

Good Saving Habits

Those first few paychecks feel good, until you find you're actually spending the whole thing without stocking anything away for a rainy day—not to mention a financial emergency. The following tips will help you learn to manage your money responsibly.

Pay yourself first. If you wait to see what's left over, you're less likely to save. Determine in advance how much money you plan to keep on deposit each month. If you receive a raise, increase the amount of money deposited into your savings account.

Take advantage of your credit union's offerings such as automatic payroll deductions or automatic transfer from checking to savings. Avoid temptation and arrange to have a specific amount transferred to your savings account every pay period.

Pay your bills on time and pay more than the minimum amount. Alleviate the hassle of late fees by scheduling time once a month to pay bills, and put them in the mail with enough time to get to the creditor.

Determine needs versus wants. Do you really need to eat out every day for lunch or have a gourmet cup of coffee each morning? By bringing your lunch to work a couple days a week, you can save hundreds of dollars a year.

Shop around. There are thousands of options for financial services products. Be selective, and get the best prices, services, convenient locations and lowest fees for credit cards, bank accounts, mortgages and CDs.

Avoid credit card debt and finance fees. Don't charge more on your credit card than you can pay off every month. It's that simple.

Consider investments. For long-term goals, such as saving for a home or retirement, try bonds, mutual funds, real estate and stocks.

Consult your credit union. Ask which products and services would best suit your needs. Your CU representative is the best source of information about the accounts and interest rates available at your credit union.

GREAT SAVINGS OPTIONS FROM CITIZENS COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Vacation Savings Accounts • Christmas Savings Accounts
Personal Savings Accounts • Money Market Savings Accounts
Kids Savings Clubs • IRA Savings Accounts • CD's

Direct Deposit, Payroll, ACH and automatic transfers are all great tools that are offered for your savings convenience. See one of our associates today so you are ready for tomorrow.

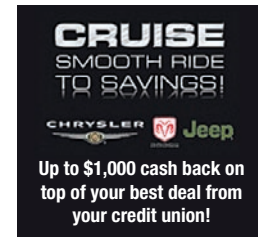
Invest in America

Visit www.lovemycreditunion.org and learn about the added savings you can receive for being a member of the credit union!

The philosophy of credit unions is simple: "People Helping People." If there was ever a time for credit unions to practice that philosophy, it's now. Our goal is to help you, your community and our country during these tough times. So we developed the **Invest in America** program.

When you purchase a product or service from a U.S. based company, that money is re-invested in America. From schools to roads to our police and fire departments, the money you spent on that purchase directly impacts the community services we all depend

on. Invest in America is designed to offer you incentives to buy American products—and finance them when necessary—with a low loan rate from your credit union. **Save money by choosing your discount today!**



Get preapproved today with a loan from CCCU to make your shopping easier and your savings greater. Contact your local branch today.



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Fax: 701-662-8796

Grand Forks
1215 N. 42nd St.
Grand Forks, ND
58203-1917
Ph: 701-746-9845
Fax: 701-746-2040

Grand Forks - Hugo's
701-746-6196

Grand Forks - Wal-Mart
701-772-9960

Bisbee 701-656-3261

Ft. Totten 701-766-4600

Lakota 701-247-2759

Larimore 701-343-6473

Northwood 701-587-5519

St. John 701-477-5655

Voice Response System
701.662.1171 / 888.839.4489
Check balances, transfer funds and more!

www.citizens-cu.com

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President: Darwin Brokke

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Mark Motis

Credit Committee:
Curtis Broden,
Keith Warner, Daryn Zinke



Upcoming Events

Sell-It-Yourself Vehicle Sale

Saturday, August 22nd
9 am to noon in the credit union parking lot at Devils Lake. Sell your cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, campers—any vehicle! No fees to sell or buy. Register your vehicle by calling 701-662-8118.



Produce Sale

Saturday, August 22nd
9 am to noon, during the Sell-It-Yourself Vehicle Sale.



Sell your produce, crafts, and baked goods! No cost and you keep proceeds. Register your spot by calling 701-662-8118.

Free Professional Portraits

8x10 color portrait of you or your entire family. No cost or obligation. AN APPOINTMENT IS NECESSARY. Call one of these branches to set up your sitting:

Bisbee - 701-656-3261

August 17 • 4 pm–8 pm

St. John - 701-477-5655

August 18 • 4 pm–8 pm

Lakota - 701-247-2759

August 19 • 3:30 pm–8 pm

Grand Forks - 701-746-9845

August 20 • 3:30 pm–8:30 pm

Devils Lake - 701-662-8118

August 21 • 2 pm–8:30 pm

August 22 • 9 am–4 pm



www.citizens-cu.com

Proudly Serving: Devils Lake • 3 Locations in Grand Forks • Northwood • Bisbee • Larimore • Lakota • Ft. Totten • St. John

Summer 2009

DOLLAR DIGEST

No Payments All Summer! **COME TO PARADISE LAS VEGAS NEVADA**

For the 4th year in a row Citizens Community Credit Union is offering you a payment vacation on new consumer loans or refinanced loans from another Financial Institution of \$5,000* or more. You will have no payments for 3 months.

You will also be entered for a chance to win a vacation for 2 to Las Vegas!

* Interest accrues during deferral period. WAC.

Life Savings Insurance Announcement

Citizens Community Credit Union is committed to offering members the best service possible. To continue meeting this commitment, we are making changes to better manage expenses and still provide you with the services you expect.

Effective June 30, 2009, we will be discontinuing our Life Savings Insurance group policy. This is the matching term life insurance for which you may have been eligible regarding savings within your SI share savings account. This coverage will end as of July 31, 2009. Please destroy any Cuna Mutual Life savings documents that you may have at that time.

We know that you may have valued this extra coverage. You do have an option to convert your existing life savings coverage

to a Primary Protection Plan, underwritten by Cuna Mutual Insurance Society. This option would be a member pay, whole life plan up to \$2,000. If you apply by July 31, 2009, there will be no age restrictions, waiting periods, exclusions, or health questions and coverage will be effective August 1, 2009. To request a quote or an application for the member pay Primary Protection Plan, please call 877-636-2377 and speak with one of Cuna Mutual's fully licensed insurance representatives. If you choose not to continue coverage, no action is necessary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Citizens community Credit Union at 701-662-8118. As always, we appreciate the trust you continue to put in CCCU.

Please remember to contact your credit union branch and update any address or phone number changes you may have whenever you make a change. This helps in many facets of handling your account, including communication and security. Thank you for your attention to this.



Relay for Life

Thank you to all our members for helping your credit union be a Silver Sponsor at the Lake Region Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. Through your generosity and commitment to helping people, the Citizens Community Credit Union team raised approximately \$3,000.

Vacation Savings Accounts

Preparation and planning paid off for many members June 1st. Many members took advantage of the Vacation Savings account offered by Citizens Community Credit Union over this past year. The money that they had saved automatically over the past year was transferred into their transaction account for them to use for whatever needs they may have including making their summer vacations worry free. Your automatic contributions build throughout the year and the money is made available for use the beginning of June each year. Open yours today and make next years summer free of money worries. See your local branch today.

New Ft. Totten Hours

As part of our continued commitment to serving you better and your convenience, we are pleased to announce extended hours at our Ft. Totten branch. We will be remaining open till 5:30 pm Monday through Friday, effective immediately. Below is our office schedule for our Ft. Totten branch, located in the SMC building.

Mon. & Wed. – 11:00 am to 5:30 pm
Tues., Th., & Fri. – 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Devils Lake Scholarship Winner

We are proud to announce Zachary Sandberg as the recipient of the 2009 Citizens Community Credit Union Scholarship, awarded from the scholarship fund partnered with the Devils Lake school system. This is awarded to a graduating senior of the Devils Lake Public School system whose family has membership in or employment with Citizens Community Credit Union.

MACUA Scholarship Awarded to CCCU Member

Mid-America Credit Union Association (MACUA) awarded ten \$500 Dakotas' Credit Union High School Financial Scholarships to North Dakota and South Dakota students. Anna L. Nienhues, of Lawton, ND, a graduate of Adams-Edmore High School in Edmore, was one of the scholarship recipients.

A panel of judges selected the students based upon their written essays. MACUA is the trade association serving 87 credit unions and over 410,000 members in North and South Dakota.



Students of Excellence

Congratulations to the graduating seniors selected as 2009 Students of Excellence! Recognized at banquets hosted by Citizens Community Credit Union, the students were selected for their overall school and community achievements.

In honor of the students' hard work and dedication, Citizens Community Credit Union **AWARDED \$2,000 in SCHOLARSHIPS!**



Stop Digging That Hole! Hints for getting rid of your credit card debt

Your first priority when credit cards have the upper hand is to stop using them. This may not be possible if you're facing an unexpected, necessary expense. But you *must* stop any discretionary spending on credit. You must commit to this—or admit that you're not serious about ending your dependence on credit cards. Then turn your attention to how you will pay off the bills. Take inventory:

- Identify how much you owe on each card
- Identify the APR (annual percentage rate) for each
- Identify the minimum monthly payment for each
- Add up all your credit card debts
- Add the total minimum monthly payments
- Consider consolidating high interest cards into a fixed consumer loan with your credit union

Next look at your spending plan and decide how much you can pay each month on all your credit cards. Let's say the amount you can pay is \$300. Your next decision is how you will apply that amount to your credit card bills for the most effective payoff. There are two philosophies:

- Pay off the smaller bills first
- Pay the bill with the highest APR first
- If you consolidate all your cards, set up automatic payments directly from your direct deposit so that the bill is always covered

In all cases, you must *always* pay at least the minimum due—on time—on each card each month.

Information provided by Home and Finance. To learn more, visit www.citizens-cu.com.
Try our accelerated debt payoff calculator located on our website so you can plan for a happier tomorrow.

Why Should You Get E-Statements?

Citizens Community Credit Union is committed to offering our members the best service possible, and e-statements are another way that we are your "Financial Friend."

1. **Quicker** – you have your monthly statement by the first or second of each month.
2. **Safer** – Your statement can't be lost in the mail or opened by the wrong person.
3. **Easy retrieval** – Stores up to 5 years of statements automatically for one click retrieval of any month.

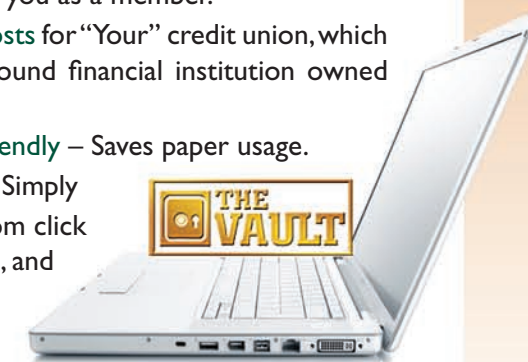


Choose Your Strategy

The rationale for paying the small bills first is to give you a sense of progress right from the get-go. In our example, you could wipe out two bills in about three months, while still keeping current on the other cards. Then you could continue paying down the balances on the remaining bills.

The idea behind paying off cards in order of APR, high to low, is to make more progress on the debts that cost you the most. Just imagine, paying off a 20% APR credit card balance is like earning 20% on an investment—and that's a deal you won't find anywhere else these days. In this strategy, you make minimum payments on all but the bill with the highest APR. You pay as much as you can on that bill from your monthly \$300 credit card allotment. As you pay off each account, you continue to apply the same total each month to your cards, but transfer the largest payment to the card with the next highest APR.

4. **Free** – No cost to you as a member.
5. **Saves processing costs** for "Your" credit union, which translates into a sound financial institution owned by "You."
6. **Environmentally friendly** – Saves paper usage.
7. **Easy registration** – Simply www.citizens-cu.com click on the "Vault" icon, and click on new user registration.



Citizens Community Credit Union's variable lending index for the first quarter of 2009 was 3.08%. The variable base rate is at 9.00%, but by Board action, remains at 7.00%.