

MAY 2017

FASTLANE

HIWAY
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HOW TO BECOME MORTGAGEABLE

For anyone who's dreamed of owning a home, the words "your loan is denied" can be a blow. It's easy to give up especially if you already have some debt and live on a modest income. But patience and hard work can make home ownership a reality.

How to qualify for a mortgage

The best strategy is to meet with a home loan specialist and learn about the home loan process before you start looking for a house. Lenders size up loan applicants on whether or not they are good credit risks. In other words, will an applicant fulfill a debt obligation or fall behind on payments and eventually default? Factors that can derail a mortgage application include a debt-to-income ratio above 35%, less than two years of employment history, nonpayment of bills and application to purchase property that's depreciating in value.

Credit scoring is a way to evaluate your credit history based on experience with other borrowers.

THE THREE CS OF CREDITWORTHINESS

These "Three C's" are the traditional acid test for creditworthiness:

Capacity

Do you have the income to repay the debt? Lenders review employment history, gross monthly income, housing expenses and outstanding debt.

Character

How much debt do you already owe, do you pay your bills on time and are you able to live within your means? Lenders also want proof of stability—how long you've lived at the same address and held your present job.

Collateral

Is the property structurally sound or a sagging shack that'll undermine your ability to repay the mortgage? A licensed appraiser helps make this determination.

An objective model for credit risk

Most lenders use credit scoring, an objective model that predicts credit risk. In essence, scoring uses credit report data to evaluate your credit history based on experience with other borrowers. Computerized credit scoring speeds up the loan underwriting process and eliminates human bias. But it doesn't have the human ability to detect personal issues that can affect someone's credit history.

Credit unions look at personal factors

Computerized credit scoring can't detect everything that can affect your credit history. The associates at Hiway sometimes consider other factors in the case of low-scoring applications. They also may find situations that override a poor score. The credit union wants to find reasons to say yes, not to say no. Meeting with someone at Hiway can help you start learning how you can become a homeowner.

source: *cuna.org*

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NEW Online Banking & Website



Our new online banking and website redesign is scheduled to release on May 9, 2017. Here are just a few of the new features with this upgrade:

ONLINE BANKING

Single login

Do you have multiple memberships? With a single login you can view all of your accounts under one username and password.

Additional Alert Options

Set text or emails alerts to notify when transactions come through, when balances hit certain dollar amounts, when you receive a deposit, etc.

Text Banking

Need to check your balance quick? Sign up for text banking to request and quickly receive simple banking information via text.

WEBSITE

Easier navigation

Our updated design features a clean interface making it easier to find the most important information in less time and less clicks.

Mobile Friendly

Can be accessed from any device so you have us where you need us.

For all information about the online banking upgrade including information on your first time login, video tutorials and user guide visit hiway.org/upgrade

OUT&ABOUT

HUNT FOR THE GOLD PUCK

Found!

April 13, 2017 — The finders of the Hiway Gold Pucks were rewarded with their prizes in a ceremony held at Hiway. Minnesota Wild chief operating officer Matt Majka, team legend Wes Walz and mascot Nordy joined Hiway President Dave Boden in presenting the checks to Steve Worthman, PJ Zwach and Emily Zwach.

The Hiway Hunt for the Gold Puck put treasure hunters on a search for a gold-colored puck worth its weight in gold. Clues leading to the location of the puck were posted on Hiway's website, Facebook page and Twitter. The contest made its debut in 2016.

The Hiway Gold Puck was found Saturday, February 25 in Woodbury's Carver Lake Park by Steve and Jeannie Worthman of St. Paul, MN. The married couple found the puck, hidden in a free-trade coffee bag, after just one clue. Steve Worthman located the puck for the second year in a row.

The Worthmans received \$6,330 for finding the puck, courtesy of Hiway. That's the cash equivalent of a 5.5 oz. official National Hockey League puck in gold.

Due to the short duration of the initial search, a second gold puck was hidden by Hiway and the contest extended. After all five clues were released, the second puck was located on April 5 in St. Anthony's Silverwood Park by P.J. Zwach and his sister Emily Zwach, both of St. Paul, MN. PJ and Emily each received \$500.

An explanation of all clues are available at hiway.org/goldpuck.

