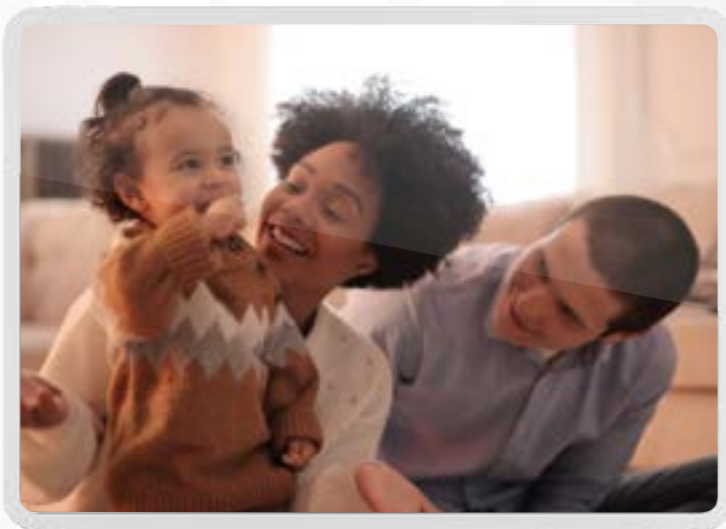


FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS & FINANCE PROGRAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



UW-Extension of Dane County FAMILY & FINANCE

The Family Engagement and Relationships (FER) program at UW-Extension of Dane County support strong family engagement and other interpersonal relationships that significantly contribute to the health and well-being of individuals, communities, and economics. Extension provides well-researched, quality information and programs to further support parenting and family relationships.

The Financial Education program at UW-Extension of Dane County helps families and individuals to achieve financial well-being, reach for financial goals, planning for life's unexpected events, and build a secure financial future.

About UW-Extension Human Development & Relationships Institute (HDRI)

The Extension Institute of Human Development & Relationships provides the tools Wisconsinites need to thrive as well-rounded, capable individuals and families. We support families in caring for each other in ways that promote growth and understanding. Our programs promote aging-friendly communities, coach effective parents and help families put technology, mindfulness and financial awareness to use.

Learn more about the UW-Extension of Dane County - Family & Finance program at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/families-finances/>

Learn more about our state-wide programs at <https://extension.wisc.edu/family/>

Share your feedback on our newsletter by scanning the QR code.



FINANCIAL NEWS UPDATES

Study: "Dreamscrolling" Time & Possible Benefits

A survey of 2,000 Americans showed that survey participants "dreamscroll" (look at dream purchases or things they'd like to own one day) for an average of 2.5 hours each day. 71% of survey participants said "dreamscrolling" is time well spent and motivates them to reach their financial goals. Homes, vacation destinations, beauty or self-care products, pets, furniture, gadgets, and clothings were the top things "dreamscrolled."

Utility Bills to Reach Record High

The National Energy Assistance Directors Assoc. (NEADA) forecasts that utility bills will increase by 8% from June to Sept. compared to last year. NEADA also reports that summer cooling costs have risen from an average cost of \$476 in 2014 to \$719 in 2024. For Wisconsin, NEADA forecasts costs to increase by 10% in summer 2024. Currently, Wisconsin is one of less than 20 states with summer and winter shutoff protections.



Research on Debt Used to Pay for Groceries in 2023

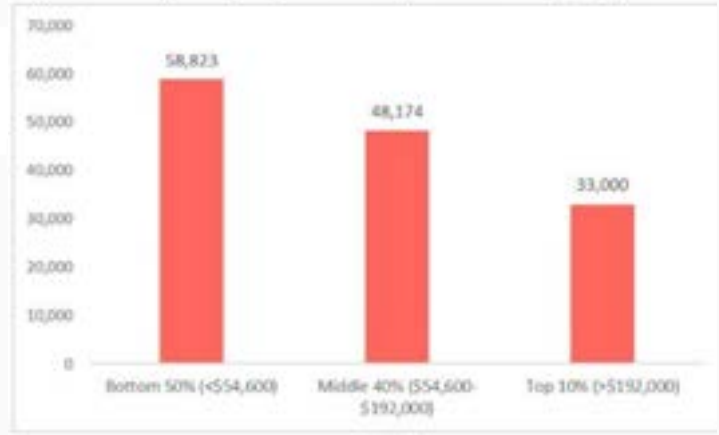
The Urban Institute has released a report focused on data from its 2023 Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey, which centers on how families used credit cards, payday loans, and buy now, pay later (BNPL) loans to pay for groceries. According to the report, about 70% of all grocery transactions are paid for with credit or debit cards. Of those users, about 45% either didn't pay their credit card bill in full or didn't make a minimum payment. Moreover, 3.5% of adults reported using BNPL to pay for groceries. Of those who used BNPL to pay for groceries, 37% missed a payment on their BNPL loan.



Student Loan Debt Among Older Workers

New research from the Schwarz Center for Economic Policy Analysis details how student loan debt can impede the financial security of older workers. Research estimates there are 2.2 million people over the age of 55 with outstanding student loans. Workers aged 55+ and in the middle income brackets represent the highest proportion of all student loan borrowers. On average, workers aged 55-64 expect to take an average of 11 years to repay their loans. The report concludes that 2 reforms would enable older workers with student loan debt to save for retirement: the SAVE Plan and ending the garnishment of Social Security benefits to repay student loans--which 30 members of Congress called on in March 2024 in a letter to the leadership of the Social Security Administration and U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Figure 6 - Average Debt (USD) Still Owed By Older Workers (55+) by Class



IRS to Expand 'Direct File' Program in 2025

On May 30, the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that 'Direct File', a free federal tax filing system from the IRS, will be made permanent and offered to all U.S. states in 2025. In 2024, the program was available to residents of just 12 states. It is not yet known how state officials will respond to the offer to join the program.

Extension Family & Finance Resources

What is Developmental Screening?

It's important we want our children to grow up and develop healthy. And it's common parents may have concerns whether their child is developing appropriately for their age group. Developmental screenings is one of the tools that can help you determine if your child is developing on track for his or her age. It's a way to see if there might be any concerns in how your child learns, plays, speaks, or behaving. You can ask your child's doctor, childcare provider/teacher, or home visitor about doing a developmental screening.

Below are some developmental milestones you might notice in young children:

- **Age 3** - able to dress and undress themselves, follow simple instructions, fine controlled motor skills, able to name some colors and identify simple objects like shapes and animals, play make believe, speak 5-6 word sentences
- **Age 4** - enjoy playing with other children, well balanced and stable physical abilities like jumping or hopping on one foot, sing songs, express and communicate simple emotions (ex. happy, sad, mad)
- **Age 5** - able to say full names, take turns playing, well-developed physical motor skills like holding scissors or riding a bike, count to 20, and draw a full bodied person



Learn more about [Parenting the Preschooler](#) on our [UW-Extension website](#).



Are you looking for recreational activities that is safe and fun for you and your children?

Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR) is the public recreation provider for the residents of Madison (within the boundaries of the Madison Metropolitan School District). The program offers a variety of FREE after school and summer programs for middle through high school students and for adults.

This summer, programs for students include basketball, cooking, gardening, outdoor adventure club, United Asian Club, volleyball, and open gym. For adults, there are activities like tennis, drawing and sketching workshops, and fitness sessions such as aqua circuits, meditation, and yoga.

More information about MSCR and their programs can be found on their website at www.mschr.org.

Families for Justice of Dane County
Families for Justice aims to engage Dane County community and families in working for racial justice in Dane County.



More information about their organization can be found at www.familiesforjustice.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Below are a list of upcoming local and state-wide events and workshops provided by the UW-Extension Family & Finance program:

July 8 - Parents Forever Co-Parenting. Time: 6-9 pm via Zoom.

July 9 - Focus on Fathers Series: Fathers Help Children Handle Emotions. Time: 6-7 pm via Zoom.

July 18 - Raising WI Children Series: How Kids Develop Self-Control. Time: 1-2 pm via Zoom.

July 23 & 30 - Teaching Children About Emotions (Two-part series). Time: 6-7:15 pm. In-person at Dane County Extension Office.

Registration is highly encouraged for all events & workshops. All of these events can be found on our local and/or state-wide website.

FUN FACT - FIREWORKS for July 4th

Fireworks originated in China about 2000 years ago, made out of charcoal, sulfur and potassium nitrate inside a bamboo tube. Overtime, it was used for various ceremonies and rituals. The earliest documented use of fireworks in England was at the wedding of King Henry VII in 1486. In 1777, America used fireworks as part of Independence Day. In the 1800s, Italians discovered how to add color to fireworks by using small amounts of metal mineral and salts. Today, China is still the world's largest manufacturer and exporter of firework, producing 90% of all fireworks.

Looking for some family fun and entertainment, and views of the fireworks in Dane County? Below is a list of celebrations and events for July 4th:

- **June 29** - Festival Foods: Lights the Isthmus at Breese Stevens field
- **June 30** - Sun Prairie Fireworks Celebration at Angell Park Speedway
- **July 3-4** - Deforest 4th of July Celebration
- **July 3-4** - Monona Community Festival
- **July 4** - WaunaBoom (in Waunakee)



*** Dane County Extension Office will be closed on July 4, 2024! ***

Family Fun Community Events

Geodes and Rocks

Join the [Stoughton Public Library](#) to break open your own geode and get ready to identify rocks. Please bring safety goggles and a small hammer if you can. This is for children ages 5-10. Event will be on Tuesday, July 19 from 2-3 pm.



UW-Madison Geology Museum

Explore and take a peek into Wisconsin's deep history! Visit the [UW-Madison Geology Museum](#) and check out the amazing rocks, fossils and minerals collections. Museum is free and open to the public. Museum hours are Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm.

Sun Prairie Public Library: Zoozort Mini Zoo

Come pet a python, meet Mimi the armadillo, touch a tortoise or say hi to a kookabura. This is a FREE event for children and families to meet some wild animals at the library. Event is July 9-10 from 12- 4 pm. More information can be found on their [website](#).

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Tus Tswv Hauj Lwm Ntawm (EEO/AA), ntawm lub Tsev Kawm Ntawv Qib Siab (University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension) pab rau kev ncaj ncees txog kev hauj lwm thiab kev pab cuam, xws li nyob rau hauv Title VI, Title IX, thiab ntawm tsab cai Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) yuav tsum kom muaj thiab Feem 504 ntawm the Txoj Cai Kev Pab Rov Tsim Kho Uas Tau Teev Tseg.