

Your Source for Financial Solutions

# First FORUM

SPRING 2015

## CREDIT UNIONS: *Helping People Afford Life*

The life most people are striving for does not include mansions, expensive cars and all the toys and exotic vacations one could want. For most people, the lives they want are more about middle class aspirations – a reliable car to get back and forth to work, a home where they can raise their families, a trip to the beach every year or two and saving for retirement or to send their kids to college.

The middle class is being squeezed. Hard. It's more difficult than ever for people to afford the lives they aspire to achieve. The U.S. Census indicates households in the middle of the income scale have seen an eight percent drop in income, and they are not rebounding. So, how can working people achieve their middle class aspirations?

Credit unions exist to help people solve this problem. Quite simply, credit unions can help people afford life. With products and services like used vehicle loans for low-credit score borrowers, small value personal loans, savings programs, mortgages and accounts with fewer fees and minimum balance requirements, credit unions are tangibly helping those with middle class aspirations.

This notion of **Helping People Afford Life** is not just a slogan, but rather a goal that gives credit unions a sense of purpose. It is more than a lofty idea; it is what credit unions actually do. According to a recent comparison, credit unions pay members .24 percentage points more than banks on one-year CDs. Credit union members came out on top when it came to loans, too. Credit unions' rates are 1.28 percentage points lower on four-year used auto loans, .12 percentage points lower on home equity/second mortgage loans, and 4.29 percentage points lower on classic credit cards. Financing a \$25,000 new automobile for 60 months at a Georgia credit union will save members an average of \$107 per year in interest expense compared to what they would pay at a banking institution in the state. The Credit Union National Association estimates that direct financial benefits Georgia credit unions provide members totaled \$124,094,530, or an average of \$121 per member household in the 12-month period ending December 2013.

All the little ways credit unions save their members money add up to making members' lives a little better. It's what makes credit unions different from banks and what makes them a better choice for consumers. If you or your family members aren't taking full advantage of all the services your credit union has to offer, ask any of the member advisors about the other products and services we have available.

### Holiday Closings

#### Memorial Day

Saturday, May 23, 2015  
and Monday, May 25, 2015

### CU Succeed Scholarship Winners:

Congratulations to **Savonte McCuller** and **Brandon Lucas**, the winners of the Winter CU Succeed Scholarship drawing. The next drawing will be in August 2015. The exact date will be announced.





**CU** *cents*

## Ready for Auto Ownership?

### First Time Car Buyer is the Way to Go

Are you or someone you know ready to make that move and purchase a car for the very first time? Do you have a job but have very little to no credit? If so, our First Time Car Buyer program might be just what you're looking for. The First Time Car Buyer program is designed especially for young adults making their way along the journey to ownership.

Loan amounts are set to accommodate a moderate income. Borrow up to \$18,000 with terms of up to 72 months. Rates are as low as 10.00% APR. After one year of consistent and on-time payments, you can bring your loan in for a review and we can reduce your rate to one that you've earned with your excellent credit score. Students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher can receive a discount of 0.25% off the existing rate.\*

To qualify for the First Time Car Buyer program, members:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must be employed for at least one year with the same employer. Recent graduates should be employed with the same employer for at least six months. (Proof of income is required.)
- Have a direct deposit checking account with MembersFirst Credit Union

Stop by and see us today or call (404) 978-0080. A loan officer can walk you through the process and have you on your way to stress-free ownership in no time.

## 5 Smart Uses for Your Tax Refund

- 1. Pay off high-rate credit card debt.** Pay off a balance with a high interest rate and pocket the savings each month.
- 2. Rebuild your emergency fund.** If you've depleted your emergency fund or don't have one, now is the perfect time to re-establish or establish one.
- 3. Boost your retirement savings.** You can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA for 2014 until April 15th, 2015, and access it when you retire.
- 4. Pre-pay your vacation.** Set aside some money for vacation rather than using your credit card to fund all your fun.
- 5. Invest in your home.** Use your refund to make smaller improvements to your home – add a backsplash, paint a room or swap out your faucets.



# YOUR PRIVACY NOTICE

**MembersFirst Credit Union** is committed to the privacy of our members. Under federal law, we are required to provide you with a privacy notice. It describes our credit union's privacy policy and practices regarding the personal information we collect and disclose about our members. It also includes information about the parties who receive personal and sometimes nonpublic information from us as we conduct the business of the credit union. We do not sell your personal information to anyone.

If after reading this notice you still have questions, please contact us at:

**Member Services**  
**MembersFirst Credit Union**  
**P. O. Box 33189**  
**Decatur, GA 30033-0189**  
OR **(404) 978-0080**

## Information We Collect and Disclose About You

We collect nonpublic information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications and other forms;
- Information about your transactions with us or others;
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency;
- Information obtained when verifying the information you provide on an application or other forms. This may be obtained from your current or past employers or from other financial institutions where you conduct financial transactions.

## Disclosure of Information to Parties That Provide Services to Us

In order for us to conduct the business of the credit union, we may disclose all the information we collect, as described above, to companies that perform marketing services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with whom we have joint marketing agreements so that we may provide competitive products and services. We may also disclose nonpublic personal information about you as permitted by law. These disclosures typically include information to process transactions on your behalf, conduct the operations of our credit

union, follow your instructions as you authorize, or protect the security of our financial records.

To protect our members' privacy, we only work with companies that agree to maintain strong confidentiality protections and limit the use of information we provide. We do not permit these companies to sell the information we provide to other third parties.

## Disclosure of Information About Former Members

If you terminate your membership with MembersFirst Credit Union, we will not share information we have collected about you, except as may be permitted by law.

## How We Protect Your Information

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to guard your nonpublic personal information.

## What You Can Do to Help Protect Your Privacy

The Credit Union is committed to protecting the privacy of members. Members can help by following these simple guidelines:

- Protect your account numbers, card numbers, personal identification numbers (PINs) and passwords. Never keep your PIN with your debit or credit card, as it can provide free access to your accounts if your card is lost or stolen.
- Use caution when disclosing your account numbers, social security numbers and other personal information to other persons. If someone calls you, explains the call is on behalf of the credit union and asks you for your account number, you should beware. Official credit union staff will have access to your information and will not need to ask for it.
- Keep your information with us current. It is important that we have current information on how to reach you. If we detect potentially fraudulent or unauthorized activity or use of an account, we will attempt to contact you immediately. If your address or phone number at home or work changes, please let us know.

*If you have questions concerning this notice, please do not hesitate to call us at (404) 978-0080. We are here to serve you.*

## Looking for a Better Rate on Your Auto Loan?



**Swap** your **auto loan** to MembersFirst  
& **Drop** your rate by **2%\***

**Swap by May 15, 2015**  
**Rates as low as 1.90% APR\***  
**Terms up to 72 months**  
**PLUS, make no payments for 90 days\***

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Qualifications are based on an assessment of individual creditworthiness and our underwriting standards. Rate of 1.90% APR is good for financing up to 36 months. Longer terms are available at higher loan rates. Visit membersfirstga.com for all available rates and terms. To receive the 2% reduction in your existing rate, loan must be transferred from a lender other than MembersFirst Credit Union. Loan amount must be a new MembersFirst CU Auto Loan, \$5,000 or more to qualify for 90-day, no-payment offer. Finance charge begins from date of funding and is repaid over the term. Loans booked under the Swap-And-Drop Promotion will be subject to the same LTV and overall loan amount guidelines established in the Vehicle Loan Policy. Offer not available on existing MembersFirst Auto Loans. All loans are subject to credit approval. Financing offer ends May 15, 2015. Program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice.

# **CU** *Happenings!*

## 2015 Annual Meeting Recap

### *In case you missed it:*

The Annual meeting was held on Tuesday, February 10th via video conference between the Hiram, Decatur, Douglasville, Kennestone and Sandy Springs locations. Lee Underwood, chairman of the Supervisory Committee – a volunteer committee responsible for the oversight of the credit union's operations – reported that based on the audits performed and the policies and procedures that are in place, your credit union is sound, secure and focused on accuracy and customer service.

Terry Hardy, President/CEO, presented the following report about the state of the credit union.

Wow, 2014 was quite a year for your credit union! It was marked by excellent growth, expanded services and locations and welcoming new members. Through the partnership with Fidelity Federal Credit Union, we welcomed over 4,800 Fidelity members to the MembersFirst family, bringing our total membership to almost 24,000. Assets grew by more than \$26 million to just over \$140 million at year-end. Deposits grew over \$21 million to \$123.6 million. The net worth of your credit union now stands at \$15.2 million, adding strength and stability to the many benefits our members enjoy. The former Fidelity office in Sandy Springs is now open to all members and provides two additional surcharge-free ATMs for members that live and work north of Atlanta. The relocation of the Douglasville office provides more convenience to our members, offering a drive-up ATM and drive-thru window. Your credit union is not standing still by any means. We continue to seek new ways to serve you better. Throughout 2015, members can expect new and improved services, including mobile check deposits through your phone and deposit-taking ATMs at our branches.

I would like to thank our volunteer Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee for the many hours of work they perform on behalf of our membership every year. I would also like to thank our dedicated staff for taking care of our members and exceeding expectations every day. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank our members for your continued loyalty and commitment to the credit union. I look forward to working with all of you to make 2015 the best year yet for MembersFirst Credit Union!

### **Your 2015 Board of Directors:**

Jack Hague – Chairman  
Lloyd Rucker – Vice Chairman  
Nancy Ward – Secretary  
Willie Drain – Assistant Secretary  
Donna Lewellyn – Treasurer  
Don Remillard – Assistant Treasurer  
Richard Dalrymple  
David Makkers  
Billy Reid  
Lee Underwood  
Joe Van Horn



### **Main Office and Call Center**

Phone (404) 978-0080

Fax (404) 978-0095

**Cobb County**  
**WellStar-Cobb Hospital**  
3950 Austell Rd.  
Austell, GA 30106

**WellStar-Kennestone Hospital**  
675 Campbell Hill St.  
Marietta, GA 30060

**DeKalb County**  
**North DeKalb Mall**  
2050 Lawrenceville Hwy.  
Suite C-40  
Decatur, GA 30033

**DeKalb Medical**  
2701 North Decatur Rd.  
Decatur, GA 30033

**Douglas County**  
7475 Douglas Blvd.  
Suite 206  
Douglasville, GA 30135

**Fulton County**  
**Atlanta Medical – South Campus**  
1170 Cleveland Ave.  
Rm. 1356  
East Point, GA 30344

**Sandy Springs**  
6690 Roswell Rd NE  
Suite 1100  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

**Paulding County**  
44 Highland Falls Blvd.  
Hiram, GA 30141

**Mailing Address**  
PO Box 33189  
Decatur, GA 30033

**Loan Express**  
24-Hour Lending Service  
(800) 798-1073

**Mortgages**  
(678) 658-4466

**Phone Banking**  
(404) 978-0089

**Website**  
[www.membersfirstga.com](http://www.membersfirstga.com)

**This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.**



**NCUA**

