

# Debit or Credit - What to Choose and When

We've all done it. We're out shopping, ready to use our debit cards, and the sales clerk asks "debit or credit?" We really don't know what the difference is. It is a debit card, so we say "debit," right???

**WRONG!**

When you're making retail purchases with your debit card, choose "credit." You'll bypass the limit restrictions and the funds still come out of your checking account. Another reason: Credit transactions require a signature, which helps protect you against fraud.

So save your PIN for ATM use and say "credit" when you're at the mall, restaurant, gas station, or grocery store. For more information about debit cards contact us at 231.843.2323. We'll explain the differences between debit and credit and how debit cards can work for you.

## Join Us for our Snowbird Sendoff



### Leaving us for the Winter?

Make sure and stop by the Credit Union on Tuesday October 13th. Enjoy free donuts and cider while you fill out a change of address form to insure getting your statements and other important mailings while you are away.

### Not enrolled in E-Statements or Online Bill Pay?

If you sign up for either of these services during Snowbird Sendoff Day, you will receive a FREE Going Away Gift!

### Want to learn more about E-Statements or Online Bill Pay?

On the hour, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., we will be hosting a short 15-20 minute presentation on how to use these services. There has never been a better time to learn about and enroll in these services!

ISSUE

02

Fall/Winter  
2009

# Harbor Highlights

this issue

International Credit Union Day P.1

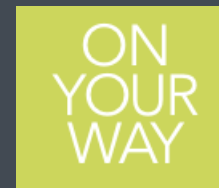
The 0% Financing Craze P.2

Budget Counseling P.3

Snowbird Sendoff P.4

## Get Rewarded with our New Young Adult Program

Announcing the launch of our NEW young adult program - **On Your Way!**



ON YOUR WAY is designed to help our members between the ages of 18-35 learn more about their finances, have easy access to our services, and EARN REWARDS for their relationship with us. Members can earn chances to win drawings for rewards (like digital cameras, iPods, or Nintendo Wiis) just for visiting the site, by referring friends and peers to the site, and by using our products and services.



To get signed up for your chance to win, visit [www.safeharborcu.org](http://www.safeharborcu.org) and click on the ON YOURWAY logo!

## Are you paying too much for your car loan?

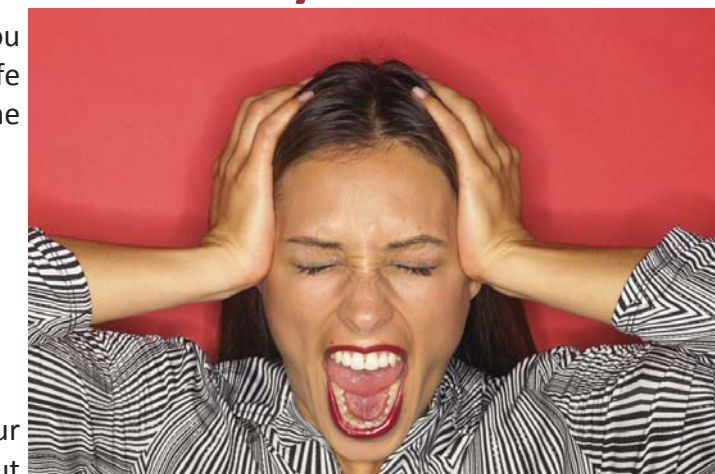
If you financed a car elsewhere, you may be paying too much! Let Safe Harbor Credit Union save you some money with rates as low as:

**4.75%**<sup>APR\*</sup>

Not only are you likely to lower your payment with our great rates, but we'll pay you **\$50-instant cash!**

**Call Carrie or Sue today at 231/843.2323 and ask for the I.O.U. Auto Loan Special!**

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate based on individual credit score and loan term. \$5,000 minimum loan amount with 36 month minimum loan term. Current SHCU auto loans not eligible. Offer good for refinances and purchases of vehicles. Good through December 31, 2009. Offer subject to change.



## Celebrate International Credit Union Day

On October 15, credit union members around the world will join together to celebrate International Credit Union Day and this year's theme: *Your Money. Your Choice. Your Credit Union.* Do you remember why you chose Safe Harbor Credit Union to be your financial services provider? It may be among many reasons shared by the 177 million people in 96 countries who have also chosen credit unions, but it most likely has something to do with the common philosophy of people helping people.

Unlike most other financial institutions, credit unions are not-for-profit, democratically controlled, volunteer-run, member-owned cooperatives. They exist to serve their members,

and that level of service remains high even during the toughest times. Instead of issuing stock or paying dividends to outside shareholders, credit unions provide value to their members by returning earnings in the terms of lower loan rates, higher interest on deposits, and lower or even no transaction fees.

**Stop by on Thursday, October 15th and celebrate International Credit Union Day with us!**

Harbor Highlights Issue 02 Fall/Winter 2009

## Mark Your Calendars !

**Tuesday October 13th—Snowbird Sendoff,  
Join us before you leave for the winter.**

**Thursday October 15th—ICU Day,  
Join us for our celebration**

**Thursday November 26th— Thanksgiving,  
Credit Union CLOSED**

**Friday November 27th— Credit Union Holiday,  
Credit Union CLOSED**

**Friday December 11th—Holiday Open House,  
Join us for our celebration**

**Thursday December 24th—Christmas Eve ,  
Credit Union Closing at 1:00 p.m.**

**Friday December 25th - Christmas,  
Credit Union CLOSED**

**Friday January 1st—New Year's Day  
Credit Union CLOSED**



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Your Success is Our Success - We Belong To You!



## Helpful Information-



Just for you!

The Attorney General of the State of Michigan has developed a new website to help Seniors and others keep informed. The new one-stop website: [www.seniorbrigade.com](http://www.seniorbrigade.com) provides a wide range of helpful information for seniors, family members, and care-givers.

The site is intended to become a trusted source for information and a place to turn to 24 hours a day. Topics covered on the website include: Health Care, Financial Matters, Consumer Protection, Veterans Affairs, and Senior Event Calendars. With the economy in the state that it is today, this will become a welcome addition to help protect all from being taken advantage of. The website offers many topics and particularly warns of the numerous scams and frauds that target the elderly and less affluent.

We can also offer help if you are unsure if an offer is too good to be true. Just give us a call at 231.843.2323 or stop by to talk.

The



# Financing Craze: A Good Deal ?????

At the moment, more than a third of the new cars for sale in the United States can be purchased with zero-percent financing.

On the surface, a zero-percent loan sounds like **FREE** money. You would not be alone to think that a zero-percent loan is the better deal. Especially when you are at the dealership and the sales agent brings out the sales contract, smiles, and asks if you will be taking the manufacturer's financing special! Before signing on that dotted line, there are some important things you need to consider. First of all, make sure to **check the fine print.** Most 0% financing offers have some very specific restrictions. Sometimes this financing is only available in terms of two or three years. Other issues to consider regarding the 0% financing are that larger down payments may be required, pre-payment penalties may exist, and negotiating a better deal could be a problem.

There's more! You may be limited to "on-site stock" which minimizes your choices

	Manufacturer	SHCU
Purchase Price	\$24,000	\$24,000
Loan Amount	\$24,000	\$20,000
Note Rate	0%	4.75%
Term	60 months	60 months
Monthly Payment	\$400.00	\$375.15
Total Repayment	\$24,000	\$22,508.33

The chart is based on a car that costs \$24,000 and offers 0% interest or a rebate of \$4,000. 4.75% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) applies to 100%, 60-month term. Rate is based on I.O.U. auto loan promotion and is accurate as of 9/11/09 and subject to change without notice.

in models, colors, styles and other options. And, if that's not enough, your credit history, employment history, length of residence and your general financial well being better be perfect.

Even if you are approved at the lowest rate, the cash rebate may still be the better option for you. Look at the example above. We have compared taking the cash rebate and using Safe Harbor Credit Union to finance your vehicle against taking 0% financing. Based on the above information, taking the cash rebate and financing at Safe Harbor Credit Union means a savings of nearly \$1,500 over the term of the loan.

Isn't it time to reconsider that 0% financing option? Which would you rather have?



**Now through the end of the year take advantage of our I.O.U. Auto Loan promotion on NEW and used vehicles and get a rate as low as 4.75% APR\*.**

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate based on individual credit score and loan term. \$5,000 minimum loan amount with 36 month minimum loan term. Current SHCU auto loans not eligible. Offer good for refinances and purchases of vehicles. Good through December 31, 2009. Offer subject to change.

# BUDGET

COUNSELING



## Get Your Budget Back On Track

Many Members have taken advantage of the Accel Financial Education and Counseling Program that is now available as a value added service at Safe Harbor Credit Union. To help decide if you could use our help, answer the following questions:

1. Do you have unpaid bills at the end of each month?
2. Is it difficult for you to organize and review your monthly bills?
3. Have you bounced a check more than once in the last 12 months?
4. Do you regularly pay bills after the due date?
5. Have you received calls for creditors or collection agencies recently?
6. Do you constantly worry about the state of your finances?
7. Has it been more than six months since you made a deposit to your savings account?

If you answered yes to a majority of these questions, give Accel a call at 1-877-332-2235. Financial education will empower you to control debt, earn lower rates on loans, improve relationships, and build savings for emergencies and retirement. Accel Financial Counseling has the power to transform lives ...and at Safe Harbor Credit Union we believe in reaching each member one person at a time!

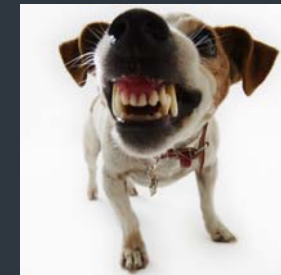
Contact Accel today at 1-877-33ACCEL (332-2235) or visit them on the web at [www.accelservices.org](http://www.accelservices.org)

## Christmas Early?

We are helping you avoid last-minute shopping (*hopefully*) by cashing out your Christmas Club and depositing your funds into your savings account on October 1st!

If you didn't set up a Christmas Club Account this year, consider one for 2010. You can have money automatically transferred each month, or you can make deposits just as you would with any savings account. Plus, your savings earns interest all year long helping you get the most out of your holiday. Christmas Club Accounts can be opened any month of the year, and then right before the holidays, your funds are available in your savings account.

It is our way of helping make December less stressful and more enjoyable!



## We're Always Watching Out For Our Credit & Debit Card Members...

As a member of Safe Harbor Credit Union, you can be assured that we are taking steps to protect you against Credit and Debit Card fraud.

One step we have taken is to have our Card Processors constantly monitor your Credit and Debit activity. Whenever they find your card being used for a service, large amount, or at a merchant type that you usually don't use, they flag your account. If the activity continues, our processor will attempt to contact you to verify the account activity.

You can be assured that if you receive a call from our processor they will **NEVER** ask you for your account information, such as your card number, expiration date, address or any other personal information. They will identify themselves and ask you to validate transactions that have occurred on your account.

Keep in mind, if our processor can't reach you at the number you have provided, they will shut down your card for protection. For that reason, you may want to contact us and add your cell phone number to your contact information for your convenience.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER**, if you receive a call and the call begins asking you for ANY account information, hang up and contact your card issuer. If the Credit Union is closed, you will receive instructions on our night messaging system for reporting a lost or stolen card. You may follow these instructions to see if our processor has attempted to reach you. This information is also available on our website at [www.safeharborcu.org](http://www.safeharborcu.org)