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The Latest

Longtime CCCU branch leader, Vice-President Judy Clark retires



Clark County Credit Union recently announced that Judy Clark has officially retired from her position as Vice-president of branch operations after 25 years of employment with the company.

Clark began her career with CCCU as a part-time loan underwriter. Throughout the years, she lent her expertise in various roles, including system conversion training and human resources, where she eventually held the position of human resources officer for six years. Clark's position as vice-president of branch operations was instrumental in boosting CCCU's standing in the community, making it one of the most successful credit unions in the region.

"Judy always had the credit union members at top of mind," said Wayne Tew, President and CEO of CCCU. "Her skills and leadership eventually led to her becoming our vice president of branch operations where she always maintained great awareness of how any of our business decisions affected the members. Her work has helped assure our success into the next century."

Clark was instrumental in the planning and opening of multiple branches throughout the years. "Judy had mastered the details in a very thorough way," recalled Vice-president Mark Andrews. "Her ability to forecast project milestones, organize efforts and make sure that all the players met their deadlines is amazing. Many of our projects benefited from her fine-tuned attention." Clark helped to open branches during expansion periods in various parts of the Las Vegas market.

Her thoughtful style of leadership also helped the credit union to create the "one big, happy family culture" that she loved, for which the credit union is known.

Her last day was April 17, 2015. She and her husband, Larry Clark (a retired Clark County employee), enjoy traveling by RV and have some wonderful plans for visiting favorite and new US destinations. We wish them many fun and safe miles – and a BIG 'Thank You' to Judy for her great work of 25 years!



Getting Ahead

Are You Paying the Stupid Tax?

You may be getting a tax refund soon, but that doesn't mean you're not paying other kinds of taxes. I'm not talking about sales tax or property tax. I'm talking about the stupid tax. Let me give a personal example.

My Recent Stupid tax

The passenger-side rear window of my car is partially broken. You can only roll it down from the front, and you can only roll it up from the back. So between the driver's control and the passenger-side rear seat control, we have the full range of window maneuvering covered.

Just a week ago, I was driving and my hand accidentally hit the window button, which made the passenger-side rear window go down a few inches. I leaned back and stretched across to press the other button to roll it back up, but it didn't do anything. I tried a few more times until

I started to accept the fact that the window switch may have finally died on me. When I got home, I did a little poking and prying to see if I could get the window to roll up to no avail.

I didn't want the window to be permanently open for fear of rain or theft, so I took it in to have it fixed. The shop called and said that the window could be rolled down from the front and rolled up from the back. I was confused and said that the whole reason I brought it in was because it no longer rolled up from the back. They told me—wait for it—that it wouldn't roll up because the window lock was on. The window lock! The same window lock I've used hundreds of times so my kids don't play with the windows. I had to pay \$45 bucks just for them to tell me that. I'm still beating myself up over that one.

That is what we call a stupid tax—expenses we incur which are easily avoided and completely unnecessary. The list is endless, and I have listed 3 common ones here.

1. Late fees

Do you ever go to the library? With 3 young kids, we sure do, so we are well acquainted with the late fee. Each time we go to the library, we do so with a renewed determination to not incur any late fees. But somehow there's always that one book that ends up under a child's mattress or behind a dresser. Most bills have late fees associated with them. It's hard enough seeing our hard-earned money go out the door for the utilities. Why pay more just because you didn't pay on time?

2. Credit card interest

Credit card interest is like a penalty for buying something on credit because we couldn't afford it. Here is one of the most basic principles of personal finance: Never buy something you cannot afford. If you fail to comply with that principle, at least don't pay interest on the item you shouldn't have bought!

3. Gambling

Who in Las Vegas hasn't gambled or at least thought about it? There is always that small glimmer of hope that you can hit the jackpot. Otherwise, no one would do it. But when it comes to the lottery or your favorite casino, the odds are not in our favor. If you do gamble, at least make sure you are budgeting for it and that you are comfortable with losing that amount of money.



Make saving easier on yourself

Saving money requires discipline. Why make it even harder on yourself by paying a stupid tax? Analyze the areas of your life where you might be letting money slip through the cracks for no reason. Maybe you're paying too much for your phone plan. Maybe you don't use all of the features of your cable package. Maybe you have a time-share you never use. Once you can identify and cut out the stupid taxes you are paying, you may find that your budget isn't so tight after all.

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Getting Ahead

Why Millennials Should Prepare for Retirement Today

It's never too early to start preparing for retirement. Even if you're just starting out in your career, and you'd rather be saving for a trip to Europe than for retirement, setting up the proper accounts and seeding them with funds can make an enormous difference down the road.

That is because of the magic of compounding, the process through which even small investments can grow into big sums if given enough time. Here's how it works.

The magic of compound interest

At age 25, say you deposit \$1,000 into a certificate of deposit that is compounded monthly and has an annual percentage yield of 1%. Every month you add \$75 to that CD. At the end of the first year, you have \$1,914.18. But by age 35, with monthly deposits of the same \$75, your sum becomes \$10,566.37. The best thing about this is that you gained \$566.37 in interest alone. By age 55, the total sum is \$32,821, in which \$2,821 is interest.



In contrast, say you invest money more aggressively into a stock index fund that averages a 7% annual return. You contribute \$1,000 to begin and add \$75 monthly. You're at \$2,001.73 in a year, \$14,991.02 in 10 years and \$99,614.32 in 30 years.

Both of these exercises assume you keep your contributions steady. Most people will increase their monthly contributions over time as they earn more money, especially in individual retirement accounts. If you want to test your own scenario, try the compound interest calculator on Investor.gov.

How do I start?

About two-thirds of millennial workers expect to primarily self-fund their retirement through retirement and other savings accounts, according to a recent survey from the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, an affiliate of the life insurance company.

There are two main types of accounts that offer tax-advantaged savings to help you prepare for retirement:

401(k) plans

If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar plan, this is one of the easiest ways to jump-start your savings. That is because money is deducted from your paycheck, before being taxed, and set aside into an investment account where it grows tax-free until you reach retirement age.

Many companies offer a matching contribution as an incentive for you to maximize your savings. Typically employers will provide matching contributions up to 3% or even 6% of your salary. The match can be 1:1 or 50 cents for every dollar you put in.

At a minimum, make sure to take advantage of your company's full match, because you basically are receiving free money for retirement. Many financial planners recommend setting aside 10 to 15% of your income for retirement, beginning when you are in your 20s.

Traditional and Roth IRAs

Whether or not you have a 401(k), you may be eligible to open an individual retirement account (IRA), which provides another beneficial way of saving for retirement. You can open one at financial institutions like Clark County Credit Union and enjoy the magic of compound interest as described above. Traditional IRA contributions are taxed upon withdrawal, whereas Roth IRA funds are taxed the year they're deposited, but can be withdrawn tax-free. If you expect that you'll make more money later on and have a higher tax rate, a Roth IRA can serve you better.

The bottom line

If you don't save for retirement, your financial future will be more uncertain. The advantage that compound interest brings cannot be overstated. One day, you'll look back and thank your younger self for starting that retirement plan.

Spencer Tierney, NerdWallet

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News & Events

Meet the staff at Henderson

Amid the historic buildings and nostalgic murals that represent the culture of The Water Street District, sits CCCU's Henderson branch at 303 S Water St. Whether it's a parade going by, or the weekly Farmer's Market, this section of town has a very special and different feel to it than any other area in the valley. Henderson residents are proud of their city's history, and the vintage black and white photos on the walls in our downtown branch reflect the fact that our employees share the same sense of honor and respect for the city of Henderson. Many CCCU members will remember Monica Simmons, Henderson City Clerk, who curated the historic photos.

If you compare the current branch, which opened in December of 2005, to the previous Henderson branch at 202 Pacific, one thing is obvious – CCCU has grown! The old branch was 900 cozy-square feet and the current branch is over 4,000 square feet. However, even though the branch is bigger in size, it still has the same small town feel when you walk in to do your banking. In fact, when asked what their favorite part of Henderson is, the staff will tell you it's that feeling that they like so much:

- "My favorite part of Henderson is the small town, friendly feel." – Ali
- "We get to know our members on a personal level, and it's not just another face that you're helping." – Robert
- "Everyone here is so nice! There is a great community feel here." – Katie
- "The family feel is the best part of Henderson." – Melissa
- "I love that Henderson has so much history and still has a small town feel." – Tracy
- "My favorite part about Henderson would be the history behind the location and the members that have been with us for 30-plus years." – Jessica

Tracy Webb, Branch Manager, has been in banking since 1987. She says the best part of her job is creating a team environment and helping members. On her weekends, you're likely to find Tracy working around the house, watching movies, or playing piano.

Christina Aguirre, Assistant Branch Manager, is originally from Orange County, California. She moved to Las Vegas 3 years ago, when she was hired with CCCU. Christina likes to travel, and she enjoys playing trivia, sewing, and hiking in her spare time.

Melissa Lawrence is the Members Service Rep Supervisor and is originally from Brooklyn, New York. Melissa says she knew that she wanted to work for CCCU because she's been a member for nearly 20 years and loves the credit union.

Josh Pasene, Mortgage Loan Officer, has 14 years of banking experience and is originally from Oceanside, California. In his spare time, Josh coaches softball, plays volleyball, and likes to bowl.

Cynthia Garcia, Financial Services Representative, says that she "loves being able to educate members on how to make the most out of their money and opening up possibilities they thought were out of reach". She's been with CCCU for almost 3 years and enjoys teaching Sunday school.



Tracy Webb



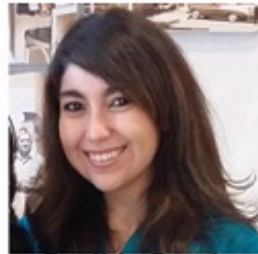
Christina Aguirre



Melissa Lawrence



Josh Pasene



Cynthia Garcia



**MSRs = Member Service Representatives
Katie Williams, Jessica Spurlin, Melissa Lawrence, and Robert Encinas**





News & Events

Bite of Reality – a financial workshop for teens

Hands-On, Enjoyable and Informative

Bite of Reality is a workshop for teens in which they get to experience realistic financial responsibilities in order to help them better understand how to budget their money as an adult. They will be assigned a job with income, a spouse, one or more children, and debts. They will then need to purchase necessities which may land them in some trouble if they don't manage their money correctly. Luckily, their credit union friends will be there to help them out if they get stuck.

The Bite of Reality will take place on Saturday, May 16th from 10am-12:30pm and will be held at the Sunrise Mountain High School. If interested, please RSVP to Julie@ccculv.com.



Lifestyle

Unique Vehicles from Mainstream Manufacturers

If you want to stand out, here are a few vehicles you'll want to see

There are many choices for you to consider when you're looking for a new vehicle, but if you want to stand out from the crowd, that number shrinks dramatically. While most vehicles follow a cookie cutter mold, and fit in with the crowd, there are still a handful of vehicles that do things their own way. Here are a few to consider.

smart fortwo – Engineered with Mercedes-Benz, the smart fortwo is a small car with excellent gas mileage and a small carbon footprint. Starting at an MSRP of \$13,270 for the aptly named “fortwo,” you're sure to turn plenty of heads, and field even more questions. The fortwo is 85 percent recyclable and can achieve as much as 38 mpg highway. Unique colors and plenty of features make this model as fun as it is practical. And even though it's minute, that doesn't mean it's not safe. As a matter of fact, the fortwo comes standard with eight airbags, electronic stability program and a patented tridion safety cell that's modeled after a racecar roll cage, keeping you as safe as possible.



Ford Flex - If hauling people is a priority, but you're just not ready to go the minivan route, the Ford Flex is a great choice. Part SUV, part station wagon and part spaceship, the seven-passenger Flex starts at an MSRP of \$29,100 and is available in three trim levels, SE, SEL and Limited. There are two engines to choose from, one of them being a turbocharged 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 that gets up to 365 hp and 350 lb/ft of torque, while still managing up to 23 mpg highway. There is an excellent 155.8 cubic feet of passenger volume and up to 83.2 cubic feet of cargo capacity, too. In addition to its bold design, standout features include available ambient lighting, a refrigerated console that can hold up to seven 12-ounce cans or four half-liter bottles around 40 degrees, a 12-speaker Sony audio system and power liftgate. Edmunds added that, “The 2015 Ford Flex offers a combination of space, versatility, features and solid driving dynamics that makes it a top choice among larger crossovers.”

Cadillac ELR - If you're looking for a luxury car that won't blend in, the ELR may be what you're looking for. The ELR is labeled an extended range electric vehicle, which means you get the best of

both a gas powered and an electric powered vehicle. With a 37-mile range of electric driving, the ELR can go over an additional 300 miles with its gas-powered engine. And we're not talking about some wimpy engine either, with total system output of 162 hp and a thunderous 295 lb/ft of torque, the ELR can shoot to 60 mph in a tick over 7 1/2 seconds.

"Cadillac's new 2014 ELR looks astonishing," according to *Car and Driver* magazine. "Low, chiseled, aggressive, provocative, and uncompromised by any concession to practicality, it seems to have been time-warped out of some Gene Roddenberry-spec, 23rd-century future onto today's roads."

There are some other interesting models to check out including the Nissan Juke, Audi TT, Subaru XC Crosstrek and the Toyota FJ Cruiser. Whatever you choose, be sure to stop by to see the financing options we can offer you.

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Lifestyle

Visit Reykjavik, Iceland

A European vacation that is anything but ordinary

If you're sick of repeating the same vacations year after year, take a break from the ordinary and escape to Iceland for a mega dose of adventure, scenic beauty and culture. Staying in Reykjavik gives visitors easy access to geothermal wonders, fine dining and extraordinary landscapes, for an Icelandic vacation you will never forget.

What to do

When you look at tourism photos of Iceland, there is one scene that is always featured: tourists relaxing in the shockingly blue geothermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. The drive from Reykjavik is approximately 50 minutes, but it is well worth the trip for the outrageous photo opportunities and the chance to relax in a natural wonder. Many visitors feel that the natural minerals in the lava-heated seawater have unique healing properties, so save time to rest and soak awhile. You can find more information about the Blue Lagoon and other thermal pools close to Reykjavik at <http://www.visitreykjavik.is>.

You will gain an understanding of the history of Iceland as you enjoy the vibrant and imaginative displays at the National Museum of Iceland, including the permanent "Making a Nation" exhibit. This glimpse of history combined with the other artistic displays will give you insight to the local culture and enrich your entire vacation. You can find directions and other information at <http://www.thjodminjasafn.is>.

Where to stay

Just as when buying a home, selecting a hotel is all about the location, and Hotel Borg features one of the best in the city. The hotel, which was built in 1930, is located next to Reykjavik's cathedral on the beautifully landscaped Austurvöllur square. The hotel is resplendent in Art Deco charm that features a minimalist Scandinavian twist. Shopping, fine dining, art galleries and more are all within walking distance. You can find more information about amenities and book your stay at <http://en.hotelborg.is>.

The 101 Hotel is another option in a wonderful location with many restaurants and nightlife options in walking distance. This sophisticated boutique hotel is one of the trendiest in the city, attracting glamorous and interesting guests, so make sure to stop into the bar to enjoy the atmosphere and an aperitif before heading out to dinner. To learn more about this romantic and happening hotel, please visit <http://www.101hotel.is>.

Where to eat

The fish market Fiskmarkadurinn is considered by many to be the best restaurant in the city. This iconic downtown spot is located in a historic wood-frame building that gives diners a glimpse of traditional Icelandic wood-frame architecture juxtaposed with trendy Asian decor. Regional Icelandic dishes are likewise paired in perfect harmony with Asian cuisine, for an unforgettable meal.

If you are willing to travel slightly outside of downtown to the family-owned 3 Frakkar Hja Ulfari, you will have the opportunity to experience some truly traditional cuisine. The menu is primarily seafood, and diners with adventurous taste will be greatly rewarded.

“Popular with locals and unabashedly Icelandic, 3 Frakkar accommodates just 44 diners in its cozy, old-school dining room enlivened by mounted fish and stuffed rams' heads on the walls,” describes Travel + Leisure magazine.

Embark on a new adventure that will surely become a cherished memory for your family by starting to plan your Iceland vacation today.

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Lifestyle

Green Spring Cleaning Tips

Spruce up your home in an eco-friendly way

It's that time of year again...everyone is busting out their cleaning supplies and partaking in the springtime spruce up. Rather than spending a bunch of time and money on materials and methods that harm the world around us, utilize these tips to be more environmentally-conscious and even improve your environment.

Dusting

One simple suggestion is the tip that keeps on tipping — use vinegar. Vinegar is the primary green cleaning solution for multiple uses. Mix a few tablespoons of vinegar in a bowl of water, soak a dishrag, wring it out and go to town on any surface. The solution not only cleans off present dust, but also sticks around to help repel future dust.



Carpet cleaning

Use the same ingredients in a steam cleaner (a borrowed one, if you want to save money) to deep clean your rugs. Fill the compartment with equal parts water and vinegar, then use the cleaner as directed and rinse with plain water. Don't worry about the vinegar smell, it disappears as the carpet dries.

Bathrooms

Save money by purchasing borax at the supermarket instead of the multitude of commercial cleaners out there. Mix it with water and lemon juice and then start cleaning. But you'll have to be more patient — because although it is more healthful, it doesn't cut through the grit as quickly as typical cleaners with chemicals, but eventually the job is done just as well.

Freezers

Don't forget about ridding your refrigerator of those stinky old leftovers. While you're at it, do the freezer, too. To avoid the freezer's contents thawing out and going bad while you are cleaning, simply remember to plan ahead. Take an inventory of what's in your freezer and list out a weekly menu utilizing the frozen food. Then clean out the fridge/freezer with the same solution you used to dust. Once your spring cleaning is done, go shopping for fresh food to refill your appliance.

Tapestries and bedding

Remove your curtains and strip the beds, then wash them on delicate with an eco-friendly, high-efficiency (or "honest") detergent. Afterward, take advantage of that springtime weather and hang them outdoors to dry.

Air filters

Install a living air filter in the form of houseplants. Not only do they add decor to your home, they also efficiently clean the interior air. To properly clean your home's air, the recommended number of plants is between 15-18 Spider plants, English ivy, rubber plants or peace lilies (in a 6-8-inch diameter container) for an 1,800-square-foot home. That might sound like a lot, but you can be creative with arrangements and also place more in rooms where you spend the most time.

Recycle clutter

If you have extra items that you no longer use, or clothes that don't fit, for example, put them aside for a yard sale or box them up for Goodwill or the Salvation Army. You can also list things on Craigslist or other social media for sale or giveaway.

If you have clothing items that are a little more-than-gently used, turn them into rags for dusting. This is much more eco-friendly than wasting single-use paper towels for cleaning.

Remember that these tips apply any time of year, not just in the springtime. Use these suggestions and start living more closely to nature all year round.

