

PALMETTO Connection

18069



UNwind on a Budget

We know that your plans have probably changed over the last couple of months. Summer vacations may have turned into staycations but that doesn't mean you have to throw in the towel. We've come up with **10 ideas** on how to have fun right here in Florence on a budget this summer. It's said that the best things in life are free. But for the things that aren't, we're here to help.

1. Try out a new recipe.

Take to the kitchen and take delight in making a new dinner at least once a week. For ways to cut costs at the grocery store, look for summer recipes that have 5 ingredients or less.

2. Read a book.

Do you have a list of books you'd like to read that seem to simply gather dust on your shelves? Now is the time to read them! If you need new options, Florence County Library System has online resources, including audio ebooks, at your disposal. Don't have a library card? You can sign up on their website.

If you know you'd want to keep books but don't want to spend a fortune, check out Amazon® or your favorite eBook app for affordable options.

3. Attend the Carolina Food Truck Rodeo.

Whether you have a difficult time choosing what you want to eat or know exactly what you want, you can get it all at the Carolina Food Truck Rodeo! Make the most of your money and set a budget beforehand. Take out your budgeted amount in cash and when you've spent your money, you know you're done.

4. Watch an online concert.

If you planned to go to a concert or event at the Florence Center or an out of town show and it got canceled, you still have options. Many recording artists are hosting virtual concerts in their own homes following shows being canceled. Find your favorite band or solo artist and see if they are uploading videos or hosting a "concert" online that you can view right from your living room.

5. Support Local Businesses.

Take a break from cooking a meal one night and order takeout from your favorite Florence restaurant(s). You get a much-needed respite from choosing what to make and a local business gains support. Some businesses offer no-contact delivery services.

6. Check out local events in Florence.

You may not have to spend your entire summer indoors. Check-in on events in Florence and surrounding areas that might have been rescheduled; like the Pee Dee Regional Fair!

7. Try Quarantine Bingo.

The City of Florence has created its own version of Bingo called "Quarantine Bingo". Jam-packed with activities to do in Florence, you're sure to find a way to fill your time with fun. Plus, you can rope in your friends and neighbors for a friendly competition.

8. Take a Virtual Tour.

Did you have plans to travel outside of Florence this summer? Travel around the world without leaving your sofa! Famous places around the globe like Yellowstone to the Louvre are now giving virtual tours.

Quench your wanderlust spirit and take these tours without shelling out a dime.

9. Clean out your closet.

While cleaning out your closet may not be the first thing you think of on your to-do list, it can be a satisfying task to complete. Look into local charities in the Florence area that are still accepting donations. For the items you may not be able to donate, you can sell them online for some extra cash.

10. Find ways to save.

The summer doesn't only have to be about spending money. Look for a few out of the box ideas on ways to save money. For example, when you refinance your auto loan, you can save money each month. Or, you can consolidate your debt into one, easy monthly payment. In turn, you will free up funds to accomplish other financial goals and have a bit of fun.

Whatever ways you decide to UNwind on a budget this summer, you can find ways to have fun without spending a fortune. If you're looking for more ways to save, we can help! Talk to us about your savings goals and we'll work with you to help you achieve them.

1477

Is Now the Right Time to Buy a Car?

Have you been considering purchasing a vehicle?

Now could be the right time for you to buy.

According to U.S. News, March car sales were off by almost 40 percent compared to the same month in 2019. What does this mean for you? Due to declining sales, dealerships are highly motivated to sell vehicles but you may not necessarily get the deal that is best for you. Our goal is to encourage you to do your due diligence and buy a vehicle that's best for your lifestyle and budget. To help you make a smart decision, we're providing a few tips to ensure you're well-informed.

Know you have choices

Due to dealerships looking to make up for lost sales, they're offering flashy, headline-making deals. However, once you take a look under the hood, the deals aren't as great as they seem. For instance, a cash rebate will be a better deal than 0 percent interest when paired with a low-interest loan as it can lower your monthly payment. Therefore, you can take the rebate and finance with Palmetto First Federal Credit Union for your best deal.

If the dealership requires you to use their financing, you can finance with the rebate and then refinance your auto loan with us. We will work with you to ensure you receive the best deal on your vehicle. TransUnion® reports that car buyers who refinanced their auto loan, lowered their rate by over 2 percent!*

Consider your warranty options

When you're buying a vehicle, whether new or used, dealers will try to sell you or automatically include add-ins like warranties to your loan. When buying a car, think of how long you plan to own it. If you trade or upgrade your vehicle often, you may not need an extended warranty. Typically, new vehicles come with manufacturer warranties that supersede any extended warranties. This means that your extended warranty has no value until the original manufacturer warranty expires.

If you plan on keeping your vehicle for an extended length of time, an extended warranty could be right for you. Compare the costs of the warranties the dealer offers with our warranty options. Our warranties usually lower in cost and have longer terms and more comprehensive coverage than those offered at the dealership.

Watch out for GAP Insurance

GAP stands for Guaranteed Asset Protection. What is GAP insurance? It's optional car insurance coverage that helps you pay off your auto loan in the event that your car is totaled or stolen,

and you owe more than the car's current value. This helps bridge the "gap" between what you owe and what your insurance is willing to pay. For example, say you owe \$25,000 on your car but the actual value is \$19,000. If you incur a total loss accident, your insurance will most likely only pay the value amount of \$19,000. GAP insurance will pay the \$6,000 so you are debt-free.

Compare the GAP Insurance from the dealership with what we offer. Dealers often charge each person a different amount. They can set their own prices which are typically very high in comparison to our policies that are reasonably priced and cost the same for each member.

If you've made up your mind to purchase a vehicle, you don't have to be intimidated by the dealer. Take control of your car buying journey and get pre-approved with Palmetto First Federal Credit Union. We will help you compare the numbers and guide you to make the best financial decision.

*Information was collected for this article from credible.com and U.S. News. The Credit Union does not endorse these sites and simply used content for informational purposes only.

Need a New 'Do?



You could be the next **HOTT HEADZ CHALLENGE** Winner!

Watch out for more details on our website and Facebook page.

The Board and Staff of Palmetto First Federal Credit Union, along with our members, would like to extend heartfelt sympathy to the friends and families of...

Barbara Bronson, Henry Martin, Ramona Smith, Rachel Turner, Rose Blackwell, Polly T, Howle, Terrell Williams, James Allen Jr., Eric Blue and James Timmons

...all valued members of your family and ours.

We regret that our updated system no longer notifies us of a member's passing. We appreciate your assistance in bringing the names of those who have passed to our attention.

In Sympathy

Holiday Closings

Independence Day

Saturday, July 4

Labor Day

Monday, September 7

Secret Numbers

There are several account numbers hidden within this newsletter. If you find yours, call the credit union and claim your **\$25 prize!**

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PALMETTO FIRST
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



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PALMETTOFIRST.COM

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration and is an Equal Housing Lender.