank.com](http://www.SecFedBank.com).



## Back to the Basics... Continued from page 1

*In it, you'll find a range of financial topics designed to help you save more, borrow smart, and plan to achieve the future you expect for yourself, your family and your business.*

*However, the MoneyLetter is not just a newsletter. In our commitment to state-of-the-art communication and services, it will serve as a regular invitation to visit us through our website where you will find a growing financial library of helpful and timely financial articles. It's our way of giving you the flexibility to gather helpful and timely financial information, 24/7.*

*Of course, technology will never replace our interest to meet and work with you personally. So I encourage you to call on Security Federal's financial experts. Let us know how we can help you set up a savings or lending plan to help you achieve short and long-term goals.*

*I hope you enjoy this first issue of our MoneyLetter — both in print and on our website. As always, we appreciate your business and look forward to building our relationship with you. \$*



## Debt Consolidation... Continued from page 1

- Using one credit card or cash advances to make payments on another credit card account;
- Living from one paycheck to the next;
- Regularly paying bills "late;"
- Shopping for "recreational" purposes rather than for things you/your family really need.

If you know you experience any of these or similar financial habits, arrange a meeting with a debt counselor or personal financial planner. You may prefer a private and completely confidential meeting with one of our lending officers.

Regardless of the solution you choose, if you think you have too

much debt, you probably do. So seek help and take action — today. \$



Greg VanSoest has over 25 years of banking experience and has presented numerous seminars on credit counseling. Call Greg at 574/722-3826 or email him at [greg@SecFedBank.com](mailto:greg@SecFedBank.com).



## Four Convenient Locations

### Logansport:

Main Branch  
314 4th Street  
Phone 574/722-6261

Mall Branch  
300 Mall Road  
Phone 574/722-3826

### Kokomo:

519 Markland Avenue  
Phone 765/457-1161

### Delphi:

1260 South Washington  
Phone 765/564-3000

## Strengthening The Communities We Serve.

Security Federal's 2009-2010 Board of Directors are active representatives of the bank throughout the communities we serve. Their business and civic activities and presence are even more important during this trying economy. Please get to know these individuals as we are proud to have them represent us.

From upper left to lower right, our directors are: Bret Rinehart, Dave Steinhilber, John Hillis, Chairman, Jeff Baker, Tim Rich, Brian Shockney, Pat Brandstatter, Annette Russell, President & CEO, and Dr. Dianne Brown.

