

WINTER
2009

MembersFirst Credit Union - www.membersfirstga.com



Office Locations

Cobb County

WellStar Cobb Hospital
3950 Austell Rd.
Austell, GA 30106
Phone: (770) 732-3604
Fax: (770) 732-7339

WellStar Kennestone Hospital
675 Campbell Hill St.
Marietta, GA 30060
Phone: (770) 793-7110
Fax: (770) 793-7960

DeKalb County

North DeKalb Mall
2050 Lawrenceville Hwy., Ste. C-40
Decatur, GA 30033
Phone: (404) 978-0080
Fax: (404) 978-0095

DeKalb Medical
Central Campus
2701 North Decatur Rd.
Decatur, GA 30033
Phone : (404) 501-5644
Fax: (404) 501-5946

Douglas County

7421 Douglas Blvd., Ste. D
Douglasville, GA 30135
Phone: (770) 920-1221
Fax: (770) 577-7277

Fulton County

South Fulton Medical Center
1170 Cleveland Ave.
East Point, GA 30344
Phone: (404) 466-1970
Fax: (404) 466-1972

Paulding County

4215 Jimmy Lee Smith Pkwy., Ste. 9
Hiram, GA 30141
Phone: (770) 222-7778
Fax: (770) 222-9963

Mortgages

CUFS
(770) 506-7476

Loan Express

24-Hour Lending Service
(800) 798-1073

Audio Response Line

(404) 978-0089



Avoid a Holiday Hangover

Transfer your Credit Card Balance to a MembersFirst Credit Card

Holiday bills have a way of piling up, but you can avoid a Holiday Hangover by transferring your credit card balances to a MembersFirst Credit Union Visa Credit Card.

Department stores offer great discounts on purchases when you use their card BUT they also carry very high interest rates - sometimes up to 25%. By the time you start repaying the interest on the balance, the discounts you received at the time of purchase are virtually eliminated.

Avoid the credit card trap by consolidating your debt. You can enjoy a lower interest rate and one easy monthly payment while you pay down your balance. Plus, you will not have to worry about high fees. Take the time early this year to review the credit card rates, terms, and fees on all of your cards. You may even find that some of your credit card companies increased your rate without your knowledge.

Consolidate your credit card debt today and avoid a long term holiday hangover. A MembersFirst Visa Credit Card offers FIXED rates as low as 8.99%APR. Contact your branch and let our loan officers know that you are ready to consolidate!

Christmas Clubs = A Merry Christmas

If the holidays always seem to leave you strapped for cash, or force you to put purchases on a credit card, consider opening a Christmas Club Savings account.

A Christmas Club savings account helps you determine a spending budget for next year's holiday season. Once you've determined your budget, divide it into 12 monthly payments or 26 bi-weekly payments. You can make your deposits manually, but the convenience of payroll deduction or automatic distribution from your savings or checking account makes it easier to save regularly.

On the first Wednesday in November your savings and the interest you earned are AUTOMATICALLY transferred into your regular savings account. When you're shopping, if you go over your budget by a little, you can usually make up the difference with cash on hand or, as a last resort, charge it to your MembersFirst credit card. But the financial impact is much less than putting the whole gift total on a credit card.

To encourage you to stay diligent, withdrawals from your Christmas Club are discouraged. However if you find yourself in a desperate situation, you can make a withdrawal and pay a small penalty of \$10. Or, you can withdraw all the funds and close the Christmas Club for the year. You can start again the following year. If you don't close your account your Christmas Club deposits will continue until you ask us to stop them.

If this sounds like a good plan, call or stop by the credit union today and let us open a Christmas Club Savings Account for you. A Christmas Club Savings Account is just more proof that saving with the credit union is always in YOUR BEST INTEREST.

In Your Best Interest

SAVINGS STRATEGIES

According to finance experts, today's consumers are "savings challenged". Sound advise is to set aside 10% of your income to cover unplanned events like job loss or medical emergencies.



In spite of this good advice, our national savings rate has been at zero, and even dipped into the negative figures, meaning that many of us spend more than we make.

Here are some strategies to help improve the statistics in the new year:

- 1. Payroll deduction.** Put some money aside before you even see it. In a single year, a \$25 biweekly deduction adds up to \$650 plus interest.
- 2. Empty your wallet and save your change.** Whatever you have in change at the end of the day, throw into a container. We'll count it free of charge and you can put it into your savings account. If you average 50 cents a day in change, that's about \$182.50 per year.
- 3. Save "bonus" money.** Try to save tax refunds, overtime pay, gift money, rebates, and the like. When spent, these individual amounts just disappear. But saved, these small and medium amounts add up.

4. Convert installment payments to yourself. Once you pay off an installment loan (like a credit card or auto loan) continue to make payments by putting them into your savings account. If the thought is unbearable, or you were counting on that money to help ease the cash flow, then try putting half the former payment into savings.

We want every member to have some cushion money to get through emergencies. Even small steps, if taken regularly, can build a significant safety net to help you survive life's unexpected turns.

A Greener Year

Sign up for e-Statements and start the year off greener, cleaner and clutter-free. E-Statements are Free, Safe and Convenient.

When you sign up for e-Statements, we'll stop sending you bulky paper statements. Instead, you'll receive an email notification letting you know that your monthly or quarterly statement is ready for viewing.

When you log on to our Online Banking you can access statements as far back as two years. You'll also receive special advertising and the *First Forum Newsletter*.

Protect yourself from identity theft and free yourself from the clutter. Sign up for e-statements online or at a branch near you.

Don't Forget to Open a 2008 IRA

There's still time to open a 2008 Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Why an IRA? Because Social Security is only intended to fill a fraction of what you'll need to live on in your retirement years. Employer pension plans and 401(k)s can also supplement your needs. An IRA can often mean the difference between just "getting by" in retirement and living the kind of life you're dreaming of.

Opening an IRA at your credit union is easy. You can set up automatic contributions from your paycheck, checking, or savings account. Interest earned on an IRA accrues tax-deferred until you begin making withdrawals on the account. And depending on your income, and whether your employer offers a qualified retirement plan, contributions to your IRA may be tax deductible.

So start planning today for a comfortable retirement. For more information, or to open an IRA, stop by or call the credit union today. **The deadline for opening a 2008 IRA is April 15, 2009.**

HOLIDAY CLASINGS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 19

Presidents' Day
Monday, February 16

FEE NOTICE

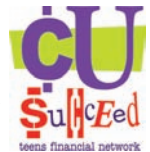
Effective **February 1, 2009** the credit union will begin enforcing an early withdrawal fee of \$10 for advances from your **Christmas Club Savings Account**.



F.Y.I.

Attention CU Succeed Members:

Please turn in your report cards or transcripts for entry in the Winter drawing of the CU Succeed Scholarship. **Deadline for entry is January 17, 2009.**



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of MembersFirst Credit Union will be held via video conference between the office at North DeKalb Mall and the office at WellStar Kennestone Hospital on Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

THANK YOU for allowing MembersFirst Credit Union to meet your financial needs in 2008. We look forward to serving you in the months and years ahead.