

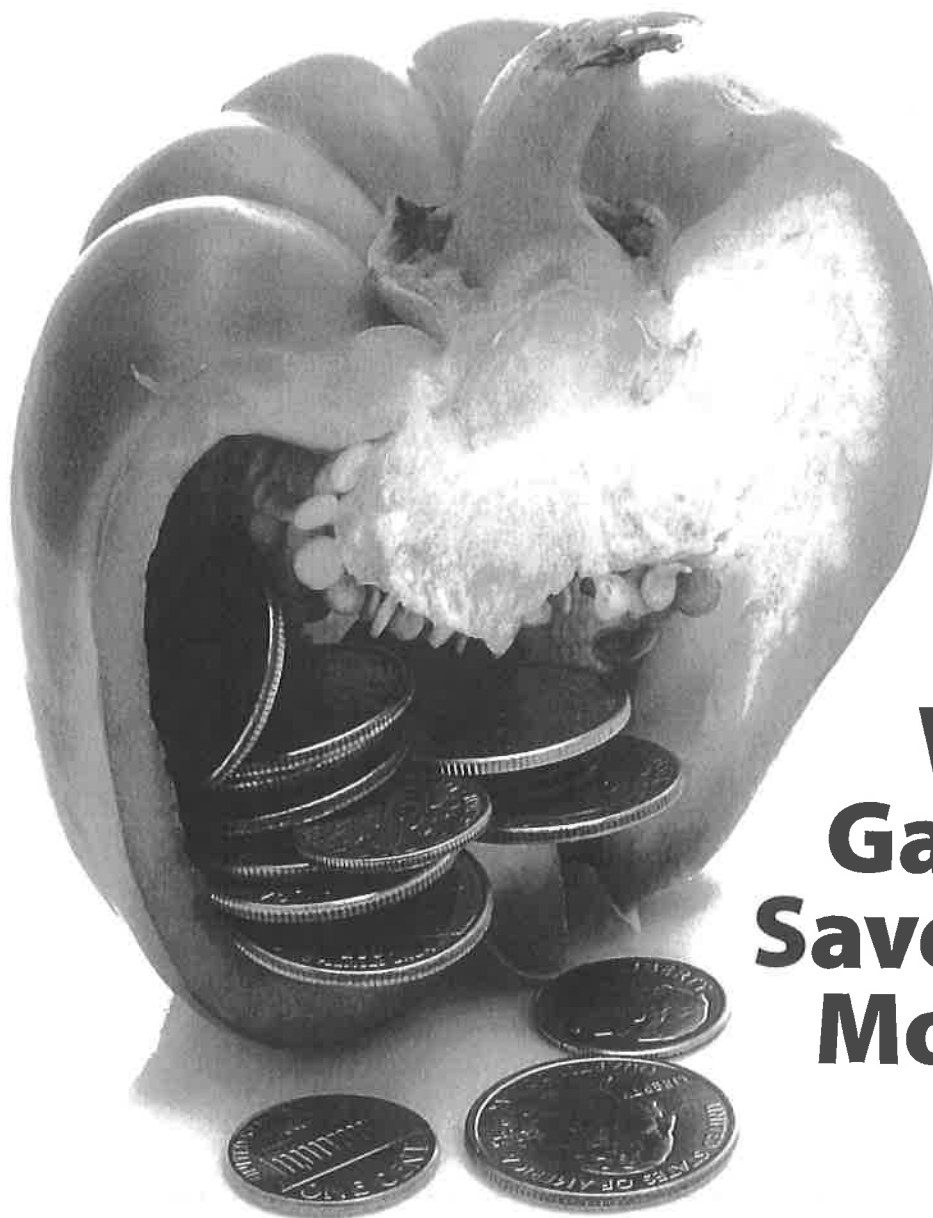
VERMONT'S
PERSONAL
FINANCE
MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2014

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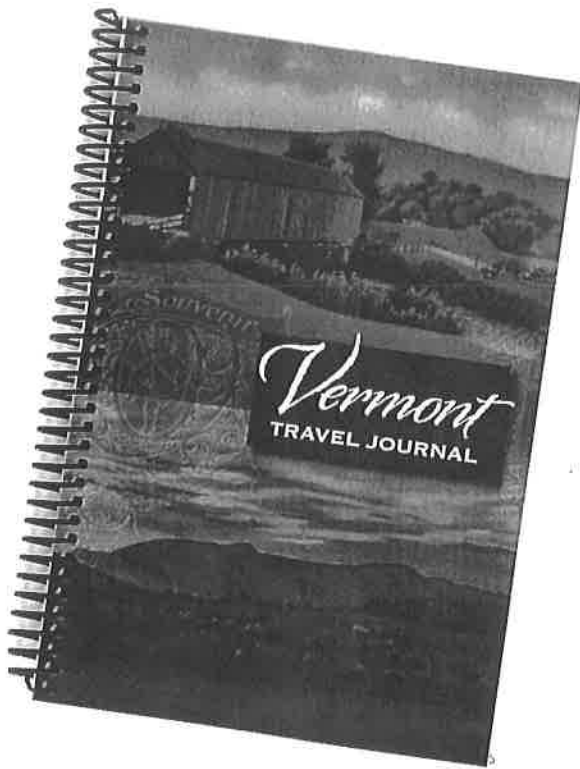
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**Will a
Garden
Save You
Money?**

Investing in Your Backyard | Buying a Motorcycle | State Park Stay-cations



51 Club Of Vermont Celebrates 60th With New Travel Journal

251 Club of Vermont, celebrating its 60th anniversary 4, exists to encourage members to visit all of the state's towns and cities. Now the task has been made more efficient and enjoyable with the publication of a new travel journal designed specifically for the Vermont explorer. "This project is as purely Vermont as a quart of maple syrup," says Sandy Levesque, club director and editor of the journal. "Vintage Vermont postcards from another century inspire the design element and contemporary lists of travel tips. Maps, books and websites are included. The design element, from editing to design to physical production, is all done in Vermont."

The journal lists Vermont's 255 civic/geographic entities or "places" — 16 towns, 9 cities, 5 unorganized towns, 3 gores and 100 other places — are listed alphabetically, along with their charter or patent date, on 160 lightly-lined writing pages. Once completed, the book will be a unique and highly personal account of the owner's Vermont experience. The 5 x 9 inch journal is a perfect traveling companion, compactly sized to fit in glove compartments, purses, backpacks, briefcases and totes. It has a durable cover and spiral binding to facilitate writing on the go. Printed on cream-colored, acid-free archival paper, the Vermont Travel Journal is designed to preserve memories and become a treasured keepsake.

With over 4,000 members, the 251 Club of Vermont is the largest membership organization in the state. For more information on the club, or to order a copy of the Vermont Travel Journal, visit vt251.com or call 234-5039.

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MY Finance

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Money & Relationships Christine Moriarty

Coupling with Financial Consciousness: Past, Present and Future

“**Taking the time to review your financial lives together may not feel like the most romantic thing you have ever done, yet this creates a financial intimacy in your partnership.**”

Knowing every detail of your partners past is unnecessary, impractical and sometimes not even prudent. However, as far as his or her money life, there are aspects that are bound to affect you and your relationship. Take a look at what you do need to know as your relationship moves from temporary to more permanent via living together, marriage or children. The way to Conscious Coupling is with intention, information and financial facts. These are things that will make your love last for years to come.

PAST

There are two things I recommend that each couple do as part of their financial history. First, take the time to discuss what have been the best and worst financial decisions of your life.

Talk about the decisions, the implications and what you learned. Knowing a bit about each other's money foibles and successes will help you as you create your money life together.

Second, check and share your credit reports. That is right, open your credit history for mutual viewing. The reason for this stressful, somewhat tedious exercise is threefold. First, and foremost, you want to know where your partner stands financially. Secondly, any future plans you have together may involve large purchases like cars and a home. To make those happen, you will need to both have a solid credit history. Revelations now will make your future plans easier to implement. Finally, everyone needs to check their credit report annually to confirm there are no mistakes. Doing it together will get it done.

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PRESENT

Living together, being together and the joy of sharing moments is why you're together. Living in the present also means living within your means. As a couple, you must understand and be aware of each other's assets and debts. Knowing this current standing is one piece of your financial present together. The other basic money information you need to share is your income, as well as financial commitments. You should understand your partner's previous money entanglements: alimony; child support; joint family property bills; and parental responsibilities.

Understanding these basics help create a current situation that you both can respect and maintain, for yourself and your financial health. Setting expectations with information offers clarity for each of you. A financial partnership has many nuances which means each one is unique, however, it has to be supported by facts.

FUTURE

Plan ahead for your life together in the big things and the small. Setting

Checking Credit Reports

WWW.ANUALCREDITREPORT.COM

There you can download all three reports for free. Transunion, Equifax and Experian are the important ones you need to review. These companies each keep track of your information but each has different data sources. So if one is good, be sure and check the others thoroughly as well.

goals together of what you want your future to look like is fabulous and fun to talk about together. Make sure you take care of the details to support these goals.

The mundane decisions like paying bills and balancing the checkbook are important to reaching your larger goals. Knowing how you will manage money and where you will put any money set aside for future goals is critical.

As your commitment deepens, long term estate planning issues must be

considered as a couple. Sitting down with a lawyer to be sure your wishes are in writing is critical. A medical directive, power of attorney and will clarifies your decision-making if something was to happen to the other person. In today's world with long-term unmarried partners and multiple marriages with multiple children, firming up your intentions helps you and others.

Taking the time to review your financial lives together may not feel like the most romantic thing you have ever done, yet this creates a financial intimacy in your partnership. Being conscious of how you both handle money and what you have as you join together creates a world for you both to live in together. ■

Christine Moriarty is a certified financial planner and graduate of the University of Vermont and Babson College with a Master of Business Administration in entrepreneurship. She is a financial speaker and has taught financial management at a variety of universities. She lives in Vermont.

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