

Your \$hare

Employees Federal CREDIT UNION

400 N. Broad St. • Philadelphia
PA • 19130 • (215) 854-4460

800 River Rd. • Conshohocken
PA • 19428 • (610) 292-6762



Visit our new website at www.pnicu.com.

Vol. 15. No. 3

Philadelphia, PA

July, August, September 2004

“SALE” into Summer with VACATION LOAN!

*By Earl Laney
Credit Union President/CEO*

Need some extra money for this year's vacation? Because you asked for it, we are again this summer offering Credit Union members a special VACATION LOAN. This year's maximum loan is up to \$3,000 for two years if you apply before September 30.

If you qualify, this loan is available to members in addition to any other loans you have with the Credit Union. Stop by either office or call us today – then start packing!



Ed Curtin, Composing Room, holds vacation club gift.

If you are a member of our Vacation Club, don't forget to stop by and get your free gift. They are going fast! If you're currently not a Vacation Club member, now is the time to join.

Have you seen our new web site? There is still time to visit and get a chance to win some great prizes. Just go to www.pnicu.com and let us know your comments and/or suggestions. The first 100 members to respond will be entered in the drawing.

A number of our members have asked if we would offer the option of receiving Credit Union statements over the Internet instead of through the mail.

We are working with our data proces-

sor regarding this and expect to have the option available within the next few months.

We are also exploring the possibility of offering members Credit Union Debit Cards, and the ability to access current status of your account via the Internet. Look for information regarding these two new services in our next newsletter.

If you think you are interested in using any of these services, we would like to hear from you. You can e-mail us at pnicrunion@aol.com.

Most financial experts seem to feel that interest rates will continue to increase during the summer. Your Credit Union is still offering Home Equity Loans at a low rate. Now is the time to apply while the rates are at a record low.

Before you know it, the summer will be over and it's back to school time. Keep in mind that your Credit Union has personal Computer and Tuition Loans at a special low rate.

We have available for our members again this year, discounted tickets for Six Flags Great Adventure. While they last, the tickets can be purchased at either the Philadelphia or SPP office.

PHILADELPHIA OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday, 9 AM to 4:30 PM
Phone (215) 854-4460
Fax (215) 854-2824
e-mail: pnicrunion@aol.com
www.pnicu.com

SPP OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday, 8 AM to 4 PM
Thursday, 8 AM to 4 PM
Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM
First Saturday of Every Month,
10 AM to 2 PM
Phone (610) 292-6762
Fax (610) 292-6737

Changing Your Address? Keep In Touch!

Are you moving or changing phone numbers? We want to make sure you have the latest financial account information. If you are changing addresses or phone numbers, please mail or fax us a letter authorizing us to update our records. Address changes must include your signature.

Traveling Far and Wide on Your Vacation?

Take a Credit Union Card With You and Save!

Plastic cards are usually easier and less expensive to use than travelers' checks, and are far safer than carrying lots of cash, wherever you go.

Increased forgery has forced many merchants, especially those in tourist areas, to stop accepting travelers' checks. Some stores and restaurants are installing cash dispensing ATMs to accommodate patrons. Traveling with your credit union ATM, debit, and/or credit cards, and memorizing your PINs (NEVER write them in your wallet) will give you 24/7 access to your money.

How do you know which ATMs will accept your credit union plastic card? Just look on the back of your card at all those small logos. Find an ATM machine with any one of those and your card is compatible.

Using an ATM in other countries for local currency is generally far less expensive than going to an "Exchange Window," not to mention much faster than standing in line, and more convenient than adjusting your vacation plans to their limited hours of operation. Your withdrawal in Euro or Yen will be translated into US\$ at more favorable exchange rate, and posted to your account back home.



New Help for Identity Theft Victims:

The Federal Trade Commission has a web site with easy-to-follow instructions as well as the forms needed to resolve identity theft at <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>.

There are instructions on contacting all three major credit bureaus, how to file a complaint with the FTC, and file a police report (which may be needed to close accounts you did not open.) It is difficult for law enforcement to track identity theft when it covers so many different jurisdictions. The FTC is working on a master database to track and thwart this serious crime.

Tips to protect yourself from identity theft:

- Open all "junk mail" that looks like an offer of credit. Destroy blank checks used to transfer account balances as well as any document that has personal information, like your social security number, on it.
- Open all account statements from financial institutions and credit cards, even if you believe you have not made any transactions. Reviewing your statements is one of the fastest ways to learn if someone else is using your account.
- Do not carry your social security card, credit cards, checkbooks and photo IDs you do not use on a regular basis. If they go missing you will not notice their loss. Store them in a secure location at home, and occasionally verify they are still there, untouched.



Year-End Models

Better To Buy Now or Better To Wait?
Let's look at some of the pros & cons:

Feature	Year End Model	New Model Year
Special Dealer Incentives	Yes	Probably will have something
Depreciation of vehicle	Faster; in a few months it will be 1 year old	Not as fast - though the first 2 years are the worst
Loan Terms offered	May be shorter	Longest available
New Features & Options	Not available	First year in production: will there be problems?

Whatever you decide, always check with your credit union first! Generally you'll find a lower total cost, and have more payment flexibility by applying the rebates to your down payment, rather than accepting dealer financing. Logically, the cost of "0% financing" must be added to the vehicle's price for those lenders to stay in business.

TIP: National Highway Transportation Safety Agency has a web site that lists known vehicle defects and safety bulletins, even if there was no recall:
<http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/recallsearch.cfm>. Or call 1-888-DASH-2-DOT.

Holidays

Labor Day
Monday
September 6