

Be Money Smart @ Your Library!

The Rock Island Public Library

April 1, 2009

Library Shred Days help you dispose of personal papers safely



Quad Cities—The Rock Island Public Library will host three events to help consumers prevent identity theft, manage their money wisely and learn about topics that could affect their personal finances. The Rock Island Library events are part of nearly 40 free classes, seminars and activities promoting financial education that will take place during **Quad Cities Money Smart Week April 18 – 25, 2009.**

Rock Island, in conjunction with library partners Bettendorf and the Davenport Fairmount Street Branch, is again offering bulk shredding of personal documents during free Community Shred Days. This is an easy, confidential way to destroy old documents and protect against identity theft. Provided thanks to the support of Document Destruction and Recycling Services of Davenport, the Rock Island Public Library Shred Days will be offered:

Wednesday, April 22 from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Rock Island Main Library downtown, 401- 19th Street, and

Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rock Island Southwest Branch, 9010 Ridgewood Road.

Items will not be shredded at the library for security purposes. Document Destruction and Recycling Services is a bonded offsite shredder that has achieved special certification to shred the most confidential of documents, such as those from the banking and medical industries. It is a division of City Carton.

Adding that Shred Days were also available at Bettendorf and Davenport, Rock Island Library spokeswoman Lisa Lockheart said, “The benefit of us all working together is that if patrons miss one day, they have opportunities elsewhere. Anyone can take advantage of this service. It’s also a happy coincidence that our Main Library Shred Day happens to fall on Earth Day, since our cooperative effort last year diverted 3.73 tons of paper from area landfills.”

In other events, the Rock Island Public Library is also offering a free seminar on “**Asset Protection for Seniors,**” on **Thursday, April 23 at 10 a.m.** in the Main Library Community Room. The seminar, from attorney Melissa L. Uzzell, of Jamieson Long & Associates Elder Law

Firm, will focus on retaining records, dealing with “zombie debt” and other strategies to protect your finances. Zombie debt is old debt purchased by collection agencies, often for pennies on the dollar. Consumers, who may have thought the debt was discharged, can find themselves the subject of some intimidating calls and letters. “Though titled for seniors, the tips in this session could really help anyone,” adds Lockheart.

Jamieson Long & Associates is a Moline-based law practice that helps older and disabled clients to navigate the complexities of today's legal and health care systems. Uzzell assists clients with the legal aspects of their long-term care planning. “One of the largest growing segments of our population is seniors and many of them need guidance as they age. Practicing in Elder Law provides a fantastic opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives,” said Ms. Uzzell.

For maps to Shred Day locations and the full list of events available at local libraries, visit <http://www.moneysmartweek.org/quadcities> or call your local library.

Coordinated by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and more than 25 local partners from business, education and non-profit associations, Money Smart Week is designed to educate consumers about money management and create awareness of financial education programs on a wide range of topics such as budgeting, saving and using credit wisely.

“Money Smart Week continues to provide many different opportunities for people to learn about managing their personal finances,” said Chicago Fed President Charles Evans. “This year’s calendar features diverse and numerous events for a broad range of consumers. During this week, attendees will have many chances to learn where good personal finance information is available.”

All of the above events are free and open to the public. Libraries offer plenty of print, online, visual and audio resources, many of which are free with a library card. For money-saving entertainment, enlightenment and enrichment for all ages, visit the Rock Island Main, 30/31 and Southwest Branch libraries, or check the Rock Island Library online at www.ripl.lib.il.us for details about library cards, services and free events for the family.

