

More than Books

Money Smart Week kicks off at the library

Money Smart Week, April 5 – 12, is a chance to learn more about money and how to manage it. Please keep reading, because I didn't know anything about Money Smart Week either before I agreed to hold the kick-off event here at the library Saturday morning, April 5, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Financial institutions, government agencies, and not-for profit organizations are joining forces to provide a series of financial education workshops to the public - minus any sales pitches! On Saturday, a representative from Cornerstone Credit Union will be here at 9 a.m. to talk about building credit. Someone from the Veterans Assistance Commission has a concurrent 9 a.m. program on veterans' emergency and end-of-life benefits.

At 10 a.m., HomeStart Housing Consulting Services's program tells how to buy your dream home, while, at a another 10 a.m. session, a well-qualified rep from Rockford Retirement Resource Center answers the question, "When should I take social security?" and provides tips on maximizing benefits. At 11 a.m., a University of Illinois Extension program focuses on simple steps to home energy savings, and, in the next room over, Stephenson County Health Department tackles the new healthcare options available through Get Covered Illinois.

The programs at the library are just a few of the hundreds of free financial events scheduled nationwide during Money Smart Week, which was originally created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Pick up a handsome brochure at the library check-out desk to learn about all the programs offered during the week in Freeport, Stephenson County, and elsewhere in Northern Illinois.

Just for Kids

There's one more program on April 5 that I want to call to your attention. At 10 a.m., there's a special children's program for kids, "Curious George Saves His Pennies – and you can too!" Children are invited to listen to a story, make a craft, learn about money, and take home a free Curious George book.

Look for announcements in the paper or go to the Money Smart website, <http://www.moneysmartweek.org>, for additional information about Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoon and evening programs. Locations include Cub Foods and Highland Community College, in addition to the library.

Library Director Carole Dickerson may be reached by phone at 815-233-3000, ext. 216 or by email at cdickerson@freeportpubliclibrary.org.