



“Your Success is Our Success - We Belong To You”

Safe Harbor Credit Union

September 2008 Newsletter

1200 E. Tinkham Avenue
P.O. Box 980
Ludington, MI 49431

Phone: 231/843-2323 •
Toll Free: 866/570-7233

www.safeharborcu.org

Email us at
information@safeharborcu.org

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE !



This autumn, experience the difference of a mortgage with Safe Harbor Credit Union.

Apply today for a 5 year balloon mortgage at a rate as low as 4.95%/5.192% APR*! With an amortization of 20 years, you can't afford not to.

Experience the Safe Harbor difference with low closing costs, underwriting using credit union guidelines, fast-efficient service, and we keep your loan **IN-HOUSE!**

Stop by or call Janetta today at 231/843-2323 or 231/206-5957.



Holiday Hours:

Closed Thursday
November 27th and
Friday November 28th

Drive Thru will be open
from 8:30 - noon on
Saturday November 29th

Closing at 1:00 p.m. on
Wednesday December 24
Closed Thursday
December 25

Closed Thursday January 1

In this issue:

Experience the Difference	1
International Credit Union Day	1 - 2
Holiday Planning	2

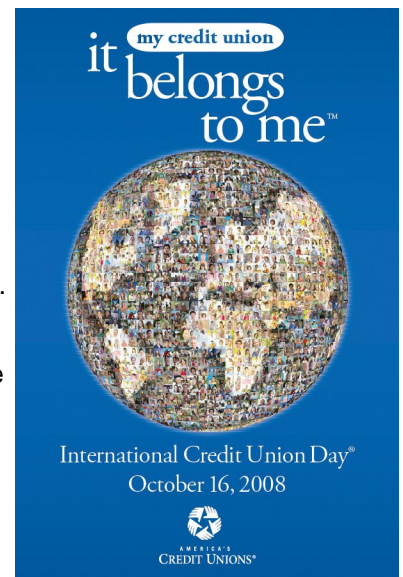


Your Christmas Club will transfer to your regular shares on Wednesday October 1st. Don't forget to start one for next year. If you haven't taken advantage of our Christmas Club before it is a great way to save for Christmas, taxes, school...the possibilities are endless. The club runs from October 1st - October 1st of each year.

Celebrate Your Credit Union Ownership this October!

Do you know who owns Safe Harbor Credit Union? You do! And that is just one of the many things that make credit unions unique and one of the membership benefits we will recognize on October 16th, when we celebrate International Credit Union Day.

Credit Unions are not-for-profit, democratically controlled, volunteer-run, member-owned cooperatives. They exist to serve their members. Unlike most other financial institutions, credit unions do not issue stock or pay dividends to outside stockholders. Instead, earnings are returned to members in the form of lower loan rates, higher interest on deposits, and lower fees. (continued on page 2)





Celebrate Your
Credit Union
Ownership this
October!

(continued from page 1).....

Because they are unique in both structure and purpose, credit unions provide a viable alternative to for-profit financial institutions for more than 177 million members in 96 countries. At Safe Harbor Credit Union, we take pride in our heritage as a cooperative financial services provider and our connection to the 49,000 credit unions worldwide. On October 16, we will join with credit unions and their members around the world to celebrate International Credit Union Day in recognition of the benefits those institutions bring to their members.

At credit unions, every customer is both a member and an owner. This year's International Credit Union Day theme - *It Belongs to Me* - celebrates the economic democracy and equal ownership rights of each credit union member, regardless of how much money that member may have in savings. Please join us on October 16 as we honor our most valuable asset: our members. You are the reason Safe Harbor Credit Union exists.

Check out our Web site, www.safeharborcu.org, for more information about International Credit Union Day and prepare to celebrate the credit union difference.

Remember at Safe Harbor Credit

Planning for the Holidays

The holidays always seem to be just around the corner. It won't be long before families are exchanging presents. Holidays and gifts can take a big bite out of your budget, so planning ahead will keep your budget under control.

It is important not to get caught up in the last minute emotion of the season and spend more than you planned. Holiday overspending ruins many festive occasions and can result in long repayment schedules.

Don't have a holiday credit hangover! Remember, credit obligations (excluding home mortgages and utilities) should not exceed 15-20 percent of your take-home pay each month.



The following are suggestions to help relieve holiday stress:

- Shop early for gifts. This allows you to take advantage of sales, specials and bargains. Don't over buy or forget you have already shopped for someone.
- Make your own gifts. Use skills you have to sew, bake, paint or make crafts.
- Don't be a "One gift for you...one gift for me" shopper! And don't be tempted to give your gifts early lest you buy more!
- Use layaway plans if possible. Most allow you to pay at a rate you can afford either weekly or monthly.
- If you have a large family, consider drawing names to exchange gifts.
- Shop your local craft fairs and shows for specialty items - you'll find some great ideas. Sometimes you can bargain with the vendor.
- Family members would appreciate an IOU to mow the lawn or wash the car in the spring.
- If you plan to fill stockings or bags for the children, try putting a few pieces of fruit (apples & oranges) in the bottom first. Also, coloring books and scratch pads make great inexpensive fillers.
- Know your merchants' return policies before buying.

Don't forget to plan ahead for expenses such as holiday decorations, special candies, baking supplies (especially if baking for gifts), increased utility bills, food consumption and wrapping paper. These expenses are rarely considered and can really add up fast.

Shopping Safety

Keep your eye out for theft and fraud at this time of year. Follow these simple rules.

- Keep a list of all credit and charge card account numbers, with company phone numbers, in a safe place, not with you.
- After a purchase, destroy all credit card slips carbons (or incorrect receipts you have corrected).
- Never sign a blank receipt.
- Keep your charge/credit card in view at all times when using it for a purchase.
- Always notify the creditor immediately if there is an error on your billing statement.
- Know the mail order company before ordering and giving your credit card number over the telephone.

Need help with a holiday budget? 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 Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (EST), Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To use this new service, simply call 1-877-33ACCEL (332-2235) or visit them on the web at www.accelservices.org.