

The
TGB

Scoop

The practical bank for business. And you.



**TEXAS GULF
BANK** N.A.

FREERTON • CLUTE • ANGLETON
LAKE JACKSON • WEST COLUMBIA

PRESIDENT'S Message

**THE SAFEST PLACE
FOR YOUR MONEY?
THE BANK!**



Recent events within the financial industry may have you confused and worried about the health of your bank and the safety of your money. I want to reassure all of our customers that the safest place for your money is still in the bank. Texas Gulf Bank, N.A. is well prepared to ride out this economic storm. And you should know that your deposits are safe.

Here are a few facts to consider. First, banks are equipped to handle economic shifts. Banks have significant capital, or a rainy-day fund, on reserve for tough economic times. This is a bank's first line of defense to cover any losses.

Second, no customer has ever lost a penny of insured deposits, even when a bank fails. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) protects consumers from losing their money if their insured bank fails. FDIC deposit insurance is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. The insurance covers

funds in deposit accounts, including checking and savings accounts, money market deposit accounts and certificates of deposit (CDs). To ensure funds are fully protected, depositors should understand their coverage limits. The agency has temporarily raised its coverage amount from \$100,000 to \$250,000 through December 31, 2009. However, there are legal and safe ways to get even more FDIC coverage depending on how you set up your accounts. Come by and visit us to find out how.

Finally, the majority of banks are healthy. Most banks have been around for decades and are likely to be around for many more. In the unlikely event that a bank does fail, customers continue to have uninterrupted access to their money.

We are here to serve our community and our relationships with our customers are very important to us. We want to keep you as a customer for the long-term. If you need more information on the safety and soundness of Texas Gulf Bank, N.A., stop by any of our local branches and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

James J. Brown, Jr.

James F. Brown, Jr.
President & CEO of Texas Gulf Bank, NA

TGB IS GROWING! *...new branch opening*

Texas Gulf Bank is proud to announce that we are expanding into Houston and will be open soon with our 7th location to better serve your needs and the needs of our new customers in the Houston area. We plan to be open in January and hope that you will stop by and check out our newest branch at the corner of San Felipe and Voss.



BACK TO BASICS

...tips on investing

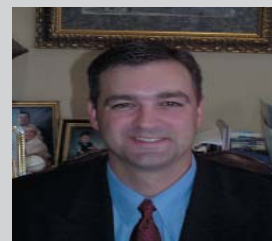
The longer I'm in this business the more convinced I am that change is the only constant. I realize that market ups and downs can be extreme and unpredictable, and that volatility can play havoc with your nerves.

In times like these, I like to remind my clients to expect the unexpected and try not to let emotion derail your long-term investment plans. One of the most common temptations is to lose patience and sell as prices continue to drop.

Now may be a good time to re-evaluate your portfolio – to get back to basics. I don't have a crystal ball, but often take solace in history: over the long haul, the U.S. stock market has

risen more than it has declined, reflecting the fact that the economy and business activity have expanded and overcome periodic downturns.

Rob Heckendorn
LPL Financial Advisor
Texas Gulf
Investment Services



Back to Basics Advice

Don't Panic

Assess your situation – what isn't working

Long-term investors: don't give up on stocks*

Have your original investment goals or objectives changed?

Do you have a well-balanced portfolio; if not, where is the under- or over-exposure?

I am available to discuss your portfolio concerns at your convenience. To schedule your no-obligation, no-cost portfolio review, please call me at (979) 299-1308 ext. 13110 or, if you prefer, you can reach me at rob.heckendorn@lpl.com.

I look forward to the opportunity to extend my services and to help position your investment portfolio for long-term success.

Securities offered through Linsco/Private Ledger, Member NASD/SIPC
Insurance Products Offered Through PL Insurance Services of Texas, Inc.

Securities are NOT FDIC Insured, NOT a deposit of the bank, NO Bank Guarantee, May Lose Value, NOT Insured by any Federal Agency

KEEPING AFLOAT

During a Financial Storm

Even when times are good and the economy is booming, a sudden setback such as a serious illness, the loss of a job, or divorce can cause any of us to re-think our financial situation. There are some steps you can take to help you get through these rough waters.

First, review your spending priorities. Make sure you pay your most important items such as mortgage and insurance first. Then review and decide what are the luxuries in your budget and what are the necessities. You might decide that you can give up some of these items temporarily, or that you can do without them altogether.

Next, try to build a "rainy day" fund into your savings account so you will have resources available in the event of a financial crisis. Consider setting up an automatic transfer between your checking and savings account so you can save easier.

Review your credit spending. Pay off your highest rate loans first. As you pay off credit card balances, consider keeping only one or two of the cards with the lowest rates. Also, try to pay more than the required minimum payment and make sure you pay



on time to avoid late fees or negative marks on your credit

Here are some warning signs of an impending financial storm:

- More than 20% of your monthly net income is going to pay back credit cards and loans (excluding mortgage)
- You're borrowing money to make payments on loans you already have.
- You're frequently at or near your limit on credit cards.
- You're paying only the minimum amount required.
- You're working overtime or a second job to cover food, housing and other necessary living expenses.

You can't always plan for a financial storm, but you can have a plan in place to get to calmer waters.

DON'T BE TAKEN

By Phony Charities

For all of our human foibles, Americans are a very generous people. Whenever we see or hear of someone in need, it is our instinct to help. There are no better examples of this American spirit than the acts of kindness shown after the recent hurricanes that have hit our shores. But before you write a check or charge your credit card for that donation, a little homework and investigation can ensure your generosity benefits a legitimate cause.

PHONE DONATIONS?

It is advisable not to donate to a charitable cause over the phone. Request that the caller mail you literature about the charity so that you can read and investigate the organization before giving money. Many times these calls come from telemarketers who keep most of the donation while sending only pennies to the actual charity.

The Federal Trade Commission has announced a new rule governing telemarketing calls that feature pre-recorded messages. Beginning September 1, 2009, telemarketing companies must obtain the call recipient's written permission before contacting them with a pre-recorded message. More immediately, effective December 1, 2008, pre-recorded telemarketing calls must have an opt-out mechanism so that the recipient can elect not to receive these unsolicited calls in the future.

With these new regulations, charitable organizations can continue contacting their members or previous donors, but will need to offer an opt-out mechanism once the new rule goes into effect.

NEVER HEARD OF THE ORGANIZATION?

Give only to those charities you know to be reputable. If you receive a charitable solicitation by mail, make sure it includes specific details on exactly how the money will be used and what percent of donations actually go to the charity. You can go to www.charitywatch.org, which



rates more than 500 charities, to help you make an informed giving decision.

IS THE CHARITY LEGIT?

- Reputable charities don't send unsolicited e-mails via SPAM.
- A reputable charity has a street address and a phone number.
- Reputable charities don't use PayPal and always provide an e-mail address that is part of their website. For example: donations@nameofcharity.com.
- Beware of scam artists who don't want your contribution, but want personal and confidential information such as your name, address and credit card number.
- If a telemarketer pressures you to give immediately, be suspicious. A legitimate charity will give you all the information you request and all the time you need to make sure it is legitimate.
- Don't give cash. A legitimate charity will take a check.

Some charities hire professional fundraisers rather than use their own staff or volunteers. These people are in business to make money and are entitled to keep a portion of the proceeds they collect. If you are approached by a professional fundraiser, you may want to ask what percentage of the donation they will keep. If you're uncomfortable with that amount, you may wish to give directly to the charity and bypass the professional fundraiser.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

Know the difference between "tax exempt" and "tax deductible." "Tax exempt" means the organization doesn't have to pay taxes. "Tax deductible" means you can deduct your contribution on your federal income tax. A charitable organization must be tax exempt for your donation to be tax deductible, but just because the organization is tax exempt, your donation isn't necessarily tax deductible. If a tax deduction is important to you, verify with the organization that your donation is tax deductible and ask for a receipt so you can file it with your year-end tax return.

If you believe an organization may not be operating for charitable purposes or making misleading solicitations, contact your state Attorney General, local consumer protection office or Federal Trade Commission.

Continue to give. There are great needs. Just give wisely.

Need a Gift? How about American Express Gift Cards!

What's the one gift that's suitable for anyone? The American Express Gift Card from TGB! This gift card is accepted at millions of retailers and restaurants throughout the US...wherever American Express is accepted. It lets the people on your gift list shop at the stores of their choice or even online! Prepaid card amounts range from \$25 to \$500 and the funds never expire. They can also check their gift card account balance or track purchases 24 hours a day, online at www.americanexpress.com. Best of all, the card can be replaced if it is lost or stolen making it much safer than cash. So, take care of all those hard to buy for people on your list at your local Texas Gulf Bank branch today!

TGB In the Community

Volunteerism is a great way Texas Gulf Bank employees participate in their community. Look for us the next time you are out!

Passionately Pink for a Cure



For Breast Cancer Awareness month, TGB employees supported breast cancer research by paying \$5 to wear jeans and their favorite pink top! All proceeds raised went directly to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. This year, employees raised \$310 for the foundation.

Habitat for Humanity Walk

Every year, TGB helps with the Habitat Walk by counting all the pennies collected by area school children. This year's Penny Drive and Walk raised over \$84,000, with over \$5000 raised just in coins. The event has been held 10 years with a grand total of over \$811,000 in funds raised.



Brazoria County Fair

Another event that the employees from TGB help with every year is the Brazoria County Fair. Several employees worked every day to help count all the money from admissions and food ticket sales.



CUSTOMER SERVICE Looking for a few good shoppers....

Texas Gulf Bank is committed to offering great service to all our customers. In order to insure that our employees are providing excellent service, we need the help of our customers.

Do you visit our branches on a regular basis? We are looking for customers that are interested in helping us conduct mystery shops of our employees. What is involved? We are asking our "shoppers" to conduct a minimum of 3 shops at our branches each month. During these shops, you would "visit" various Texas Gulf Bank employees and then record your experiences on a survey provided. You will then be compensated for your participation.

Prior to beginning the shops, a short one-on-one meeting will be held to discuss expectations and answer questions. You will also receive monthly letters from our marketing department, keeping you up to date on the mystery shop program. We ask for a commitment of at least 6 months.

If you are interested in finding out more about this program, please contact Deana Fuchs in the Marketing Department at 979-345-1666 ext. 16108.



Texas Gulf Bank Directory

Locations

Angleton 849-2372
1717 N. Velasco, 77515

Brazosport 233-3536
1400 Brazosport Blvd, 77541

Clute 297-7211
1030 Dixie Dr., 77531

Lake Jackson 299-1308
203 This Way, 77566

Freeport 233-4401
200 W. 2nd St., 77541

West Columbia 345-1666
730 W. Brazos Ave, 77486

Q-Line 979-233-2900 or 979-849-2354

Nationwide Toll Free Line 800-467-7216

Website: www.texasgulfbank.com



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