



Ink Color Matters

When you search for a pen to write a check, think about the ink color! Checks should be written with a blue or black ballpoint pen. The equipment used to read checks (from the register at the store to the Federal Reserve's equipment) are not able to read Sharpies, markers,

colored ink pens or gel pens.

Please also be aware that some companies sell check designs that have dark or busy backgrounds and some of these designs may cause the same problems.



Start your

Summer Saver

Wouldn't it be nice to have a debt free summer next year? Avoid running up your credit cards next year by saving now with a Summer Saver account! For example, a \$20 weekly payroll deduction over one year will give you over \$1,000 for summer expenses next year. Use it to pay for a nice vacation, a new pool, school supplies, or tuition! You may make withdrawals anytime between June 1st and August 30th. There is a penalty if you make withdrawals outside of the club withdrawal period.

Money Jar Winners!

Washington County Benefits Fair

Mike Mitchell

Razorbash

Michelle McGehee

Recipe Corner

Pimento Cheese

- 4oz cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar
- 1 cup grated Monterey Jack
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- Dash of each: salt, pepper & garlic powder
- 2 to 3 tablespoons pimentos
- 1 teaspoon grated onion
- Cracked black pepper



Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese until smooth and fluffy. Add all of the remaining ingredients and beat until well blended. It can be used as a dip or as a sandwich filling.

Recipe courtesy Paula Deen

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Check out our new website! Tell us what you think on our online Member Survey.

www.uarkfcu.com

Holiday Closings

Monday, October 9th Columbus Day
Friday, November 10th Veterans Day
Thursday, Nov. 23rd Thanksgiving
Monday, December 26th Christmas

UARK wishes you and your family safe and happy holiday celebrations.

Beware of Disreputable 'Credit Repair' Services

by Nancy Ford

Good credit can be the key to getting loans, jobs, and saving money. Some people have outstanding credit: They've never been late on a credit card or loan payment, and have a good balance of revolving and installment accounts. Other people aren't in such good standing.

"Poor credit isn't the end of the world, but it can make life more expensive," said Joel Doelger, director of counseling for Credit Counseling of Arkansas. "It's never too late to get your credit on the right track, but it doesn't happen overnight."

Not only does it not happen overnight, but it can take years. Accurate reports of late payments, charge-offs, or settlements will remain on your credit report for up to seven years. Some types of bankruptcies may stay on for 10 years. The fact is, if the negative information is accurate, only time can take it off.

Despite this undeniable fact, so-called credit repair companies prey on people's desire for a quick fix, and make claims about being able to erase negative information from a credit report. Essentially credit repair outfits charge consumers to dispute credit report items on that client's behalf. Many ask clients to forward copies of their most

current report, and then dispute anything and everything to credit bureaus in hopes of having the items removed.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) warns consumers about utilizing these services, and lists several ways to identify them. Look for these telltale signs:

- 1) Company wants you to pay for "credit repair" services up front
- 2) Company doesn't bother to inform you of your legal rights concerning credit report disputes
- 3) Company recommends that you have no direct contact with the credit bureau yourself
- 4) Company suggests you invent a "new" credit identity

If a person thinks something on his or her report is inaccurate, he or she can dispute it directly to the credit bureau, and it doesn't cost a dime. Credit bureaus are obligated by law to take these disputes seriously, research the matter, and respond within 30 days. The dispute must be put in writing and mailed to the credit bureau. A sample dispute letter is available at the FTC's website (www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/credit/repair.htm). The three major credit bureaus are Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union. By federal law, you are entitled to a free credit report each year from each bureau. Call 877-322-8228 or visit www.annualcreditreport.com for your copy.

So, if you have damaged credit, don't turn to unscrupulous companies who make promises they can't keep. Just start doing things right, and think of poor credit not as a permanent scar, but as a wound that will heal.