

NORTH ADAMS STATE BANK

SUMMER 2009

URSA & CAMP POINT

SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU –

LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OF YOUR BANKING NEEDS

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

Bank News

Customer Appreciation Day Friday, September 11

On September 11, 2009 North Adams State Bank will have its annual customer appreciation day at both locations. This year there will be a meal of hot dogs, chips and soda. While you are here don't forget to sign up for several drawings. Please come and join us on September 11th. Without you the customer we would not be here.



The start of school is around the corner. Following is the first day of school for the area schools.

Unity – Aug 18
Central – Aug 24
Liberty – Aug 18
Payson – Aug 19
Quincy – Aug 19

Employee Highlight

Important changes

Effective September 1, 2009 there is a change as to the number of withdraws you may have from Money Market or other savings accounts. You will be able to have a total of six withdrawals from the account each month. A withdraw includes all automatic transfers, withdrawals in person, on the phone or by check. If you have any questions as to how it will affect you, please stop by and ask one of our friendly staff members.



Kayelynn Tournear has been with North Adams State Bank for 9 years as Assistant Cashier and has worked in community banking for 25 years. Kayelynn and her husband,

Michael, reside in Camp Point. They have 2 children and 1 grandson. They enjoy watching their grandson play football and basketball and spending time with family.

Your car breaks down and you don't have the money to fix it?

If that has ever happened to you, North Adams State Bank may have a way to solve that problem. We are now offering extended warranties on used autos. The coverage is up to 4 years or 48,000 miles and covers engines, transmissions, cooling systems, fuel delivery systems, electrical and more. The price of this product depends on the type of auto and the miles on the vehicle.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Build Your Credit with Caution
Page 2

Online Banking: Things to Think
About Page 3

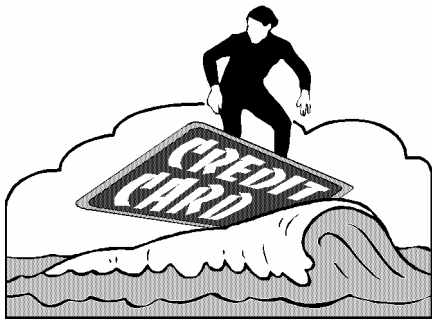
Good Customer Service is More
Important Today Page 3

Hands-free Cellphone systems by
Ford, other make driving safer
Page 4

BANK CLOSINGS

- Mon. Sept. 7 – Labor Day
- Mon. Oct. 12 – Columbus Day
- Wed. Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
- Thurs. Nov. 26 – Thanksgiving
- Fri. Dec. 25 - Christmas

Build Your Credit with Caution



Building credit can be a very exciting thing. Avenues of great opportunities are available if you do it right. It is important to avoid scammers that claim to offer you a debt solution in little or no time at all.

Many scammers on the market today are taking advantage of people in disarray. Do not become the next sucker. Any company that does not advise you of your rights or else let's you know upfront before continuing that most of your credit issues can be dealt with on your own, is probably a fraud.

Under the Federal Laws, many of the companies are prohibited in many areas and often a lot of them work out illegal arrangements just to get ahead. There is however, legit companies and organizations that can help you reestablish your credit for little or no charge. Researching the marketplace is the best solution for finding the right

sources. Your local library has a wealth of information at your disposal and it is free to sift through the pages. Take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself and you are well on your way to building your credit.

It is important that you be cautious with your credit choices. Take each step very slowly and consider all of your options before making a final decision. When you have several creditors making offers, it can be very difficult to decide on which one to deal with. Follow these simple guidelines when deciding on and dealing with a creditor:

1. What interest rate are they offering?

a. The interest rate on your credit account plays a serious role in your ability to keep up with your payments. If possible, always make full payment. Keep in mind that making full payment may not always be possible. This is why you need to consider carefully the interest rate that you are agreeing to. The interest rate will apply on all minimum payments. An example is below:

Balance owed on account: \$350
 Interest Rate: 5.7% (.057)
 Minimum Payment: \$19.95

Think about this, \$19.95 only pays for the interest that is going to be added to the balance owed. You may think that you can subtract \$19.95 from the \$350.00 owed, however, do not forget to add the .057 to the balance. At this rate, your balance owed will go down very slowly and continue to accumulate interest on a monthly basis.

2. Make your payments on time.
 a. Do not make payments

before 30 days of the last payment and do not make a payment after 45 days of your last payment. Payments received after 45 days are considered late and payments made before 30 days also get a bad review by creditors.

3. Do not apply for credit more than 3 times a year.

a. If you do, you can easily be denied credit because those actions are perceived as shopping for credit. If you are suspected of shopping for credit, your creditors will deny you. You can keep track of how many times you have applied for credit and with who by looking at your credit report. Your credit report shows all the people have inquired into your report for the last 2 years. After 2 years, the listing drops off your report. Once you begin paying a creditor, take it slow. You are going to get many offers for credit and it is extremely tempting to take them all up on their offers.

4. Keep all of your receipts and contracts

a. Keep all of your receipts for payments made to any creditor. Yes, creditors have been known to misplace a payment received, let's hope it isn't yours. Rest assured if it is, providing you kept your receipts. Saving your contract with any creditor is highly advised. In the event that a dispute should arise, the creditor will be sure to throw in comments concerning your agreement and signature on the contract.

The most important thing to do with regard to your credit is take pride, protect, respect and especially enjoy it. Having good credit is a luxury and can widen

the horizons of possibility for you and your future providing you pursue your credit with caution

**ONLINE BANKING:
THINGS TO THINK
ABOUT**



Using the internet to access bank information or E-banking is a easy way to pay bills, move money between accounts and check balances on our accounts. Of every 10 households there are 4 of them using e-banking and the rate of usage is growing about 15% per year. Besides the positive attributes e-banking provides, there are things you must do to keep you and your identity safe.

Look for the real thing. Know your banks website address. Don't use a search engine or a website that has popped up in your browser. Scammers websites can be only one keystroke different than the real website. Remember your bank will never send you an email asking for you to update your private information. Always check the website for a phone number to your bank, if there isn't it should be a red flag that something is not right.

Security. For each e-banking account that you have you will have an ID and password. As a second layer of protection many banks are beginning to have the users select a phrase or image that will appear when logging in. By confirming the image or phrase you are verifying yourself and the

bank. One thing that should never be done is to have the ID and password saved to any computer. Even though it may be your personal computer and no one else accesses it. In the chance that your home is broke into or the computer is stolen you open the opportunity for the thief to get the information.

Firewall. The firewall, anti-virus and anti-spam software is always current and up to date. This helps prevent scammers from planting codes or hacking into the computer to steal personal information.

Public Wireless Networks. It is becoming more and more popular for wireless networks to be set up. You may of heard of people using Wi Fi networks at the local coffee house. These wireless networks are not as secure as a hard connection to the computer or it could be a phony set-up by a hacker to get your information. If you are using a wireless network, check on different software and/or hardware you can attach to your computer for added safety.

With proper controls e-banking is a safe and convenient way of conducting your bank business.

GRILL'N & CHILL'N



From now until September 30, 2009 every time you use your debit card to make purchases you are automatically entered for a

chance to win great prizes. The Grand Prize is a gas grill & \$150 worth of Omaha steaks, the first place prize is a rolling cooler, insulated tumbler set and \$50 Dairy Queen gift card. There is also 6 monthly winners that get a picnic basket worth \$50. The more you use your debit card, the better your odds are of winning.

Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. It beats money and power and influence.

Henry Chester

**Good customer service
is more important
today**

Customers are returning to the stores, say retail analysts. That's good news. Retail associates and customer service people can take advantage of it.

The process of building customer loyalty has always been based on the relationship between the buyer of goods and the seller. A pleasant attitude, especially in difficult times, is the first thing customers deserve.

Though they are shopping more often now, some customers still could be, well, a little grumpy due to what they perceive as higher costs of living and uncertain employment prospects.

These are just the kinds of people who will be pleased by an extra effort on your part to help them find what they are looking for. Never discount the good will you can generate by having someone take a heavy package to their car, although that is not generally a service you provide.

Processing returns efficiently is part of good service. With few exceptions, customers don't like to bring anything back to the store. When their return is politely handled, it creates confidence in the store. That feeling of confidence can lead to loyalty.

Hands-free cellphone systems by Ford, others, make driving safer



Many states are targeting distracted drivers. The use of cellphones and texting while driving are at the heart of such legislation.

Highway safety experts don't agree on whether hands-free cellphones are enough of a distraction to merit bans. Many question the value of cellphone laws of any kind because, for one thing, they are very difficult to

enforce. Jim Vondale, Ford's safety vice president, recently visited safety groups and government officials in Washington, D.C., in an effort to gain support for the Sync hands-free system offered on all Ford models. The system is for talking, texting and entertainment. Ford research shows that when drivers were asked to perform several driving tasks while using the system, there was no difference in the ability to do them. When drivers using the Sync system were asked to acknowledge a pedestrian, for example, their response time was less than when they used a hand-held phone.

Vondale says the real risks are handheld phones, younger drivers, and texting people while driving, especially by drivers of school buses and by people driving for mass transit systems. According to USA Today, many high-end vehicles now have hands-free systems such as General Motors' OnStar satellite communications system and BMW's Bluetooth system.

Other distractions

It is well documented that drowsy drivers cause more severe consequences than drivers using a cellphone.

Studies by Virginia Tech found that reading or turning around to get something in the back seat while driving can be riskier than talking on a cellphone.

What you can do

Get enough sleep so you won't be drowsy while driving. If you get sleepy anyway, pull over and take a nap.

Never text on a handheld phone while driving. Pull over and do it.

Whether your phone is handheld or hands-free, keep on-the-road conversations short to reduce your risk of being a distracted driver.

Useless Facts

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

When the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers play football at home, the stadium becomes the state's third largest city.

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.



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