

Finance experts offer free advice

Saturday workshop topics include managing money, surviving a job loss and financial planning basics

BY EDWARD RUSSO

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In these troubled economic times, financial adviser Craig Weicker says, it's more important than ever for people to manage their money wisely.

To help with that, Weicker and other financial experts on Saturday will offer free advice on budgeting, debt management, financial planning, credit repair and other monetary topics during the second annual Eugene Financial Planning Day.

"Most Americans are still struggling with the challenging economic situation," said Weicker, president of the Financial Planning Association of Mid Oregon.

The event, at Willamette High School in west Eugene, will feature classroom-style workshops led by financial advisers, and 15-minute meetings where people can get individual advice from certified financial planners and other professional advisers.

Workshop topics include managing your money in hard times, surviving a job loss and financial planning basics.

Most of the advisers volunteering for the event are from Eugene and Springfield, but a few will come from Salem and Bend.

Typically, it costs from \$500 to \$1,000 to get the same kind of advice, Weicker said.

"Many planners charge a fee, but more challenging for people is, who should they go to and who can they trust?" Weicker said.

Attendees will not be subject to selling or business promotion of any kind, Weicker said. Advisers will not be allowed to pitch financial products or services, or even hand out business cards, to ensure that the advice is offered with no strings attached, he said.

"Each planner has to complete training and follow these strict guidelines," Weicker said.

The financial planning day is being sponsored by the Financial Planning Association of Mid Oregon, United Way of Lane County, the city of Eugene, the Foundation for Financial Planning, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Chris Pryor, United Way's director of community impact, said he hopes the event attracts more than the 100 or so people who attended last year. People of all ages, including young people, could benefit from the financial advice, he said.

"We would love to see people who are in their first job or early job to take advantage of this," he said.

Lane Transit District will offer 200 free round trip bus rides to the event. Passes are available first-come-first-served at six locations, including Eugene City Hall and the offices of St. Vincent de Paul and Goodwill Industries, both in Eugene.

Financial Planning

Free financial advice will be available Saturday.

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Willamette High School, 1801 Echo Hollow Road

Walk-ins welcome, but admission will be granted first to people who register at www.financialplanningdays.org/eugene

For more information, call Elena Fracchia, United Way of Lane County, 541-741-6000, Ext. 101

LTD is offering 200 free round-trip tickets to the event. The passes are available at Eugene city manager's office, City Hall, 777 Pearl St; Lane County commissioners' office, Lane County Public Service Building, 125 E. Eighth Ave; NEDCO, 783 Grant St.; Goodwill Industries, 855 S. Seneca Road; St. Vincent de Paul, 705 S. Seneca Road; United Way, 3171 Gateway Loop, Springfield

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