

# What's New!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FINANCES,  
YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE AND MANAGING YOUR MONEY.



Wes Garner CRPC®  
Senior Financial  
Advisor

## Dates to Remember

### Branch Holidays:

#### Memorial Day

Monday, May 25

#### Independence Day

Friday and Saturday, July 3 & 4



## Bills got you down? Break free with the Freedom Loan

Helping you and other TDECU members attain financial freedom is what we strive for each and every day.

Our Freedom Loan is a great place to start. Consolidate multiple, high-interest debt payments with affordable terms and rates as low as 8% APR.

Besides the time saved from making just one payment each month to the credit union, our Freedom Loan can also help save you hundreds of dollars on a monthly basis as well.

Effective debt management is the first step toward financial freedom, and the TDECU Freedom Loan is a step in the right direction. For more information go to [TDECU.org](http://TDECU.org).

## What should you do during a recession?

The most popular definition of a recession is when the gross national product (GNP) declines for two consecutive quarters. The average recession during the past fifty years lasted eleven months. But there are reasons to believe that recessions are getting shorter.

In recent years, our economy has had more service-oriented industries, such as trade and transportation, where employment is usually more stable than it can be with others such as manufacturing. These stable industries have made the economy less susceptible to prolonged and severe recessions. In addition, the government has been playing a bigger role in moderating recessions. Unemployment insurance has helped to reduce the loss of income during those downturns, and monetary policy has been used to reduce interest rates and make credit more accessible.

### What Should You Do Now?

Whether or not the economy is in a recession, if your own family is in a personal recession there are some things you can do to cope and possibly prosper during these difficult times:

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**1. Keep saving.** Even if you have to cut back somewhere, maintaining your savings plan should be a top priority. Cut back other expenditures before you reduce your current savings plan. And cut deeper before you dip into your current savings accounts.

**2. Watch your asset allocation program.** If you are investing for the long term, don't let short-term disturbances in the stock market throw you off your long-term goals. Jumping in and out of the stock market rarely leads to positive results.

**3. Reduce, or at least don't increase, your credit.** Increasing your credit load during an economic downturn just makes it harder for you to recover once the economy turns positive. Try doing without cable television and cell phones instead of "paying" for things with your credit card.

### Surviving Until the Recovery

The U.S. has seen many recessions and every one has been followed by a recovery. With the strategies outlined here you can confidently survive any recession through to the next recovery.

## A New TDECU Online Banking Experience Awaits Members

Get ready to experience the best in online banking when TDECU unveils, in May, its enhanced and upgraded online banking features. Members will immediately notice a design that invites them to try out new applications including Enhanced Security Features, Mobile Banking, Secure Messaging, and Online Wire Transfers. Online banking offers on-

the-go convenience and instant, anywhere access to your everyday transactions. Sign-up to experience first-hand the numerous benefits of TDECU online banking. All current online banking users must verify their contact information before May 11 to ensure uninterrupted online banking service. Visit [TDECU.org](http://TDECU.org) today for an online demonstration.

# TDECU INSURANCE

TDECU INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC

**Is your home safe from flooding? We can help determine the risk.**



You found your dream home in an area that seems perfect in every way. But did you stop to think that your home could be at risk for flooding.?

Consider this: Flooding can happen anywhere, and certain areas are especially prone to serious flooding.

According to floodsmart.gov, 25 % of flood insurance claims are filed by homeowners in low to moderate risk areas. Floods are the most common natural disasters. It's important to know the facts to protect your home.

You can contact your TDECU Insurance Agent to determine your home's risk and evaluate what type of flood insurance best suits your needs.

To help communities understand their risk, Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) have been created to show the locations of risk areas. These maps can be found at the FEMA website: [www.fema.gov/hazard/map/firm.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/map/firm.shtm).

Your TDECU Insurance agent can guide you in understanding these maps. "There is no greater investment than your home. We are here to help and give you peace of mind. Let us help you determine your risk to ensure you are properly covered in the event a disaster strikes," says Judd Pavlicek, TDECU Insurance Program Manager.

To learn more about TDECU's Insurance services, call 888.833.7358 or visit us online [TDECUinsurance.org](http://TDECUinsurance.org).

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## TDECU Breaks Ground on Investments and Insurance Wing

We are excited to announce that construction is now underway for our new Investments and Insurance wing at our Lake Jackson Branch. Ground was broken at the site on April 27. The wing, encompassing an additional 4,000 square-feet, is an add-on to our present Lake Jackson Branch, which will receive a facelift as well. The new wing will house TDECU

Insurance Agency, LLC, and Investment Services, and the team of professionals that are ready to advise our members in these areas. The TDECU Insurance Agency, LLC was launched in 2008 and provides members with personal and commercial insurance products for home, auto, boat, RV, ATV and motorcycle. "Investments and Insurance represent

growing lines of services for TDECU, which sprung forth at the request of our members. The trust they instill in TDECU is returned through our everyday efforts to keep their best interests in mind," said Steph Sherrodd, Sr. VP of Member Services. The new wing is set to be completed this Fall. Watch for more news and updates here in future editions of, "What's New!"



Coming August 1, 2009, Max, the friendly voice behind TDECU's automated telephone banking system, will be taking your calls.

Max is able to quickly direct your call and he can also help you with most anything you need. With Max you can access account and loan information, make payments and even transfer money within

## Maximize Your Time with TDECU's Max

your account or to another member's account.

Members will always be able to talk to a live person, but Max will be there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with literally twice as fast service.

Max is as secure as talking to a live person. And he's ready to assist you with your frequent transactions and general question inquiries. Max can also share the latest information on CD rates and other TDECU products. To talk to Max, all you need is a keypad on your

land line or cell phone, and a PIN. If you already have a PIN, let Max serve you today. If you don't have a PIN, simply call 800.839.1154 and we'll get you set up with one immediately.

Also, beginning July 1, members with loan requests can contact TDECU Member Care Representatives — Monday thru Friday from 8 am to 6 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm.

For more on Max and other exciting banking options we are making available to our members, visit [TDECU.org](http://TDECU.org).

## Save with Studio55+ Club

Shop these businesses for discounts with your Studio55+ Card! Membership in the Studio 55+ Club is free, and provides benefits that only TDECU members 55 and older can enjoy. For more information visit [Studio55plus.org](http://Studio55plus.org).

### Angleton

Angleton Flower & Gift Shop  
DER Equipment Co.  
Frakey's Cleaners  
Po Boy's Seafood  
Sunny Hearts

### Brazoria

Brazos Tractor & Equipment (BTE)  
Fireplaces by Roye  
Frakey's Cleaners  
TJ's Lube Stop

### Clute

J-Mac's Furniture  
M&G Trailer Ranch  
TJ's Lube Stop

### Freeport

Frakey's Cleaners

### Lake Jackson

Chem-Dry by Joe  
Frakey's Cleaners  
Fuddrucker's  
Grapevine Gifts  
Rios Jewelry  
Uncommon Market

### Sweeny

Tinson Cutz

### Victoria

Atzenhoffer Chevrolet  
Chem-Dry of Victoria