

# Managing Your Money

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT KEYS IN BEING A SUCCESS AS A HOMEOWNER OR RENTER IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MONEY COMING IN IS MORE THAN THE MONEY GOING OUT.

OWNING A HOME CAN MAKE THIS TASK MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE LARGE OR UNEXPECTED COSTS THAT MAY COME UP FROM TIME TO TIME.

- MAJOR REPAIR BILLS
- REPLACEMENT OF OLD EQUIPMENT
- SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS
- LARGE ONCE-A-YEAR EXPENSES

HAVING ACCESS TO EASY CREDIT DOES NOT HELP YOU EITHER...  
BE AWARE OF CHARGE ACCOUNTS, DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT CARDS

- THE PEOPLE YOU OWE MONEY DO NOT KNOW OR CARE IF YOUR ARE SPENDING MORE THAN YOU EARN.
- THIS MEANS THAT YOU MAY BE DIGGING YOURSELF INTO A FINANCIAL HOLE.
- TO AVOID THIS, YOU MUST KNOW AHEAD OF TIME WHAT YOU CAN REALLY AFFORD TO SPEND EACH MONTH WITH CASH OR WITH CREDIT.

TO HELP YOU KEEP CONTROL OF YOUR EXPENSES, A GOOD IDEA IS TO HAVE A FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN...

- IN DRAWING UP A BUDGET /FINANCIAL DIET, YOU WILL WANT TO...
- KEEP IT SIMPLE. IF IT'S TOO COMPLICATED YOU WON'T USE IT.
- BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF...IF YOU UNDERESTIMATE OR OVERESTIMATE, YOU'RE ONLY FOOLING YOURSELF.
- INVOLVE THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY.
- KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS...EACH MONTH KEEP CHECK STUBS, BILL RECEIPTS, AND MONTHLY MORTGAGE AND RENT STATEMENTS. THIS WILL TELL YOU HOW MUCH YOU ARE SPENDING AND WHETHER YOU NEED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS.
- KEEP THE PLAN UP TO DATE—A PLAN THAT IS OUT OF DATE IS NOT USEFUL. TIMES AND SITUATIONS CHANGE FROM MONTH TO MONTH. KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY IS COMING IN AND HOW MUCH MONEY IS GOING OUT.