

Seaport

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

NEWSLETTER



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VISA Balance Transfer Offer

If the thought of paying all the post-holiday credit card balances is keeping you up at night, snuggle up to a VISA Credit Card from Seaport FCU!

Now through February 28, 2006, you can transfer balances from other major credit or store cards at a low 4.99%*. Think of the money you can save in interest! Plus there is **no balance transfer fee**.

If you're not currently carrying a Seaport FCU VISA Credit Card, here's your chance to discover all the benefits of your Credit Union! Call us today at 800-526-6991 for more details.

* 4.99% Annual Percentage Rate will return to 12.00% APR after 7/31/06.



2006 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP Opportunities

Seaport FCU is again offering our own \$500 scholarship for young members in good standing who are college bound. In addition, Seaport FCU is also participating in a statewide Credit Union College Scholarship Program offered through the Credit Union Affiliates of New Jersey. Students will be competing against members from credit unions across New Jersey for the chance to win one of many \$1,000 scholarships.

Any high school senior who is a member in good standing of the Seaport Federal Credit Union is eligible to apply. Applicants will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular and community activities, references and personal goals.

Applicants are required to submit a completed application, which includes a short essay (500-700 words), an official high school transcript, an SAT/ACT transcript and a teacher reference.

Let your credit union help you finance your education. Ask us for an application today at the credit union office or by phone at (800) 526-6991. The deadline to have all information submitted to the Credit Union is February 28, 2006.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Martin Luther King Birthday
January 16

Presidents' Day
February 20

Good Friday
April 14

The Winners of Our Membership Drive Promotion were:

Sherman Roberts - Portable DVD Player

Dennise Woodyard - iPod Shuffle

John Green - Nokia Wireless Headset

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

Seaport Federal Credit Union

LOAN RATES*

New Auto	5.25%	36 months	100%
	5.50%	48 months	Dealer
	5.75%	60 months	Invoice
	6.25%	72 months	

Used Auto**	5.25%	up to 36 months	
	5.50%	up to 48 months	Model Year
	6.00%	up to 60 months	1998 – up

**100% N.A.D.A. value

Personal

Signature	12.00%	up to 36 months . . . Max to \$5,000
Bill Payer	12.00%	Based upon employment
Savings Secured (100%)	4.50%	up to 12 years Savings Balance
CD Secured	CD Rate + 2.5% Up to CD balance
Vacation Loans	9.00%	up to 18 months . . . Max to \$2,500
Holiday Loans	9.00%	up to 12 months . . . Max to \$2,000

Educational	10.0%	up to 48 months \$5,000 MAX
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Mortgages

Home Equity Line of Credit . . . Call for Rates... Max to \$99,000

Motorcycle

New	9.50%	up to 60 months \$20,000 MAX
Used	10.00%	up to 48 months. . . . 75% of Gross Dealer Invoice

Boat

New	10.0%	up to 60 months \$40,000 MAX
Used	12.0%	up to 60 months . . . 75% of Purchase Price/Retail

VISA	12.0%
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* NOTE: All rates expressed as Annual Percentage Rate. Rates subject to change without notice.

Avoid Credit Card Traps



Credit card issuers are setting hidden traps that can cost you hefty fees and trigger sharp interest rate hikes:

- **Universal default penalties**—Some banks will jack up the interest rate on your credit card account if you're late with payments on other accounts. Interest rates can run as high as 30%, according to industry analysts.
- **Shorter grace periods and skyrocketing late fees**—Credit card companies are shortening the interval for making "on-time" payments without incurring interest or late fees, and late fees at large issuers are as high as \$39.
- **Late payments and interest rate hikes**—Some issuers raise your interest rate significantly if you miss a payment, and if you're late two or three times, the rate may go up again.
- **Over-the-limit fee triggers**—An issuer typically charges an over-the-limit fee only if an account exceeds its limit at statement date. However, some issuers charge the fee if your balance has exceeded the limit at any time during the billing cycle.
- **Hidden fees along with low introductory interest rates on balance transfers**—Issuers may charge fees as high as \$50 to cut the check that pays off your old balance. New purchases and cash advances may incur high interest rates, and your payments may be applied to the high-rate balances last.

In Case of Emergency Use ICE

Did you know that Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) often will use a victim's cell phone for clues to a person's identity? You can help with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt. Add an entry in your cell phone's phone book under In Case of Emergency, "ICE" with the name and phone number of a person that should be contacted in case of an emergency.

Entering an ICE name and phone number only takes a few moments. EMTs know what ICE means and they look for it.

Direct Deposit Your 2005 Tax Refund



It's almost tax season! That means that you can have your tax refund directly deposited into your Credit Union account quickly, easily, and FOR FREE!

According to the IRS, a refund check is issued within 6 to 8 weeks of filing a paper return. If you file a paper return, and choose to deposit your refund directly into your account, you will receive your refund in 5 to 6 weeks. If you electronically file (E-file), your refund will be issued within 3 weeks of filing. However, if you choose to E-file and choose direct deposit for your refund, the IRS says you should receive it within 14 days.

To elect direct deposit of your tax refund into your Credit Union account, simply provide your tax preparer with your Credit Union account number and our ABA routing number. If you choose to E-file, you can always check the status of your refund online at www.irs.gov. To check your refund status, you will need your Social Security number, your filing status, and your refund amount. Also, remember to keep your 2005 year-end statement for tax reporting purposes!

Choosing an Investment Win/Win When you Save at the Credit Union

After years of saving a bit here and there, you can finally see the cash reserve building up! Now the question is, where should you put that money to get the best yield with the least amount of risk? A Money Market Account or Term Share Certificate at the Credit Union can certainly offer a higher yield than most savings accounts at other financial institutions, but which one is best for you?

The main difference between a Credit Union Money Market Account and Term Share Certificate is in the liquidity of the investments. Money Market Accounts are set up so you can readily access your funds without penalty. The price for this convenience is usually a slightly lower yield on your investment. You will have a minimum balance requirement, but you may withdraw from the account at any time (up to three times per month) without penalty. A Term Share Certificate, commonly referred to as a CD, is meant to be a buy-and-hold investment. Your investment is intended to stay on deposit for a specified period of time and therefore, generally earns a bit higher yield. Usually, the longer the term, the higher the yield. However, if you need your money prior to the scheduled maturity date, you may be subject to paying a penalty for early withdrawal. That penalty is typically the loss of three to six months' worth of dividend income.

Whatever investment you choose with the Credit Union, you can rest assured that your funds are safe. Money on deposit with the Credit Union is insured up to \$100,000 per member by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a US Government agency.

**Some restrictions may apply.*

Members Make It Happen

Your Seaport Federal Credit Union is a unique financial institution that works as a cooperative. We deliver services based on the needs of you, our members. The philosophy of "people helping people" has fared through times of economic growth and hardship, and still works for us today because Members Make it Happen.

Thanks you for your support and participation in the Credit Union. Together, we can all make it happen!



(Pictured from left) Bob Weir, Randy Iffland, Adele Wodarski, Carol Socha, Lisa Ramos, Elaine Thompson, Carolyn Petit, Ida Corbitt & Vincent Marino.

Seaport Federal Credit Union Board of Directors

extend their warmest wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Seaport Federal Credit Union

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Member Audio Access

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800-794-5694

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memberservice@seaportfcu.org

Web

www.seaportfcu.org

Presort Standard
US Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids MI
Permit 1

Meet Our Staff



Wanda Muniz has been with the Seaport Federal Credit Union for 2 years. Wanda came to the Credit Union after working for the Trust Company Bank of New Jersey as a Sales Associate. Here at Seaport FCU she works as a Member Service Representative but besides serving as a MSR Wanda also helps in the Loan Department. Wanda says that her favorite part of the job is serving the members in every capacity.

Don't Let Your Accounts Go to the State

Here's an interesting fact you may not be aware of: If a checking or savings account remains inactive for three years they are considered dormant accounts and state law requires that the funds in it be transferred to the state. That's because after three years of inactivity, it is assumed that the person who holds the account has probably passed away. Should your funds get transferred, they are returnable from the state upon request, but not without a good deal of effort and time.

Since payment of interest to your account does not constitute activity, we recommend that you make a regular deposit to your account. Even if it's only once a year, you can keep your account active and start building a little nest egg.