

# United For You

A Quarterly Publication For Members Of  
United Financial Services Community Federal Credit Union  
A Park Avenue Institution

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## SKIP-A-LOAN PAYMENT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Skate past your loan payment this November, December or January! Members in good standing who have current loans with us will receive this offer through the mail, or you can contact UFSFCU for a copy of the form. A \$25 processing fee will be added to the balance of each loan on which you choose to skip a payment.



## HO! HO! HO! HOLIDAY LOANS

It's easy to overspend during the holiday season. Get some much-needed relief with a low interest rate Holiday Loan from UFSFCU. Use your Holiday Loan to buy gifts for your friends and family, consolidate debt or maybe even buy a little something special for yourself.



As Low As  
**9.90%**  
APR\*

*Borrow Up To \$2,000  
24 Months To Repay*

### Apply Now!

For more information or to apply, stop in the credit union office or apply online at [www.ufsfcu.org](http://www.ufsfcu.org).

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. This offer is extended at a special low rate of 9.90% for qualified borrowers. Actual rate and amount borrowed may vary depending upon credit review.

## NEW OR PRE-OWNED VEHICLES – \$100 OVER FACTORY INVOICE!

UFSFCU and Autoland of New Jersey are pleased to make this special offer for UFS members: buy or lease any new or pre-owned vehicle at \$100 over factory invoice.\* There's no haggling – just a great deal on a new Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Jeep, or Toyota, as well as Autoland's huge pre-owned inventory!

### See Us First!

Get your UFS Vehicle Loan pre-approved first – then shop with confidence, knowing exactly how much you can afford to spend. You can browse Autoland's new and pre-owned inventory online at [www.1800autoland.com](http://www.1800autoland.com) or visit Autoland at 170 Route 22 East, Springfield, NJ and take a look around. When you're ready to buy, schedule an appointment through David Hesson, Autoland's Director of Corporate Sales at (973) 467-6147.



\*Excludes specialty vehicles and Scion.



**United Financial Services**  
COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## 21ST CENTURY CHECKING – THAT'S CHECK 21!

The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act was signed into law in October 2003 and takes effect in October 2004. This new federal law, also known as **Check 21**, will make check clearing and settlement quicker and more efficient by recognizing an electronic image of your check (called a "substitute check") as the equivalent of your original paper check for check clearing and settlement. Check 21 gained momentum after the September 11 attacks disrupted check transport for many financial institutions across the country.

Why switch over to digital electronic versions of paper checks? Imagine the 40 billion paper checks that are written each year, each of which must be transported from one financial institution to another several times as they are deposited or cashed, and then processed. All this movement and handling of paper checks not only costs billions of dollars a year but also creates possibilities for fraud and other security issues along the way.

Electronic check images can be transmitted electronically, instead of being physically delivered to the depository or clearing institution by plane or truck. **Check 21** allows your credit union and its members to benefit from the efficiencies of a totally electronic check processing system. There are many benefits to this new system:

- \* Checks Will Clear Faster
- \* Check Fraud Will Decrease
- \* Security Will Increase
- \* Check Processing Will Cost Less

If you have any questions about **Check 21**, give us a call at (908) 322-2600.

*NOTE: Please do not write checks without available funds in your account, as we do not want our members incurring overdraft fees. If you frequently need to write checks before your pay is deposited into your account, ask a member service representative if you qualify for an Overdraft Line of Credit. We're here to help!*

## UFS VISA® – THE RIGHT CARD FOR YOUR WALLET

*Perfect For Holiday Shopping And Travel!*

### VISA Gold – Earn ScoreCard<sup>sm</sup> Points!

**9.90% APR\***

Compare and save! You can't beat our VISA Gold Credit Card with its low, fixed rate. Pay your balance in full within 25 days and pay no finance charge! You'll also benefit with ScoreCard bonus points! Every dollar of net purchases you charge earns you one bonus point toward gift or travel awards, as described in the current ScoreCard Program brochure. Call us for a brochure. UFS VISA Gold cardholders can view merchandise awards and travel options, bonus point totals, and submit orders for bonus point redemption online. You are also eligible for free Auto Rental Insurance – and there's no annual fee!

### VISA Classic – A Great Place To Start!

**13.99% APR\* (Unsecured)**

**8.00% APR\* (Secured)**

Our VISA Classic Credit Card is perfect for students, or for members establishing credit or re-establishing credit. Credit lines range from \$500 to \$5,000, with NO Annual Fee. UFSFCU VISA Classic cardholders are also eligible for free Auto Rental Insurance. Pledge your savings to get an extra low rate on UFSFCU's Secured VISA Classic Card.

### Consolidate Your Other Card Balances And Save!

With your new UFS VISA, you can consolidate your high interest credit card and retail store charges, giving you a lower rate and smaller monthly payments. Simply print and complete our convenient VISA Balance Transfer Form at [www.ufsfcu.org/VISABalanceTransfer.pdf](http://www.ufsfcu.org/VISABalanceTransfer.pdf), then mail it to us and start saving money!

### Apply Today!

Apply for your UFS VISA online at [www.ufsfcu.org/visadiscl.htm](http://www.ufsfcu.org/visadiscl.htm). You may also print the online application page and mail it to UFSFCU or call the credit union at (800) 796-5000 for an application.



\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate.

## STUDENTS – YOUR OWN VISA® CARD!

Use your student years to establish good credit. The UFSFCU Student VISA Card\* works with your budget. You can make purchases at more than 19 million VISA locations worldwide or get emergency cash when you need it. Enjoy competitive rates and no annual fee. Let your budget dictate whether you pay the minimum, in full, or something in between. Just pay on time and build up a good credit rating!

### Protect Your Online Purchases With *Verified by VISA*

UFSFCU VISA cards are equipped with *Verified by VISA* to help prevent unauthorized purchases online. You can activate now and get password security before you shop. Visit our home page at [www.ufsfcu.org](http://www.ufsfcu.org) and click on the *Verified by VISA* link to activate. Or you can set up your password while you shop at participating merchants. It's quick and easy. You can view a list of participating merchants from the *Verified by VISA* link on our website.

\*For students under 18, parent or guardian must be cosigner. Maximum credit line \$500.

## MAKE MORE ON YOUR SAVINGS!

### Share Certificate (CD) Special!

For a limited time, we are offering a Bonus Rate of an additional **.20% APY\*** on Share Certificates (CDs) with terms of 24 months or more and a minimum of \$50,000. We offer Share Certificate Accounts with terms ranging from 6 months to 60 months – the longer the term, the higher the yield! You can start investing with as little as \$1,000. Laddering your maturity dates lets you match the timing of your financial goals while still having the opportunity to reinvest in higher yield certificates should rates go up.

**SPECIAL  
BONUS  
RATE  
OFFER**

### Money Market Accounts

You can open a Money Market Account at the credit union for \$2,000 and start earning a competitive dividend rate right away! The higher your balance, the more you earn! You can access your funds through our Call 24 Telephone Teller, at the credit union or through the mail.

### Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)

The credit union offers a choice of a Traditional or Roth IRAs for your retirement planning needs. You can also save for your children's education by investing in a Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA). We offer terms ranging from 6 to 60 months.

### Complete Information Online!

For more information on rates, terms and types of accounts, stop in or visit us online at [www.ufsfcu.org/savings.htm](http://www.ufsfcu.org/savings.htm).

\*APY=Annual Percentage Yield.

## CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION WEEK!

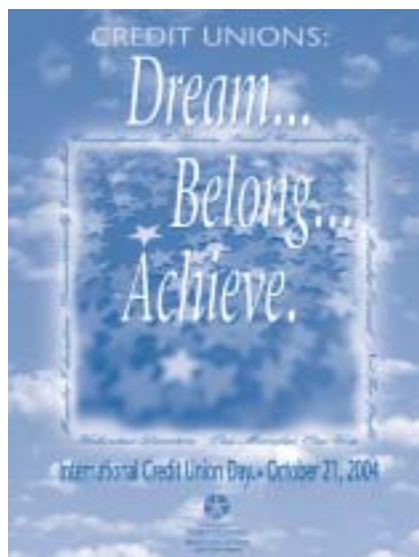
“Credit Unions: Dream...Belong...Achieve.” is the theme of International Credit Union Week 2004, which will be observed October 17-23 to recognize credit unions and the unique role they play in members' lives.

Credit unions in 94 countries around the world are in the business to help more than 120 million credit union members achieve their dreams –whatever they may be. To recognize credit unions and the role they play in members' lives, each year we celebrate International Credit Union Day.

One of our most important goals is to help young people understand financial issues and to assist them in building a solid financial future. Sign your child up for credit union membership and get them started on saving for the future. Open an account for a child under 18 during International Credit Union Week and we'll make the initial \$25 deposit for you!

### Join Us On International Credit Union Day!

Join us for an Open House to celebrate International Credit Union Day on **Thursday, October 21, 2004**. Introduce a friend or family member to the benefits of credit union membership and you'll be entered into our gift basket raffle. There will be free cider and donuts, plus giveaways for the kids. See you there!



## REVIEW YOUR CREDIT REPORT ANNUALLY

Credit reports are issued by the three national credit reporting agencies that maintain centralized databases of credit files. Reports include four main categories of information:

- \* *Identifying Information*
- \* *Credit History*
- \* *Public Records*
- \* *Inquiries From Lenders And Other Authorized Parties*

Lenders, employers, landlords, and insurers all rely on the information in your credit reports to help them make decisions about whether to loan you money, hire you, rent to you, or insure you. And with credit fraud on the rise, it's also important for you to review your reports at least once a year to verify that the information is accurate and also to check for any activity that you didn't initiate.

You should order your credit report from all three agencies, because not all lenders and authorized parties report to all three, so your credit profiles may differ. It's also essential to request your credit risk score, one of the main tools lenders use to determine whether to grant you credit, how much and at what interest rate. For more information, visit our website at [www.ufsfcu.org](http://www.ufsfcu.org) and click on the Financial Planning/Education Center link. Search for the Education Center article “Know Your Credit Risk Score.”

To order your report (there may be a charge), contact the three national credit reporting agencies:

- \* Experian: (888) 397-3742  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
- \* Equifax: (800) 685-1111  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
- \* Trans Union: (800) 888-4213  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

If you find inaccurate or incomplete information in your reports, follow the agency's instructions on corrections. Once you receive your revised reports, recheck them for accuracy.

Here's some good news: by 2005, thanks to the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, you'll be entitled to one **free** credit report a year from each of the three agencies!

# Bulletin Board

## Holiday Closings

The credit union will be closed during the following holidays:

### Columbus Day

Monday, October 11, 2004

### Veterans' Day

Thursday, November 11, 2004

### Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 25, 2004

Friday, November 26, 2004

### Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 2004

### New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31, 2004



## It's Holiday Club Time!

Need some extra holiday cash? Get a head start by opening your Holiday Club Account. It's a great way to make sure you'll have the money you need for gifts or that holiday getaway. It's even easier when you save automatically with Direct Deposit and Payroll Deduction. The sooner you start, the more you'll earn. Contact us for more information.

## Special Notice to Holiday Club Members

All 2004 Holiday Clubs will be transferred to regular Savings Accounts on November 1, 2004. Our 2005 Holiday Clubs will automatically start on November 2, 2004.



**United Financial Services**  
COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

320 Park Ave • Scotch Plains, NJ 07076-1121

PHONE: (908) 322-2600 • 1-800-796-5000 • FAX: (908) 322-2608

WEB SITE: [www.ufscu.org](http://www.ufscu.org)

CALL 24 (908) 322-3646 • 1-877-837-6362

Mortgage Department 1-866-769-6960 Ext. 3

Home Equity 1-800-796-5000 Ext. 22

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Thursday: 9:00AM - 6:00PM • Friday: 8:00AM - 3:00PM

## RATE WATCH

### Deposit Rates As of 9/01/04

	APR*	APY*
<b>Certificates &amp; IRA Certificates</b>		
Minimum \$1,000		
6 Months	1.69%	1.70%
12 Months	2.03%	2.05%
<i>Other terms and rates available up to 60 months. Bonus rates on deposits of \$50,000 or more on maturities of 2-5 years.</i>		
IRA Share	1.24%	1.25%
<b>Tiered Rate Money Market Account</b>		
Minimum Deposit		
\$2,000 - \$19,999	0.90%	0.90%
\$20,000 - \$49,999	1.04%	1.05%
\$50,000 + over	1.19%	1.20%
Regular Checking/Share Draft (Minimum for dividend \$200)	0.25%	0.25%
Prime Savings (Minimum for dividend \$100)	0.50%	0.50%
Vacation Club	0.50%	0.50%
Holiday Club	1.00%	1.00%

\*NOTE: All rates in effect as of publication date. Subject to change without notice. Call for current rates. (APR)=Annual Percentage Rate. (APY)=Annual Percentage Yield.

### Loan Rates As of 9/01/04

	LIMIT	TERM	APR*
<b>Unsecured</b>			
Signature	\$500 - \$10,000	Up to 60 Months	13.99%
Overdraft			
Line of Credit	\$250 - \$2,500		14.50%
<b>Secured</b>			
Share	Up to 100%	Up to 60 Months	3.50%
Certificate	Up to 100%	Up to 36 Months	2% Over Cert. Rate
Stock	Up to 70%	Up to 60 Months	6.99%

	80% Financing	100% Financing
<b>New Vehicles</b>		
24 Months	4.75%	5.00%
36 Months	4.75%	5.00%
48 Months	4.75%	5.00%
60 Months	4.75%	5.00%
72 Months	5.00%	5.25%
(\$25,000 or more)		

	NADA LOAN VALUE	NADA RETAIL VALUE
<b>Used Vehicles</b>		
24 Months	5.50%	5.75%
36 Months	5.50%	5.75%
48 Months	5.50%	5.75%
60 Months (+)	5.50%	5.75%

+3 years old or newer.

<b>New &amp; Used RVs</b>		
\$500 - \$50,000	Up to 60 Months	8.00%
<b>New &amp; Used Boats</b>		
\$500 - \$50,000	Up to 60 Months	8.00%
<b>Motorcycle</b>		
\$500 - \$25,000	Up to 48 Months	9.00%

<b>VISA</b>		
Unsecured (Variable)		
\$500 - \$5,000		13.99%
Secured (Variable)		
Minimum \$500		8.00%
Gold - \$2,500 - \$10,000		9.90%

**Mortgage Loans** - Call at 1-866-769-6960 Ext. 3 for current rates.  
Fixed and Adjustable Rate Mortgages - nationwide!

<b>Home Equity Loans</b>		
\$5,000 - \$175,000	5 Year Fixed	5.25%
	7 Year Fixed	5.50%
	10 Year Fixed	5.75%
	15 Year Fixed	5.99%

**Variable Line of Credit** - Prime Rate. Call 908-322-2606 for more details.

NOTE: All rates in effect as of publication date. Subject to change without notice. Loan rates quoted are our lowest rates for qualified applicants and require automatic transfer of payment. Prime rate 4.50%. Call for current rates.