



United Community Credit Union

Members' Quarterly

www.unitedccu.org

VOL 3, NUMBER 1 • 560 South Barre Road • PO Box 550 • South Barre, VT 05670 • Tel: 802-479-2836/FAX: 802-476-1063/Tele-Teller-24: 802-476-1062 • SPRING 2000

Home Equity Specials

United Community Credit Union has some great deals in place for your spring financing needs. If you need to do some home improvements, secure funds for college education, consolidate some high interest-rate debts or just make a major purchase, now is the time to talk to us.

Now, through June 30, 2000, UCCU can set you up with an open-end home equity line-of-credit with a special introductory rate of **8.50%**. The special rate will stay in effect until February 1, 2001, at which time it will be adjusted to the Prime Rate + ¾%. This open-end line-of-credit plan allows you to take advances from time to time, up to your preapproved credit limit. It's flexible, convenient and a great way to take advantage of your home's equity.

UCCU also offers a closed-end fixed-rate home equity plan. Your payments will stay level, and we can offer financing up to 100% of your home's value. Take advantage of the low rates starting at 7.95% up to 60 months, 8.95% up to 120 months and 9.95% up to 180 months.

Now through June 30, we are also discounting normal closing costs as follows:

- \$99 on home equity loans of \$7,500, and higher
- \$0 on home equity loans of \$15,000, and higher

Call or stop by today, and put your home's equity to work for you.

Important ATM Program Changes

On March 27, the merger of the Vermont National Bank into the Chittenden Bank affected your UCCU ATM program. As you recall, VNB was a partner with Vermont credit unions allowing members to make ATM deposits and avoid surcharging on withdrawals. In addition, UCCU allowed you to make up to four free withdrawals at VNB machines each month. With the merger, there are no longer any VNB ATM's.

What does this mean to you? First of all, there are no machines (other than the UCCU ATM) where you can make deposits. You will still be able to use your

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57th Annual Meeting Recap

UCCU held its 57th Annual Meeting Saturday, March 4th at the Canadian Club in Barre. The 300 attendees enjoyed a fine Roast Turkey dinner and the magic of Marko The Magician prior to the business meeting.

President John R McKinley presided over the business meeting. Elected to 3-year terms on the Board of Directors were John R. McKinley and Lorraine Bishop. Elected to a 3-year term on the Credit Committee was C. Martin Prevost Sr.

Following the elections, door prizes were awarded with the grand prize of \$200 cash won by Ronald Fortier. Many stayed for an evening of dancing and socializing following the business meeting. Mark your calendars for our 58th Annual Meeting scheduled for March 3, 2001.

Scholarships Available

Again this year, UCCU is offering two \$500 Scholarships to any college-bound senior in our area who is a member, or whose parent is a member. Interested individuals may request an application from the Credit Union office. Deadline for return of your completed application is May 19.

Are You A Winner?

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

471 #4156 #5923
#7430 #8716 #9779

Office Closings

May 29 **Memorial Day**
July 4 **Independence Day**
August 4 **Close at 5 p.m.**
August 5 **Closed**



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

UCCU STAFF

Timothy Golden
Chief Executive Officer
Lorie Heath
Consumer Loan Officer
Victoria Jewett
Head Teller
Kimberly Bell
Member Service Representative
Stephanie Boucher
Member Service Representative
JoAnne Boutin
Member Service Representative
Deborah Brothers
Member Service Representative
Tanya Bryan
Member Service Representative

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Lorraine Bishop
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Patrick Timothy Mullikin
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Donald Denko
John McKinley

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Chairman

Gregory Bergeron
Donald Jewett

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Julianne Monty
Chairman
Michael Beaudin
Shirley Crete

ELECTRONIC BILL PAYMENT

Tired of writing out the same checks each month, only to find yourself scrambling to the post office to get them mailed in time? United Community Credit Union's electronic bill payment service can help.

With a few clicks of the mouse, you can simultaneously view and pay bills online. It's easier to keep a balanced checkbook this way, and you no longer have to search through bill stubs to find the information you're looking for. The best part—once you've entered whom to pay bills to, you'll never have to enter that information again.

UCCU's Bill Payer allows members to schedule payments in advance, so bills get paid even when you're on vacation or away on business. Electronic payments are processed in as little as 24 hours to five days. You can pay any and all bills through Bill Payer except government taxing authorities, court-directed payments and payments outside the U.S. You can even track your payment history online.

If you're worried about security, don't be. United Community Credit Union's Web browser has sophisticated encryption that's very secure.

"Electronic payments are safer than paper checks—which may fall into the hands of the wrong person," says Michael Herd, director of public relations for NACHA—The Electronic Payments Association.

"Electronic payments are covered by the Federal Reserve's Regulation E—which protects consumers against fraudulent activities," he adds. "The liability is \$0, but reviewing monthly account statements and letting financial institutions know of any fraudulent activities is the consumers' responsibility."

Why not give Bill Payer a try? Visit or call United Community Credit Union today and we'll give you everything you'll need to get started. Right now when you sign up to Bill Payer, the first 90 days is free. Then you pay only \$4.95/mo thereafter. Say goodbye to those gummy postage stamps—you won't need them anymore. Try out the Bill Payer Demo on UCCU's web site at www.unitedccu.org.

Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday . . . 8:00 - 5:00
Thursday 9:00 - 5:00
Friday 9:00 - 6:00
Saturday 9:00 - 12:00
(Lobby and drive-thru only)

Online Banking Conveniences With Home Financial Services

United Community Credit Union loves to see your smiling face. But when you don't have time to visit us in person, how about visiting us online? Online banking with Home Financial Services can save you time. You'll no longer have to wait for a teller to check your balance, and you can view your accounts anytime—not just during branch hours of operation. You'll be able to check your balance, view transaction records, transfer money between accounts, make loan payments, download to Quicken or Microsoft Money and communicate with United Community Credit Union via e-mail.

As long as you have access to the Internet, online banking with Home Financial Services allows you to contact us from anywhere. It's especially convenient for members who aren't always in close proximity to the credit union—those who travel a lot or are away from home—maybe in college dorm rooms, or if you just have better things to do with your time than making a trip to the office.

United Community Credit Union has years of experience helping members manage their money and protecting their members' privacy and safety, so security and confidentiality play a leading role in our online banking service. We have highly sophisticated encryption procedures in place to prevent unauthorized users from reading confidential information, and following some simple guidelines can also help ensure your safety.

How to play it safe:

- Choose passwords of six to eight characters with a combination of letters and numbers, and keep them to yourself.
- Keep personal identification numbers (PINs) to yourself.
- Don't leave account numbers lying around where others can see them.
- Don't ignore security messages—your personal computer (PC)/Internet screen will indicate whether or not you're operating in a secure environment.
- Contact the credit union if you have any problems or concerns.
- Use common sense.

Check out Home Financial Services by logging on to United Community Credit Union's web site at www.unitedccu.org. Click on the Home Financial Service icon and try out the Demo. You can sign up on-line. Finally, Home Financial Services is FREE!

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card at any ATM, just like now, but you are likely to be assessed a surcharge at the ATM and you will be assessed the foreign transaction fee (currently \$1.25 each) by us. Point-of-Sale (POS) transactions continue to be available to you at no charge.

As this newsletter was going to press, several initiatives were underway to expand the ATM program capabilities while lowering the costs. We will be announcing new pricing once everything is finalized. In the meantime, increase your use of POS transactions to receive cash. When at an ATM, withdraw enough to last you so you don't need to make so many withdrawals. Use the UCCU ATM at no charge as often as you like. You can still make deposits here also.

Here are some of what we hope to add:

1. In a short period of time, we will be adding additional credit union and bank ATM locations that will help take the place of the VNB locations we lost. We hope they will accept deposits and you will be able to avoid surcharging as well.
2. We hope to strategically locate additional cash dispensing machines throughout Vermont in a cooperative statewide effort for the benefit of all.
3. We hope to roll out a UCCU Debit Card this spring that will be a combined ATM and Debit card.

We will be making a complete overhaul of the ATM pricing soon. Until then, we will price everything as before.

Check Out UCCU's Web Publications

Home and Family Finance Online knows what's on your mind – and works hard to help you make informed choices. In April, **Home and Family Finance Online** will make sense of digital cameras and tell you what you should know before you buy. Other April and May stories focus on:

Guidelines for selecting a career or vocational school

What to look for – and look past – when buying a house

Rating the online shopping watchdogs – how do they make participating businesses measure up

What it will take to pay off your credit card balance – use an interactive calculator to find out

What you should know about funeral and memorial societies

Sizing up colleges – how to make the most of a campus visit

Checking out electronic checks – what do changes in check technology mean to you.

Kids follow in the financial footsteps of their parents. **Googolplex**, United Community Credit Union's web magazine featuring educational stories and activities, provides age-appropriate, fun activities that help you keep your kids on solid ground.

In April and May, **Googolplex** will let elementary school students know why they can't look at the money in their credit union account. Other stories and activities for April and May:

Discover great gift ideas for Mother's Day

Learn seven ways to save on auto insurance

Find out why giving to charity is so important

Check out what technical colleges have to offer

In May, students can come back to find out how they too can join in the millionaire craze – an invention that solves a problem could earn your student a fortune. Who's hiring – it's never too early to check out career possibilities, and **Googolplex** examines even the most unusual occupations. **Googolplex** will walk students through the summer job application process and offer tips on how to start saving now to buy a car at graduation.

Both of these publications are updated with fresh material weekly. You can find both at United Community Credit Union's web site at www.unitedccu.org. Stop by today and check them out.

