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Safe, Secure, Insured

Credit Unions gain praise in national media

Some of the country's largest financial institutions grew even larger during the recent credit crisis. But many financial experts have pointed out what our members already know: bigger isn't necessarily better. In fact, credit unions are enjoying a surge in deposits, as consumers discover the advantages of dealing with a local, personal financial institution. The media has been publicizing this trend for months. Here are just a few examples:

The Wall Street Journal

Oct. 1 - An article entitled "As Big Banks Converge, Depositors Find Deals at Smaller Institutions" explains the outstanding rates, low fees and solid insurance protection available at credit unions.

The Today Show

On CNBC, Oct 1 - Suze Orman, FDIC spokesperson, affirmed the strength of NCUA insurance for credit union members, noting that the insurance program is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.



The Washington Post

Sept. 28 - Credit Unions were suggested as smart, safe choices for consumers in an article entitled "How do I choose the right bank, savings and loan or credit union?"

Safe Harbor Credit Union is pleased to provide solid financial choices for our valued members. We offer big convenience, a big variety of services, and a big commitment to your success - yet we are small enough to care about each and every member.

Your Credit Union accounts are now insured up to \$250,000 per account owner. Ask us for details or visit www.ncua.gov.

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SPRING/SUMMER 2009

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Annual Scholarship Program Established

Safe Harbor Credit Union has made a commitment to make a difference in the lives of our members, their families, and the community we all live and work in.

YOUR Credit Union has established four annual scholarships in the amount of \$500 each, to assist students attending West Shore Community College.



By partnering with West Shore Community College, we not only have the opportunity to invest in the students, but can invest in the future of our community college; which benefits the community as a whole.

Any questions or requests for additional information should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid at West Shore Community College. You can contact WSCC by calling 231/845-6211 or visiting www.westshore.edu



EXCITING PLANS FOR YOUTH MONTH



Want to win a Nintendo Wii™, a Nintendo DS™, or a Portable DVD Player?

During the month of April we will be celebrating our "Youth Members" and

inviting them to participate in this year's recycling challenge. The top point earners in each age category will win one of the grand prizes listed above. Read more about this on page 2.....



Mark Your Calendars !

Thursday April 23rd - 57th Annual Meeting, doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Friday April 24th - Youth Celebration, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Monday May 25th - Memorial Day, Credit Union CLOSED

Saturday July 4th - Independence Day, Credit Union CLOSED

August - Member Appreciation Day, Exact date to be determined

ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of 57th Annual Meeting

Our 57th Annual Meeting will be held Thursday April 23, 2009 at YOUR credit union! The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the business meeting call to order beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Two positions on the Board of Directors will be up for election. Voting is open to members ONLY, who are 16 years and older. Any member interested in running for a position on the board of directors must submit a request in writing. Your request must be received at the credit union by the close of business on Friday April 10, 2009.

Food and beverages will be served buffet style after the business meeting. There will be no charge for the food and beverages. The staff will be available for tours of the building. We are giving away a **FLAT SCREEN TV as our GRAND PRIZE!** You can sign up for prizes from 5:30 p.m. until the time of the drawing, which will follow the buffet meal. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

To help us plan for this EXCITING EVENT, we would appreciate an RSVP. Please call us at 231/843-2323 or email us at information@safeharborcu.org



Harbor Highlights Issue 01 Spring/Summer 2009



We have **Money to Loan.** It's what we do!

The economy has created a lot of fear in the marketplace. Some consumers are hesitant to borrow, and some financial institutions are struggling with risky, sub-prime loans.

Here at Safe Harbor Credit Union, we have **NEVER** participated in sub-prime lending. We have a healthy, stable loan portfolio, and have money available for our members to borrow.

So here's where we stand right now:
We have money to lend. We have money-saving rates. We have one of the most convenient and rapid methods of borrowing. And if you are in the market for a new car, a new home, or some home improvements, there is no better place to turn than your very own credit union.



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Your Success is Our Success - We Belong To You!

Bringing Up Financially Independent Kids

In today's age, it is more important than ever that parents provide their children with the knowledge they need to make it in the financial real world.

Young people are faced with financial challenges the moment they leave the safety net of the home.

Looking at the statistics, it is apparent the majority of parents do not have enough knowledge to raise a financially responsible child. Public high schools have been teaching many subjects for the last 50 years and financial education is NOT one of them. Because of this, many parents were never taught about money and feel unprepared to raise a financially responsible teen.

There are five critical foundation lessons that will help teach your child financial responsibility.

- 1. Ethics** - Developing a high moral character will help your child earn more money, be a better job candidate and be an overall good person that people respect.
- 2. Communication** - A key to raising a financially responsible child has a lot to do with their communication skills. It gives them the power to persuade people and align others with their personal goals, which is a fundamental quality to greater earning power.
- 3. Proper Mindset** - Negativity hinders all things in life and can destroy teenagers chances of achieving financial independence. Teach your children to think with the end goal in mind.
- 4. Passion** - Help your child find and follow their passions. Give them advice on how they can make money by following their passions.
- 5. Organizational Skills** - Achieving financial independence at a young age will be aided by having good organizational habits.

By helping them to develop these skills you can help your child achieve financial independence at a young age.



Exciting Things Planned to Celebrate our Youth Members



Every April, Safe Harbor Credit Union celebrates our youth members. This year's National Youth Month theme is "The Magic of Saving".

Safe Harbor believes it is not only imperative that we teach our young members about the importance of saving for a solid financial future, but it is equally important to teach them about the significance of becoming environmentally conscious, saving for a "greener" future, if you will.

This year we have the opportunity to "go green" and give back to our wonderful community by challenging our youth members, ages 17 and under, with the recycling of cell phones, ink jet and laser cartridges, digital cameras, iPods, and laptops.

Our Youth Members will be awarded points for every item they donate to the challenge. The point schedule is as follows:

- Cell Phones, 20 points each
- Ink Cartridges
 - Ink jet, 20 points
 - Laser, 40 points
- PDAs/Palm Pilots, 80 points
- Laptops, 100 points
- iPods, 80 points
- Digital Cameras, 60 points

Those between the ages of 12 and 17 will have the opportunity to win a Nintendo Wii™ Bundle. Those between the ages of 6 and 11 will have the opportunity to win a Nintendo DS Lite™ Bundle, and those between the ages of 0 and 5 will have the opportunity to win a portable DVD player with carrying case.

We are very pleased to announce that by partnering with a company, "Cartridges for Kids", we will be compensated for our collective recycling efforts. All proceeds raised will be donated to two

very worthwhile community causes: The Ludington Library's "Just Imagine" Expansion Campaign, and the Women's Imaging Center at Memorial Medical Center.

We are also asking our Select Employee Groups (SEGs) and our members to join us in our recycling efforts. Together we can show our young members that by working together we CAN make a difference!

On Friday, April 24th, we will be hosting our Youth Month Celebration. Stop by the credit union between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. for face painting, cookies and punch, games and excitement, and LOTS OF FUN ! The three grand prizes will be awarded at 4:30 p.m. We will begin awarding points on April 1, 2009 and will continue through Friday April 24, at 3:30 p.m.



Surviving a Layoff

A layoff or job change can be a challenging and stressful situation for you and your family. However, you can achieve a successful new direction with careful financial planning, useful tools and a positive approach.

Take a look at your overall situation

Review your budget and see where you stand financially. Your budget is the cornerstone of your personal financial plan, whether you're saving a lot of money already or if you're faced with reduced income. In its most basic form, the budget includes income, expenses, and debts.

List sources of income

This is the starting point of your budget review. In times of reduced income, you have to be creative and look at sources of income that you might not have considered in the past. Determine the amount of your reduced income, how much of that

income you will replace and identify other income sources to replace lost income. Other income sources include: unemployment compensation, savings, severance pay, family members and tax refunds.

Review Expenses

A great deal of "savings" can be found on the expense side of your budget. Write down every penny that you spend. Make as many expense categories as possible to see where your money goes. Determine your needs versus wants so you can make decisions about which expenses can be reduced or eliminated. Prioritize your expenses from the most important to the least and start cutting now!

Evaluate and reduce your debt

List all of your debts - both secured and unsecured. Mortgages or secured loans should take first priority. Determine if you can refinance or consolidate your

debt to reduce monthly expenditures. Many creditors offer hardship programs where they will waive interest, alter fees or give you a break before returning back to regular monthly payments. Use cash for new purchases and start to pay down credit card debt by paying more than the creditor's minimum payment. When smaller balances are paid off, apply that money toward increasing the payments to your other creditors.

Be diligent, persistent and organized

Think positive and make your finances a priority.

As a member of Safe Harbor Credit Union, you can take advantage of the **Accel** program, a free financial education and counseling program. **Accel** counselors are available Monday through Saturday. To use this service call 1-877-33ACCEL (332-2235) or visit www.accelservices.org



Strapped for cash? Find it in your home!

The cash you need is already there with your Safe Harbor Credit Union Home Equity Line-of-Credit (HELOC) loan. This type of loan uses the equity in your home as collateral to provide a revolving source of credit. Use the money however you like - home improvements, college expenses, credit card debt, landscaping projects, vacations or any other reason.

There's never been a better time to tap into your HELOC with its low variable APR* and the possibility the interest you pay on the loan will be tax deductible (check with your tax advisor to see if you qualify).

We provide HELOC checks for easy access to your funds.

The money you borrow will become available to you again as soon as it is repaid, plus you pay only interest on the money you use.

If you don't already have a Safe Harbor Credit Union HELOC, getting one is easy and convenient. For loan rates, financing information and fast, friendly service, stop by SHCU, call our loan department at 231/843-2323 or 866/570-7233, or visit www.safeharborcu.org

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate

Live a Little Greener—Sign up for E-notices and E-statements

Have you been looking for ways to live more environmentally friendly? One quick and easy solution is to sign up to receive your statements and account notices such as: CD Maturity, NSF, Courtesy Pay, and delinquent notices; via our online banking system. Not only will this help eliminate the paper typically used to print these documents, but it also provides greater security than paper statements and notices, that could get lost or stolen in the mail. Plus signing up is extremely easy!

To sign up for e-notices, just click on the "My Messages" link after logging in to online banking. From there, click on eAlert subscriptions and choose which types of alerts you'd like to receive. Any account notices will now be sent to the



My Messages section of online banking. You can also choose to have an email notification sent when you receive an eAlert.

Signing up for eStatements is just as easy! After signing into online banking, just click on the eStatements link near the top-center of the page. Once you are enrolled, you will receive an email notification each time a new statement is ready, so you know when to sign in to online banking to review your accounts. You are also automatically granted access to a full year's worth of your statements immediately upon enrollment, saving you the trouble of digging through those filing cabinets, looking for a specific transactions!

Best of all, both of these services are FREE! Consider these another value added benefit of belonging to YOUR credit union!