



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2018

Contact:

Suzanne Whitney, Marketing Officer, Union Bank
802.888.6600 | swhitney@unionbankvt.com

6 Tips for Your Financial Spring Cleaning

Morrisville, VT — As Americans kick off the spring season by cleaning, sorting and tidying up around the house, Union Bank is encouraging consumers to add financial organization to their spring cleaning to-do list. People are motivated to get things done when the weather warms up and the flowers bloom, which makes it an ideal time to look closely at your savings and spending habits.

Union Bank recommends these six tips to help consumers organize their finances:

- **Review your budget.** A lot can change in a year. If you've been promoted, had a child, or become a new homeowner or renter, be sure to update your budget. Determine what expenses demand the most money and identify areas where you can realistically cut back. Develop a strategy for spending and saving – and stick to it.
- **Evaluate and pay down debt.** Take a look at how much you owe and what you are paying in interest. Begin paying off existing debt, whether that's by chipping away at loans with the highest interest rates or eliminating smaller debt first.
- **Set up automatic bill pay.** By signing up for automatic bill pay, you'll never have to worry about a missed payment impacting your credit score. You can set it so that money is withdrawn from your checking account on the same day each month.
- **Sign up for e-statements, paperless billing and text alerts.** Converting to paperless billing will help keep your house—physical and financial—more clean and organized, and will help protect you from fraud.
- **Check your credit report.** Every year, you are guaranteed one free credit report from each of the three credit bureaus. Take advantage of these free reports and check them for any possible errors. Mistakes can drag down your score and prevent you from getting a loan, or cause you to pay a higher than necessary interest rate.
- **Manage your money on the go.** Utilize your bank's mobile app to check your balance, pay your bills, transfer funds, deposit a check and send money to friends from wherever you are.

Union Bank has been helping people buy homes and local businesses create jobs in area communities since opening its doors in 1891. Union Bank has earned an outstanding reputation for residential lending programs and has been named, four consecutive years as the USDA Rural Development Vermont lender of the year. Union Bank is also a Small Business Administration Preferred lender. Proud to be one of the few community banks serving Vermont and New Hampshire, Union Bank maintains a strong commitment to traditional values. Dedicated to providing genuine customer service and community support, Union Bank donates to various local

nonprofits annually. These values-combined with financial expertise, quality products and the latest technology-make Union Bank the premier choice for your banking services, both personal and commercial. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

###