

- 99,234.86	3/25	462	Credit Card	100.00	100.00
- 6,345.58	4/01	DEP	Paycheck	100.00	100.00
- 5,234.34	4/04	463	Auto Insurance	100.00	100.00
11,205.37	4/05	464	ATM	100.00	100.00
72,568.94					
42,375.57					

CUSTOMER CONNECTION

MARCH 2010 ISSUE

Equal Housing Lender • Member FDIC

LaPorte Savings Bank's Funds Availability Policy has recently changed to reflect the combination of all U.S. check processing regions by the Federal Reserve. As a result, you may experience faster availability of your deposited funds as outlined below:

FUNDS AVAILABILITY POLICY

This policy statement applies to "transaction" accounts. Transaction accounts in general, are accounts which permit an unlimited number of payments to third persons and an unlimited number of telephone and preauthorized transfers to other accounts of yours with us. Checking accounts are the most common transaction accounts. Feel free to ask us whether any of your accounts might also be under this policy.

Our policy is to make funds from your cash and check deposits available to you on the first business day after the day we receive your deposit. Electronic direct deposits will be available on the day we receive the deposit. Once the funds are available, you can withdraw them in cash and we will use the funds to pay checks that you have written.

Please remember that even after we have made the funds available to you, and you have withdrawn the funds, you are still responsible for checks you deposit that are returned to us unpaid and for any other problems involving your deposit. For determining the availability of your deposits, every day is a business day, except Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. If you make a deposit before our posted cutoff time on a business day that we are open, we will consider that day to be the day of your deposit. However, if you make a deposit after our posted cut off time, or on a business day we are not open, we will consider that the deposit was made on the next business day we are open.

If you make a deposit at an ATM before 2:30 p.m. CST on a business day that we are open, we will consider that day to be the day of your deposit. However, if you make a deposit at an ATM after 2:30 p.m. CST or on a business day we are not open, we

Policy Continued on Reverse Side...

NEW YEAR, A NEW FINANCIAL YOU?

According to USA.gov, two of the most common New Year's resolutions made by individuals all across the country are resolutions to save money and manage debt. With a new year, and in 2010 a new decade, comes a renewed desire for many to get personal finances back on track, but you may be left wondering where to start. Here are three easy questions to consider as you examine your aspiration to regain control of your checkbook.

1. Do you know how much your household bills total each month?
2. Do you know which bills have the shortest repayment timeframe?
3. Do you attempt to save for unexpected expenses?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, you are well on your way to meeting the financial goals you've set out to achieve. If you're unsure of your answers, here are a few LaPorte Savings Bank services that may help.

Understanding Monthly Bills: LaPorte Savings Bank's Online Banking gives you up-to-date access to your account information to help you track where funds are going. Online Bill Pay allows you to schedule electronic payments for expenses and provides you with an at-a-glance history of the previous three payments made to a given company so you can see if costs are increasing for any of your Payees as you schedule your next payment.

Online Banking history can be exported to popular budgeting software programs like Microsoft Money® and Quicken® to help you understand your household financial picture. If you are comfortable setting up your own budget form, Online Banking history can also be exported into a standard spreadsheet format. Taking a realistic look at your finances and comparing how much is coming in versus how much is going out is the first step in understanding where adjustments could be made.

will consider that the deposit was made on the next business day we are open. LaPorte Savings Bank owned ATMs where we accept deposits via ATM are at our Main Office, Chesterton Office, Coolspring Office, Eastside Office, Michigan City Office, Rolling Prairie Office, Westside Office and Westville Office locations.

Longer Delays May Apply

Case-By-Case Delays – In some cases, we will not make all of the funds that you deposit by check available to you on the first business day after the day of your deposit. We may delay the availability of your funds up to two (2) business days. The first \$100 of your deposit, however, may be available on the first business day.

If we are not going to make all of the funds from your deposit available on the first business day, we will notify you at the time you make your deposit. We will also tell you when the funds will be available. If your deposit is not made directly to one of our employees, or if we decide to take this action after you have left the premises, we will mail you the notice by the day after we receive your deposit. If you will need the funds from a deposit right away, you should ask us when the funds will be available.

Please be aware that a hold may be placed on one of your accounts if we cash a check drawn on another financial institution. A hold may also be placed on one of your other accounts if we accept for deposit a check drawn on another financial institution. The funds will be available according to the disclosed schedule of availability.

Safeguard Exceptions – In addition, funds you deposit by check may be delayed for a longer period under the following circumstances:

- We believe a check you deposit will not be paid.
- You deposit checks totaling more than \$5,000.00 on any one day.
- You redeposit a check that has been returned unpaid.
- You have overdrawn your account repeatedly in the last six (6) months.
- If there is an emergency, such as failure of computer or communications equipment.

We will notify you if we delay your ability to withdraw funds for any of these reasons, and we will tell you when the funds will be available. They will generally be available no later than the seventh (7th) business day after the day of your deposit.

Special Rules for New Accounts

If you are a new customer, the following special rules will apply during the first 30 days your account is open. Funds from electronic direct deposits to your account will be available on the day we receive the deposit. Funds from deposits of cash, wire transfers, and the first \$5,000.00 of a day's total deposits of cashier's, certified teller's, traveler's, and federal, state and local government checks will be available on the first business day after the day of your deposit if the deposit meets certain conditions. For example, the checks must be payable to you. The excess over \$5,000.00 will be available on the eleventh (11th) business day after the day of your deposit. If your deposit of these checks (other than a U.S. Treasury check) is not made in person to one of our employees, the first \$5,000.00 will not be made available until the second business day after the day of your deposit. Funds from all other check deposits will be available on the eleventh (11th) business day after the day of your deposit.

Reducing Debt: Now that you have a clearer understanding of your finances, have you looked at which monthly bills could be eliminated or significantly reduced by attempting to pay a little more toward them each month? Make a list of any loans you may have (i.e., mortgage, home equity, credit cards, etc.) including balances, interest rates, and terms of repayment. Look at which ones you're going to have for awhile and which ones you may be able to pay off faster. Pick the easiest one to eliminate and make a realistic plan to pay a little more toward it each month. Choose a timeframe you would like to eliminate the bill within and work toward achieving that goal. Not only will this help alleviate financial stress, but it could also help raise credit scores going forward. If you have a number of credit cards or small loans you would like to consolidate, you may want to consider refinancing your home mortgage or obtaining a home equity loan to consolidate all of your debt into one lower monthly payment. Our Mortgage Lenders are happy to explore with you the options best suited to your individual needs.

Savings Plan: As you mapped out your finances, did you include a savings plan for unexpected expenses? Major auto or household repairs have a tendency to appear when you are least prepared for them. Incorporating a small, realistic savings plan into your budget is a great way to establish a financial cushion you can fall back on in the event those expenses occur.



LaPorte Savings Bank offers a free automatic savings plan option that will transfer money from a checking to a savings account on a regular basis. A Customer Service Representative can set up your Automatic Savings Plan or it can be done directly through Online Banking. You determine the amount and how often you want the transfer to occur, then sit back and watch how quickly your savings builds! Balances can be checked easily through Online Banking or bank-by-phone and, in the event you need to access your savings, transferring funds back to your checking account is a snap.

Creating a household budget doesn't have to be intimidating. Even starting small can make a big impact on reaching your goals to reduce debt and to save money. Remember that a budget is a work in progress and that adjustments can be made if you find things just aren't working the way you anticipated. LaPorte Savings Bank offers a wide range of products and services that are geared to helping you reach your goals. Visit with a Customer Service Representative today to find creative ways of making your finances easier to manage. From free Online Banking and Bill Pay to exploring lending and saving options that would be right for you, we're here to help.

SOURCE: USA.gov. *Popular New Year's Resolutions*. January 7, 2010. Retrieved on February 16, 2010 from http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/New_Years_Resolutions.shtml