



United Community Credit Union

Members' Quarterly

www.unitedccu.org

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HOME EQUITY LOANS – THEY CAN WORK FOR YOU IN MANY WAYS

What do you want your home equity to do? Chances are you can do it.

Debt Consolidation: This use can help reduce or eliminate high-interest debt. This is one of the most popular uses for home equity because of two fantastic home equity loan advantages. The first is that home equity loans and lines of credit generally come with lower interest rates than are available with other types of loans. Secondly, using a home equity loan or line of credit can give you significant tax advantages. To find out more about these tax benefits, consult your tax advisor.

Home Improvements: This use gives you a tax-sheltered way of increasing the value of your property. You may want to check with experts such as realtors or contractors to find out what projects increase property value. When you use your loan for home improvements or to purchase another home, the tax advantages can even be greater than with home equity loans granted for other purposes.

Education: This use gives you an investment in your future or the future of a loved one by paying for an education. The potential rewards are a brighter future and better paying job. Plus, your home equity loan can pay for education expenses when you may not qualify for government education loans.

Home equity can be used to pay for many other things, like major purchases, vacations, furniture, medical costs, business expenses and much more.

★★APRIL SPECIAL★★

UCCU is offering to save you even more in April by waiving closing costs on all approved loans. Take advantage of this opportunity with the following rates:

Home Equity Line-of-Credit	3.50% (variable: prime minus 1/2%)
Home Equity Fixed	4.50% up to 60 months
	5.25% up to 120 months
	5.95% up to 180 months

We offer additional plans with equity financing up to 100% of your home's value. If you are considering a home equity loan or line-of-credit, please call us at (802) 479-2836 to learn more.



UCCU's 61st ANNUAL MEETING

UCCU held its 61st Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 6th at the Canadian Club in Barre. Nearly 300 member and guests turned out for this year's meeting.

President Daniel Lambert presided over this year's meeting. Elected to the Board of Directors were Daniel Lambert and Dot Gavin for 3-year terms and Mark McCarthy for a 2-year term. Elected to a 3-year term on the Credit Committee was Forrest Rouelle.

At an organizational meeting held later Donald Denko was elected President, Dot Gavin Vice-President, Mario Lorenzini Treasurer and John McKinley, Secretary. Appointed to a 3-year term on the Supervisory Committee was Barbara Menard.

Following the business meeting door prizes were awarded. This year's grand prize winner of \$250 cash was Lorraine Bishop. There was also a 50-50 raffle which raised \$605.00 for the March of Dimes. Joe Bresett was the lucky raffle winner for 50% of the amount raised.

2004 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Again this year, UCCU is offering \$500 Scholarships to (2) college-bound seniors who are themselves members or whose parent is a member. Interested individuals may request an application from the Credit Union office or e-mailing us at info@unitedccu.org. Deadline for your completed application is May 28, 2004.

**Check Out Our
Website:**

www.unitedccu.org

Are You A Winner?

If your account number appears below, let us know, and we'll credit your share account \$10.

#708 #4812 #7060
#9051 #10823 #91991

Office Closings

May 31 Memorial Day
July 5 Independence Day
(observed)



Members' Quarterly
is published each quarter by the
United Community Credit Union

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donald Denko, President
Dorothy Gavin, Vice-President
Mario Lorenzini, Treasurer
John McKinley, Secretary
Daniel Lambert
Patrick Timothy Mullikin
Mark McCarthy

CREDIT COMMITTEE

C Martin Prevost Sr., Chairman
Gregory Bergeron
Forrest Rouelle

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Julianne Monty, Chairman
Barbara Menard
Michael Beaudin

UCCU STAFF

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Timothy W Golden, CCUE

LOAN OFFICERS

Lorie Heath, Supervisor
Stephanie Boucher
Joanne Boutin

MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Victoria Jewett, Supervisor
Kimberly Sumner, Asst. Head Teller

Tanya Bryan
Deborah Brothers
Doreen Hutchins

OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

Cynthia Bresett

DEBT CONSOLIDATION TIPS

As more and more credit offers come our way, it becomes more and more tempting to open additional credit lines...and, correspondingly, take on more debt. Many retailers offer special discounts when shoppers open their store credit cards on the spot, making it difficult to resist.

The first rule is to always pay your entire credit card balance(s) off each month to avoid finance charges. Otherwise, you may begin to see your levels of revolving debt become seriously problematic. Even when their monetary level of debt is under control, it is difficult for some consumers to manage the number of smaller debts they have. Plus, having multiple lines of credit available to you, even if the balances are at zero in each, portrays you as less able to take on more credit. Should you ever really need another type of credit, such as a mortgage, lenders may be less likely to grant you those loans.



Consolidating multiple loans into one lower-interest loan helps you reduce your number of credit lines and the interest you are paying on your total debt. You can then enjoy lower payments or afford to pay off your debt more quickly. Money that in times past was going to interest may now go toward the principal balance of your obligation.

Fortunately, there are options easily available for those seeking to get their debt in control. Consolidating credit card balances to a single lower-interest credit card is one option. Another option would be a debt consolidation loan such as a signature loan or secured loan like a home equity loan.

Whatever your credit need is, UCCU is here to help you. If you need help with your debt management call on of our lending specialists at (802) 479-2836 Option 4.

OFFICE HOURS

	<u>Lobby</u>	<u>Drive-up</u>
Monday-Wednesday	8:30-5:00	8:00-5:00
Thursday	9:00-5:00	8:00-5:00
Friday	9:00-5:30	8:00-6:00
Saturday	9:00-12:00	9:00-12:00

UCCU RATEBOARD

(As of March 15, 2004)

DIVIDEND RATES

APY

Regular Shares	0.75%
Share Drafts (checking)	0.25%
Multi-Purpose Club	0.75%
Christmas Clubs	0.75%
IRAs	2.79%
Hi-Yield	
\$500-\$9,999	1.00%
\$10,000-\$49,999	1.15%
\$50,000 and above	1.30%
Term Certificates	
6 Months	1.20%
12 Months	1.50%
18 Months	1.70%
24 Months	1.90%
36 Months	2.20%
48 Months	3.00%
60 Months	3.60%

LOAN RATES

Secured: includes Cars, Trucks, Campers, RVs, Motorcycles, ATVs, Snowmobiles and Boats.

TERM*	RATE*
24 Months	3.00%
36 Months	3.50%
48 Months	4.25%
60 Months	4.50%
72 Months	5.00%

Add 1.25% for 1997 to 2000 model years
Add 2.50% for 1996 and older model years
Add 2.00% for non-titled RV vehicles
Add 2.00% for vehicles over 100,000 miles

Unsecured:

60 Months	8.00%
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* Rates and terms are determined by an evaluation of your credit.

Other:

Home Equity Line-of-Credit	3.50%
(Over 80% LTV)	4.50%
Home Equity Fixed	
60 Months	4.50%
120 Months	5.25%
180 Months	5.95%
Share Secured	2.75%
Hi-Yield Secured	3.75%
VISA Credit Card	11.90%
Home Mortgages	call for current rates

All Rates are subject to change.

(For current rates, visit our website at www.unitedccu.org)

Bill Payer Saves Time and Worry

Have you ever found a bill that you thought you'd paid earlier in the month? Now it's late. United Community Credit Union's electronic bill payment service can eliminate this worry.

Bill Payer is the electronic transfer of an authorized payment from your checking account into the account of a biller, financing or investment company, or nonprofit organization. It's ideal for recurring payments such as household bill payments, insurance premiums, automatic investment and savings plans, mortgage payments, auto loan payments, and charitable donations.

You can schedule payments in advance so bills get paid even when you're away on vacation or away on business.

Electronic bill payment studies show that consumers using automated bill payment generally become more responsible with funds and generally have higher account balances. Over a 31-month period of using automated billing services checking account balances increased by 38%. Now that's something to look forward to.

If you have internet access log on to www.unitedccu.org and click on the Bill Payer icon. You can demo it or sign up for the service and try it for free for 90 days. After the trial period it's only \$4.95/month; less than the cost of stamps, envelopes and your time.

Why Credit Unions Aren't Banks

When you walk into our lobby, or call a loan officer, what makes United Community Credit Union different from a bank isn't immediately apparent. The two financial institutions may offer similar products and services. But there the similarities stop. Crucial differences exist—in ownership, in cost of borrowing money, and in use of services.

* You own your credit union. Credit unions are member-owned nonprofit financial cooperatives dedicated to improving members' lives. More than 84 million members own 9,700 U.S. credit unions with combined assets of \$625 billion. Stockholders own banks (with combined assets of \$6.2 trillion). Banks make money for stockholders, not for customers.



Credit unions are the only democratically controlled financial institutions in the United States. You and other members elect a volunteer board of directors to oversee the credit union. The manager or president/ chief executive officer reports to this board. Bank directors, however, are paid and legally bound to make decisions that benefit stockholders, not customers.

* Credit unions have the best rates. Credit unions price loans, pay interest on funds you've deposited, and charge fees to provide you with high-quality, low-cost services. Banks price products and services to make a profit.

You earn more on your savings—in some cases much more—at the credit union.

Credit union loan rates also are better. The average credit card interest rate is four percentage points better at credit unions vs. banks. And credit union auto loans average almost one and one-half percentage points less than banks' auto loan rates. Credit unions make consumer loans and sometimes member business loans. Banks offer consumer loans, but really emphasize business loans.

* Credit unions educate members about money matters. They provide publications such as this newsletter to keep you advised of rates, loan sales, and financial trends that affect you. United Community Credit Union stresses education by providing materials on financial planning, car, and home buying to help you make informed buying decisions. Many banks simply advertise their rates and sell their services.

Because you're an owner of United Community Credit Union, you have a say in how we do business. Let us know how you think we're doing, and what services you want at your credit union.

MORTGAGE REFINANCING

Would you like an extra \$50 or \$100 in your pocket every month? You may be able to get that or more if you refinance your mortgage and take advantage of our low interest rates.

Refinancing is the process of taking out a new mortgage loan and using the money obtained to pay off your current mortgage. It involves many of the same loan procedures you went through in obtaining your mortgage. Here are some reasons why you should consider refinancing:

- * Take advantage of low interest rates, which may reduce your monthly payment.
- * Refinancing to a mortgage with a shorter term—for example, converting from a 30-year mortgage to a 15-year mortgage, will help you build equity in your home more rapidly.
- * Refinancing at a lower interest rate can lower your monthly mortgage payment and improve cash flow.

Low interest rates give those with adjustable rate mortgages a window of opportunity to lock into a fixed interest rate. Underlying any reason to refinance is how long you intend to keep your house. The payoff increases the longer you stay.

For low rates and personal service, United Community Credit Union is the place to refinance your mortgage. Call today for more information at (802) 479-2836.