

# United For You

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

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## SWIPE AND SIGN

The next time you make a purchase with your VISA® Check Card and you're asked by a sales clerk, "debit or credit?" say "credit" and sign for the transaction. We call this "swipe and sign," also known as "signature debit." Signature debit, compared to PIN-based debit, gives you purchase dispute rights similar to those in a credit card transaction. With signature debit, you don't have to enter your PIN in front of the sales clerk or other people waiting in line. Additionally, your signature-based receipt will provide more merchant information than a PIN-based receipt. The only time you need to enter your PIN when making a purchase is when you want cash back.



## SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

### We Have Your Home Improvement Loan Solution!

It's warming up outside. Winter is officially over and spring is here. It's the perfect time to get started on those home improvement projects you've been thinking about. Increase your home enjoyment – here are just a few ideas:

- \* Adding A Room
- \* Updating Kitchens And Baths
- \* Replacing Windows
- \* Updating Air Conditioning System (If Over 10 Years Old)
- \* Repainting Inside And/Or Outside
- \* Upgrading Interior Lighting
- \* Landscaping – For Appearance And Energy-Efficiency
- \* New Energy-Efficient Major Appliances
- \* New Carpet, Tile Or Wood Flooring



### Credit As You Need It!

Our variable rate Home Equity Line of Credit gives you available credit (up to \$175,000) when you need it and lets you borrow against your home's accumulated equity. You just write a check to access the money you need. You borrow at a lower rate than most unsecured consumer loans, and since each payment replenishes your equity, the funds become available to use again and again. You pay interest only on the amount you actually borrow. Best of all, the interest is usually tax-deductible.\*\* It's the next best thing to a no-interest loan!

**Home Equity  
 Line Of Credit**  
**4.00%**  
 APR\*  
 Prime Rate + 0%  
 Variable Rate

### Apply Now!

For more information or to apply, stop by the credit union, or call (800) 796-5000, ext. 22.

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. The monthly variable APR of 4.00% is current as of 02/29/04 for lines with equity of up to 80% loan to value. Variable APR is Prime+0%, based upon the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate (currently 4.00%). The maximum APR is 18%. Loan term, up to 15 years, 5 year draw period. Property, title, and/or flood insurance may be required. Offer subject to credit qualification.

\*\*Consult your tax advisor concerning tax-deductible interest eligibility.



**United Financial Services**  
 COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## GET A HEAD START ON YOUR 2004 IRA

You can start saving for retirement no matter what your age. It's never too soon – making your 2004 IRA contribution now gives you a whole extra year's worth of interest and growth, which gets compounded even more as the years go on!

An IRA is the best investment for your future, and at UFSFCU, we offer competitive rates to give your savings profile a boost. Did you know that allowable Traditional and Roth IRA tax-year contributions have been increased? You can now save up to \$3,000 as a single taxpayer.

### Age 50+ Catch-Up Provision Is A Great Bonus!

Anyone who is age 50 or older before the end of the taxable year, and before application of the Adjusted Gross Income phase-out limits, can increase their IRA contribution by another \$500 a year until 2005.

Stop by the credit union and open your 2004 IRA today!

## WHAT EXACTLY IS CHECK 21?

Check 21, or the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, was signed into law on October 28, 2003. This legislation allows U.S. financial institutions to convert paper checks into digital images and gives the electronic versions the same legal standing as the paper originals. Check 21 gained momentum after the September 11 attacks disrupted check transport for many financial institutions across the country.

Check 21 is important for you to know about because it will shorten the length of time it takes for checks to clear. Be careful if you write checks in anticipation of funds being deposited or you may become overdrawn. For more information, contact the credit union or watch for important future notices.

## IN THE MARKET FOR A NEW HOME? WE'VE GOT THE LOAN FOR YOU!

Whether you're looking to refinance your current loan and take advantage of low rates, buying your first home or trading up, UFS has the loan for you! Our full range of First Mortgage products includes:

- \* *Conventional Fixed Rate Mortgages*
- \* *Conventional Adjustable Rate Mortgages*
- \* *Jumbo Mortgages*
- \* *First Time Homebuyers Program*
- \* *1-4 Family Units*
- \* *Primary Residence & Vacation Homes*

Our interest rates are very competitive and our closing costs are low – just what you would expect from your credit union. We'll counsel you and make sure that you get the Mortgage product that is best for you and your family.

For more information or to apply, choose the method most convenient for you. Apply by phone during business hours by calling (866) 769-6960, ext.3, or apply online 24 hours a day by visiting our web site at [www.ufsfcu.org](http://www.ufsfcu.org) and choosing "Mortgage Application" from the Online Services link. You'll get personal attention and a quick response either way!



## IDENTITY THEFT SCAMS – MORE EVERYDAY

Identity theft scams are on the rise. Here are a few of the latest you should be aware of:

**Fraudulent e-mails**, which direct the user to visit a web site where they are asked to update personal information such as name, account and credit card numbers, passwords, social security numbers and other information. These web sites are bogus, set up only to steal the user's information. These e-mails are purportedly sent from several government agencies or include content related to government agencies. The web sites to which the e-mail recipients are directed are often very similar to, if not actual clones of official government sites.

The second scheme involves **fraudulent Anti-Terrorist Stop Order letters**, purportedly sent by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). These letters are **not** sent by FinCEN and represent a fraudulent attempt to elicit funds from a financial institution's customers.

Another recent scam involves **e-mail and telephone solicitations from impersonators claiming to work for VISA® or MasterCard®**. These fraudsters try to obtain personal information from cardholders, including their addresses, account numbers, and/or CVV2/CVC2 codes, in order to use the card accounts for fraudulent purposes.

### Protect Yourself

Be very suspicious of any type of communication initiated by a business that seeks personal information. Do not give out **any** personal information unless you can verify the authenticity of the business. Report suspicious activity to the FTC and forward the actual e-mail to [uce@ftc.gov](mailto:uce@ftc.gov). If you believe you've been scammed, file your complaint at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov), then visit the FTC's Identity Theft web site at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) to learn how to minimize your risk of damage from identity theft. Be careful out there!

## SPRING IS HERE...AND THE DRIVING IS EASY MEMBERS-ONLY CAR SALE EVENT – GET \$250 CASH BACK!

It's finally warming up and the roads are clearing up. Is the need for a used vehicle coming up? As a UFS member, you're eligible to take part in our upcoming Enterprise Car Sale Event, featuring up to 50 different vehicles from Enterprise's inventory. All vehicles must pass a rigorous vehicle certification test. If you're in the market for a low mileage, late model used vehicle, then mark your calendar:

**Friday, April 30: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 1: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**At Three Convenient Locations: Clifton, Iselin & Wayne, NJ**

### Special Offer!

When you purchase a vehicle from Enterprise Car Sales, you'll receive **\$250 Cash Back, deposited into your credit union Share Savings Account!** Get pre-approved now and shop with confidence. Call **800-796-5000 ext. 10** or apply online at **www.ufsfcu.org**.

### About Enterprise Car Sales

Enterprise offers the "Perfect Used Car Package" which provides haggle-free buying and worry-free ownership. A 12-month, 12,000-mile Limited Powertrain Warranty is included with every purchase and additional service contracts are available. Enterprise stands behind their vehicles – if you're not completely satisfied for any reason, Enterprise will buy back your vehicle under their 7-Day/1,000 mile Repurchase Policy (minus a \$200 documentation and cleaning fee). Trade-ins are welcome. For directions to the nearest location, call **1-800-CAR SALES**.



### Looking For A New Car Or Truck?

See us first before heading out to shop – get pre-approved, then take your UFSFCU buying power anywhere you find a great deal! With credit union financing, you can take the dealer rebate and lower your payments even more! It's the smart way to buy!



### It's Easy To Apply!

- \* Apply Online At **www.ufsfcu.org**
- \* Stop In Or Call **(908) 322-2600** For An Application

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Loan Rates quoted are our lowest rates for qualified applicants and require automatic transfer of payment through payroll deduction or automatic transfer of payment with direct deposit. 2001-2003 model years up to 60 months; 1997-2000 model years up to 48 months. Contact the credit union for complete loan details and current rates.

## ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNTS ANYTIME... ANYWHERE!

If you haven't already done so, register now for our free Internet Account Access service. You can register through our Internet web site using your Account Number and CALL 24 Personal Identification Number (PIN). For Internet Account access or to register, just click on the home banking link on your credit union's home page at **www.ufsfcu.org**. If you are a first time user, click on Register Now and follow the instructions. You'll have the opportunity to create your own User ID and Password to access your account for future sessions. You may access your accounts to:

- \* Check the balances of your various share accounts and loans.
- \* Transfer funds between share accounts.
- \* Transfer funds from your accounts to family member accounts as established under the CALL 24 service (cross account transfer option).
- \* Review the account history of your accounts.
- \* Obtain a loan advance from your established open-end loan under the terms and conditions previously disclosed for that account.
- \* Make loan payments with transfers from your share accounts.

Don't remember your CALL 24 PIN? Call **1-800-796-5000, extension 13** to request one today!



# Bulletin Board

## Holiday Closings

The credit union will be closed during the following holidays:

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 31, 2004

### Independence Day

Monday, July 5, 2004

## Annual Meeting – It's Your Credit Union!

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend UFSFCU's Annual Meeting on April 29, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the credit union office. We are democratically operated for the benefit of our members – come see how this difference makes your credit union such a warm and inviting place.

## Volunteers Needed For Supervisory Committee

Volunteers are needed for the credit union's Supervisory Committee, which meets the second Thursday of each month at the credit union office.

The Supervisory Committee is charged with making certain that the Board of Directors is safeguarding assets, and that management complies with the Board's policies and plans. Additionally, the Supervisory Committee conducts an annual audit and verifies accounts of members with the records of the financial officer at least once every two years. The Supervisory Committee may employ CPAs to perform auditing, account verification and clerical work under its supervision.

If you are interested in serving on the Supervisory Committee, please call the credit union at (908) 322-2600 or e-mail [info@ufsfcu.org](mailto:info@ufsfcu.org).



**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.ufsfcu.org](http://www.ufsfcu.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 3/01/04

	APR*	APY*
<b>Certificates &amp; IRA Certificates</b>		
Minimum \$1,000		
6 Months	1.34%	1.35%
12 Months	1.64%	1.65%
<i>Other terms and rates available up to 36 months.</i>		
IRA Share	1.24%	1.25%
<b>Tiered Rate Money Market Account</b>		
Minimum Deposit		
\$2,000 - \$19,999	0.85%	0.85%
\$20,000 - \$49,999	1.00%	1.00%
\$50,000 + over	1.14%	1.15%
Regular Checking/Share Draft (Minimum for dividend \$200)	0.25%	0.25%
Prime Savings (Minimum for dividend \$100)	0.65%	0.65%
Vacation Club	0.65%	0.65%
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 2/01/04

	LIMIT	TERM	APR*
<b>Unsecured</b>			
Signature	\$500 - \$10,000	Up to 60 Months	13.99%
Overdraft			
Line of Credit	\$250 - \$2,500		14.00%
<b>Secured</b>			
Share	Up to 100%	Up to 60 Months	3.65%
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	4.74%	5.24%
36 Months	4.74%	5.24%
48 Months	4.74%	5.24%
60 Months	4.74%	5.24%
72 Months	4.99%	5.49%
(\$25,000 or more)		

	NADA LOAN VALUE	NADA RETAIL VALUE
<b>Used Vehicles</b>		
24 Months	5.24%	5.74%
36 Months	5.24%	5.74%
48 Months	5.24%	5.74%
60 Months (+)	5.24%	5.74%

+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 Year Fixed	4.99%
\$5,000 - \$175,000	7 Year Fixed	5.25%
	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 4.00%. Call for current rates.