

Financial Fibers

OCTOBER 2008



A FILER CREDIT UNION PUBLICATION

DON'T WORRY YOUR MONEY IS SAFE

If you are worried about the credit union due to the state of the economy, rest assured your credit union is in good, sound standing. The news has been filled with warnings about banks having problems, and some have even closed due to loan losses. Filer Credit Union is not affected by the national bank problem. In fact, recently released national data shows that less than 1% of credit union loans nationwide are delinquent. Going to show, it's better to do your financial business at the credit union!



If you are worried about your money, don't be. Just like other financial institutions, your funds are insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) for at least \$100,000 (with additional coverage of up to \$250,000 for certain retirement accounts). One of the most common questions we get asked is how our credit union is different from a bank. Here are nine ways we are different:

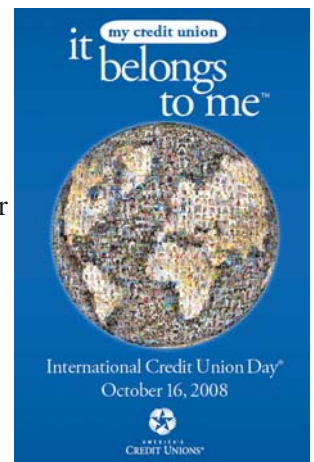
- We offer open and voluntary membership,
- The credit union is governed by democratic control and not a board of stock holders,
- We are nondiscriminatory,
- We offer superb member service,
- Our profits are returned to our members with low loan rates and higher dividends,
- We focus on building our members financial stability,
- We offer ongoing financial education,
- We cooperate with other cooperatives, and
- We support our community and are socially responsible.

So, if you are wondering if your money is safe at Filer Credit Union, the answer is YES! We want you to know that you can trust Filer Credit Union to keep your money safe. As a credit union we focus on our members and bringing you the best in products, services and rates, not some stockholder in a big office. Please contact us if you have any additional concerns or questions, so we can help put your fears and worries aside.

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

Filer Credit Union is proud to be serving our members with the best products and services. We are dedicated to helping our members reach all of their financial goals and dreams. We would like to invite you to join in celebrating the credit union movement during the 60th Annual International Credit Union Week, October 13th – 17th, 2008. Join us for refreshments on Thursday, October 16th in the credit union lobby.

For the last 60 years, credit unions across the globe have helped their members reach for, and achieve their dreams. This year's theme "My Credit Union: It Belongs to Me" celebrates the history, tradition, and spirit of the international credit union movement, and those who own it. Thank you for being part of the credit union difference.



HOLIDAY HELPERS FROM FILER CREDIT UNION

HOLIDAY HELPER LOAN SPECIAL

The holiday season is coming soon, and we want you to be ready. This year we would like to help you make it a holiday to remember with a special Holiday Helper loan. You can use our special loan for traveling to see family and friends, to consolidate your holiday bills or for surrounding your Christmas tree with all the "wishes" your family has. Our special loan offers:

- **8.99% APR**
- **Up to \$2,000**
- **11 month term**

Let your credit union help make this your best Christmas ever with our Holiday Helper loan. Stop by the credit union, apply online or fill out the printed application and get your holidays off to a great start!



SPECIAL "SKIP A PAYMENT" OFFER!

How would you like to free up some extra cash for the holidays? As our holiday gift to you, Filer Credit Union wants to give you a chance to skip your November or December loan payment*. You can use your extra cash for holiday shopping or any other expense you may have. All loans must be current to qualify, and the offer excludes: Real Estate loans, Revolving Credit loans, VISA and Overdraft loans.

To skip your payments, stop by the credit union and fill out a Skip-A-Payment form. Don't wait too long, the offer is only valid November 1st - December 31st, 2008.

**\$20.00 fee for each loan skipped.*

WONDERING HOW TO FILL YOUR STOCKINGS?

Are you wondering what you are going to fill your stockings with this Christmas? Why not give the gift that keeps on giving, credit union membership! Credit union membership means great things: lower rates, great educational opportunities, a variety of made-to-fit programs, and more efficient and personal service. Share all the great products and services that Filer Credit Union has to offer with those closest to you, your family. Let them know how convenient your credit union is, and how easy it is to become a member!

Or what about a CD? Not one you would play in your car, but one that would save and make you money. We offer extremely competitive rates and variable terms.

You may always give them exactly what they are looking for, an American Express Gift Card that they can use for whatever they may need or want. Or for those collectors, we can order Presidential Coins and State Quarters. Stop by the credit union today and let us help you fill your Christmas stockings!

**There is a \$3.95 fee per American Express Gift Card.*

YOUR CHRISTMAS CLUB PAYS OFF

You have been diligently saving all year long in anticipation of your holiday expenses, and your saving is about to pay off! On November 1st, your 2008 Christmas Club funds will be automatically deposited into your credit union savings account. If you don't think you saved enough this year, be sure to increase your direct deposit amount on your 2009 Christmas Club account.

You didn't have a Christmas Club account? Not to worry, you can sign-up for next year. Open your 2009 Christmas Club account by stopping by the credit union today, or sign-up on our web site, www.filercu.com. It is never too early to start saving for next year!

RETHINKING HOME EQUITY

To get cash to pay for whatever you want to buy, many of our members have tapped their home equity, that is, the value of their homes minus the mortgage amount remaining. As a result, homeowners owe more than they own for the first time since 1945. Many homeowners now have maxed out their home equity borrowing and have no equity left to tap for future loans. Worse still, some are carrying more total debt on their homes than those homes are worth. What should you do if you have borrowed as much as you can against your home equity?



- Ride out periods when prices are declining or leveling off. Real estate is still a good investment in the long run.
- Keep making your home equity loan payments, and
- Live within your means.

The “live within your means” part of the advice is up to you. Simply put, you need to stop spending more than you earn. Resorting to other credit sources, such as credit cards, to replace a home equity borrowing will lead to even deeper trouble.

If you’re already having trouble making your home equity loan payments, talk to one of our loan officers. We may be able to work out a repayment plan or refinance your loan to make your payments more affordable. The last thing we want to see happen is you can’t make your payments. Times are tough, and Filer Credit Union is here to help you with your finances, whether it’s helping you create and stay on a budget or setting up a home equity line of credit. Stop by or call us today before you get too far behind.

FYI PROOF OF INSURANCE

If you have a 1st or 2nd mortgage with Filer Credit Union you are required to provide proof of homeowners insurance each year. Insurance is required to protect not only your interest by the credit union’s interest if a disaster happens.

ID REQUIRED

For your safety, and the security of your financial information, you may be asked to present identification when completing transactions at the credit union. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but even if we know you, you will need to bring identification when you visit the credit union.

MINI LOAN APPLICATION

After filling out this application, return it to the credit union office, or fax it for fast approval: (231) 738-7798 or (231) 398-0448.

Name: _____

Member Number: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Employer: _____ Start Date: _____

Your Gross Monthly Income \$: _____ Annual Income \$: _____

Loan Request \$: _____ Security: _____

Check Here To Increase VISA Limit Increase Amount: \$ _____

Everything I have stated in this request is correct to the best of my knowledge. You are authorized to check my credit and employment history. I also agree to provide additional information or documents needed if my request is approved.

Signature: _____

FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

As of August, 31, 2008

Loans & VISA:

\$39,419,167.04

Deposits:

\$60,573,143.62

Total Assets:

\$71,611,288.87

Members:

8,262



1117 28th Street
Post Office Box 375
Manistee, Michigan 49660
(231) 723-3400
(800) 595-6630
Fax: (231) 723-7798

MAIN OFFICE

Lobby Hours

Mon - Thurs
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Drive-Thru Hours

Mon - Wed
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PARKDALE OFFICE

Lobby Hours

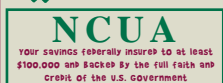
Mon - Thurs
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Drive-Thru Hours

Mon - Thurs
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



MACU Association Group



THINK SMALL: INVESTING WITH LITTLE

You are already stretching your budget, saving for the future may not seem possible. But, you can invest in an individual retirement account (IRA) for just a few hundred dollars or less. Opening an IRA usually offers you a lower minimum deposit than if you invest in a taxable fund, such as a mutual fund. Nearly half of all mutual funds have a minimum initial investment of \$1,000 or less.

Just saving a little now, and more when you have it will greatly affect your retirement portfolio. Even if you invest during a declining market, when prices eventually rise, which they are sure to do, you will be glad that you got your portfolio up and running. Stop by the credit union today and talk to one of our member service representatives about an IRA account, and start saving for your future.



DEBIT OR CREDIT:

WHAT TO CHOOSE & WHEN



You've been there, standing at the check out line ready to use your debit card when the clerk asks you "debit or credit?" Since you're using your debit card you say debit, but should you say credit? Yes.

By choosing "debit" and entering your PIN, your transaction is treated as an ATM transaction, which can lead to additional fees. Instead, when you're making a retail purchase with your debit/ATM card, choose "credit." You'll bypass any potential fees, and the funds still come out of your checking account. Another good reason to choose "credit" is that credit transactions require a signature, which helps against fraud.

So, save your PIN for ATM use and say "credit" when you're at the mall, gas station, or grocery store. If you have questions about the differences between debit and credit cards, contact one of our member service representatives and we will explain the differences and how debit cards can work for you.

SERVICE IN YOUR SLIPPERS

Have you ever crawled into bed and suddenly realized that you forgot to stop by the credit union? Don't worry about it, just turn on your computer and log onto our web site WWW.FILERCU.COM.

We offer 24-hour online banking. This means you can do most of the stuff you normally come to the credit union for from the comfort of your home. Log on to our secure site, you might be surprised by the services we offer online. And for more information about how to get service in your slippers, contact the credit union.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Please note that Filer Credit Union will be observing the following holidays:

Thursday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Day

Monday, December 24th - Christmas Eve: Closing at 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25th - Christmas Day

Tuesday, January 1st - New Year's Day