



Invested in You.

Washington State Bank

Spring 2018

Staff Spotlight



Ryan Shields
Loan Officer

Ryan grew up in Iowa City before moving to Waverly to attend Wartburg College. He graduated with a degree in Economics and Business. After graduation, Ryan moved to Columbus Junction where he serves as a Loan Officer. "I enjoy being able to interact and assist our valued customers in reaching their financial goals. They are our greatest asset – and I look forward to continuing to work with them."

In his free time, Ryan enjoys spending time outside playing golf and biking. In the fall, you can find him cheering on the Iowa Hawkeye football team at Kinnick Stadium. Ryan is involved in Wildcats First, United Fund and Junior Achievement.

6 Steps to a Down Payment

Buying a home is likely one of the biggest purchases you will make and it is not something to jump into. Before transitioning from renter to home owner, you must typically save between 5 and 20 percent of the home's value for the down payment.

"Saving money for a down payment, while balancing life's many other expenses, can be incredibly challenging," said Ryan Shields, Loan Officer. "However, with a few adjustments, consumers can put themselves on track to make a down payment on their dream home."

Here are a few tips to help you save:

- **Develop a budget and timeline.** Start by determining how much you'll need for a down payment. Create a budget and calculate how much you can realistically save each month.
- **Establish a separate savings account.** Set up a separate savings account exclusively for your down payment and make your monthly contributions automatic. By keeping this money separate, you'll be less likely to tap into it when you're tight on cash.
- **Shop around to reduce major monthly expenses.** It's a good idea to check rates for your insurance, cable, internet or cell phone plan. There may be deals or promotions available that allow you to save hundreds of dollars by adjusting your contracts.
- **Monitor your spending.** With online banking, keeping an eye on your spending is easier than ever. Identify areas where you could cut back and instead put that money into savings.
- **Look into state and local home-buying programs.** When getting pre-approved, ask your WSB lender if you qualify for grants.
- **Celebrate savings milestones.** Saving enough for a down payment can be daunting. To avoid getting discouraged, break it up into smaller goals and reward yourself when you reach each one. Consider treating yourself to a nice meal with every \$5,000 saved. This will help you stay motivated.

Learn more about our mortgage offerings by visiting www.washsb.com or calling us at (800) 714-2287.

Invested in You - Washington, Fairfield, Columbus Junction

Tech Tip: Ransomware

You've probably read or heard about ransomware for a while now and it won't stop anytime soon. Home users, small businesses and even large companies are dealing with the attack that encrypts all of your files and only releases the key to unlock those files when you've paid the ransom.

When it comes to computer security, there is no one single thing that will protect you from all attacks but you can do multiple things to help lower the risk of an attack.

- **Make sure your software is up to date.** Turn on the feature that updates your PC automatically.
- **Be cautious when clicking on links or attachments in emails.** A large number of these attacks are started from a phishing email that asks you to click on a link or download an attachment.
- **Backup your files regularly.** You can purchase an external hard drive or use a cloud storage service that will allow you to backup your important files.

Mastercard Giveaway

Jordan Gardiner won \$500 thanks to Mastercard's Priceless Surprises Giveaway. Every time you use your Washington State Bank debit card until May 4th you are entered to win. You could be next!



Wildcats First



Fun with the Easter Bunny



Washington - 121 S Marion Ave. Fairfield - 1706 W Burlington Ave.
Columbus Junction - 134 Main St.

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