

# NewsNotes



January 2008

## New Look for NewsNotes

CFCU's quarterly NewsNotes newsletter, which accompanies statements in January, April, July and October, has been given a makeover. The new masthead design and color scheme update the look so it more closely relates to our other literature and marketing materials. *FirstDraft*, which goes to members with checking accounts in their February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December statements is also being freshened with these same goals in mind. We hope you continue to find these publications useful in providing important information about Credit Union products and services. If we can improve them in anyway, please let us know.



## Consolidate higher-rate debt and **save!**

When it comes to saving money, one of the biggest no-brainers is to move debt from a higher interest rate to a lower one! And CFCU offers you two great ways to do that:

### 1. Visa Balance Transfer

Why pay 20% or more on your credit card balance when you could pay just **9.79% APR\*** for the life of the transfer?

Move your higher interest rate credit card balances from other bank or merchant cards to a new CFCU VISA and pay a low 9.79% APR\* **with no balance transfer fee**. Use the money you save on finance charges to pay down your balance even faster, further reducing your costs!

In addition to the lower-rate transfer, you also benefit from a better Visa card. Our fixed-rate Classic Visa® offers one of the lowest rates you'll find anywhere and our variable-rate Platinum Visa® gives you an attractive rate, no annual fee and higher credit limits.

### 2. Low-Cost Home Equity Loan

You can also refinance a higher-rate auto loan, home-equity loan or credit card balance from other lenders with a CFCU Home Equity Loan. Save big money over the term of your loan with even lower rates, higher credit limits, flexible terms and tax deductibility of interest if you itemize. The Credit Union even offers no closing cost options.

Let CFCU help you find ways to reduce finance charges on existing debt! Just call 607-257-8500 or visit any branch for more information. You can also check our rates online at **www.myfcu.com**.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 9.79% Annual Percentage Rate is good for the life of the transfer from another credit card only. Balance transfers will be treated as cash advances according to the terms set forth in the CFCU VISA Credit Card Agreement. All other terms of the CFCU VISA Agreement continue to apply.

The Credit Union reviews every loan application to ensure fairness and compliance to CFCU policy.



## CFCU offers fifteen, \$1,000 college scholarships

### Apply for yours today!

Applications are now available for CFCU's Richard V.V. Stringham Scholarship. Fifteen, \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded for one year of study at either a two- or four-year accredited college or university. Recipients will be chosen based on academic achievement, extracurricular and community involvement, letters of recommendation, completion of an essay and financial need.

Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or others preparing to begin full-time study at a two-year or four-year college and

members of CFCU. Non-traditional students planning to enter college for the first time are also encouraged to apply.

Applications are available at any CFCU location, online at **www.myfcu.com**, or by calling 607-257-8500. Deadline is Monday, March 3, 2008. Scholarship recipients will be announced by June 2.

Complete information on eligibility, criteria for winning, award procedures and application information is available on our website (**www.myfcu.com**).



## When it comes to managing your money, we take it personally!



Bill Murphy, CFP®  
Financial Consultant



Nancy Kehoe  
Financial Consultant

**wealth  
Management**  
Located at CFCU Community Credit Union

Talk to us about managing your money for the long term! You'll get personal, knowledgeable service from professionals who care about your financial "big picture." We'll help with:

Retirement Planning • Investment Portfolio Analysis • Tax-Advantaged Investing Trust Services • Estate Planning • Long-Term Care Insurance • Rollover IRAs

All consultations are free! For an appointment, call **607-257-3282 x299**, or **800-428-8340 x299**.

Securities, asset management and financial planning offered through Linsco/Private Ledger. A Registered Investment Advisor. Member NASD/SIPC. Products are not NCUA insured, are not obligations of CFCU Community Credit Union, are not guaranteed by the Credit Union or any affiliated entity, and involve investment risk, including the possibility of loss of principal. CFCU Community Credit Union, Inc. is not a registered broker/dealer nor is it affiliated with Linsco/Private Ledger. Trust services are offered through The Private Trust Co., N.A., an affiliate of Linsco/Private Ledger.

## Fraud Protection:

Please let CFCU know when you are planning to travel abroad and intend to use your CFCU credit or debit card on your trip. By doing so, we can place a message on your account to make sure transactions are processed smoothly.

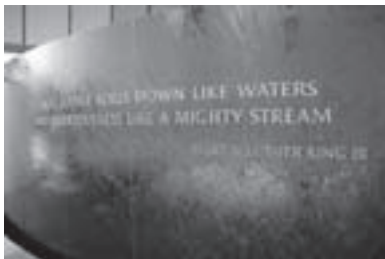
Credit and debit card fraud costs cardholders and issuers hundreds of millions of dollars each year. To protect our members, we recently implemented a new web-based tool developed to help block potential fraud in real time. The tool allows us to set basic rules and criteria for blocking transactions that we suspect may be fraudulent. It also allows us to modify those rules in real time as we become aware of new schemes and scams.

Since most of our credit and debit card fraud is currently coming from foreign countries, we may block transactions from those countries if we suspect fraud. Notifying us will help insure your transactions are recognized as legitimate and can go through without difficulty no matter what.

## Introducing our Employee of the Quarter

### Leigh Alo

As our Member Relationship Manager, Leigh Alo is an exceptional leader who wows members and co-workers alike with her friendly, knowledgeable style. Her department opens new accounts and provides information in person or over the phone about our products and services. This includes fielding member and co-worker questions related to all departments at the Credit Union. The position requires a broad range of knowledge and an ability to think fast, while providing the extra-friendly demeanor our members expect. Leigh always rises to the challenge and has earned the appreciation and respect of those in her department. Leigh's co-workers have no shortage of wonderful words of praise for her efforts: "Leigh exudes a perfect blend of leader, team player and co-worker,"... "Superior supervisory skills,"... "Ability to be everywhere at once,"... "Always at the ready to help, provide an answer to any given questions, and commend a job well done,"... "She's fantastic at making people feel accepted and welcome,"... "Her knowledge surpasses what is required of her,"... "I couldn't ask for a better supervisor," are just a few of the positive remarks. Many thanks, Leigh, for all you do for CFCU!



## Holiday Schedule:

All CFCU offices will be closed:

**Monday, January 21** —  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Monday, February 18** —  
Presidents' Day

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007**

# Saving & Investing

## Plan for retirement while there's still time to do something about it!

A recent survey found that more than two-thirds of retirees wish they'd done something differently in their retirement planning. Although, it's impossible for these individuals to turn back the clock for a second chance, their mistakes provide the rest of us a great opportunity to learn a few important lessons:

**Save more.** Most retirees wish they had saved more and are afraid they will outlive their money. Between an increasingly long lifespan, consistently higher health-care costs, and the potentially smaller Social Security benefits, the 10% of gross pay savings objective that was once the standard might leave you short. Today, financial consultants say a savings goal of 20% of gross income is a better target.

**Plan for more expenses in retirement, not fewer.** Trying to predict what your expenses will be as many as five, 10, or 20 years from now can be difficult. However, anyone dreaming of a comfortable retirement needs to make a prediction of future income needs, including car payments, travel, hobbies, entertainment and so on.

**Be realistic about working in retirement.** Save enough while you're still working so that employment in retirement is an option, not a necessity. Many retirees plan to earn a little extra by working in retirement, but few actually do because they are not healthy enough or feel they are too old.

**Pay more attention to retirement planning.** A recent study revealed that 57% of retirees wished they had done more planning for the transition from employment to retirement. A study from the Center for Retirement Research found that households in which someone thought "a lot" about retirement had twice as much wealth heading into retirement as households in which there was little or no planning.

### Invest more aggressively in your 20s, 30s, and 40s.

Generally speaking, higher returns come with higher risk. So, know your tolerance for risk. It's not wise to take big risks in your 50s and 60s: A significant loss could be impossible to recover from before you retire.

Remember, it's important you work on your retirement plan while you still have planning options ahead of you.

This is excerpted from an article by Monica Steinisch that you can find in the Home & Family Finance Resource Center at [www.mycfcu.com](http://www.mycfcu.com).



## A Credit Union IRA is a great vehicle for retirement savings

We all know it...the importance of putting money aside for retirement. And experts agree, IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts) are outstanding retirement savings vehicles. But, how do you get started? Which IRA option is right for you? Here are a few quick facts to help you learn more:

### Traditional IRA

- Anyone with earned income and under age 70½ can contribute
- Contributions are tax deductible depending on your income and participation in a retirement plan at work\*
- Earnings grow tax-deferred
- You pay tax on pre-tax contributions and earnings when you withdraw funds
- You can contribute up to \$5,000 for 2008 (\$6,000 for owners age 50 and over)
- Except in certain situations, most pre-tax contributions and earnings withdrawn before age 59½ are subject to a 10% penalty

With a traditional IRA, you typically get a tax deduction up front and defer paying any taxes until you start taking distributions in retirement. The idea being if your retirement income will be less than your current income, you'll pay less tax\*.

### Roth IRA

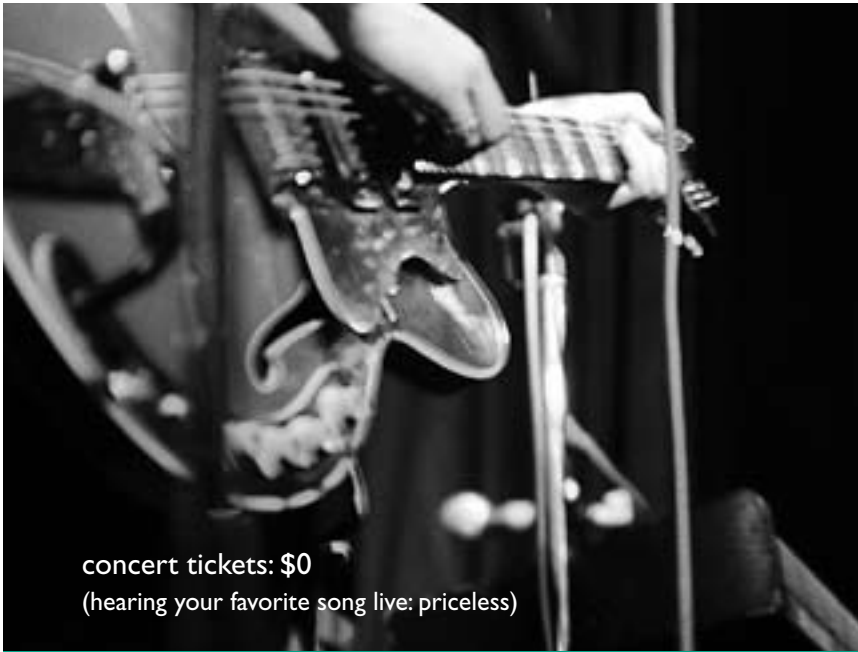
- Contributions are not tax deductible
- Earnings are tax-free if account is open for five years and withdrawn for a qualified reason (age 59½, disability, death or first-time home purchase\*)
- You are not required to start withdrawals at any particular age
- You can contribute up to \$5,000 for 2008 (\$6,000 for owners age 50 and over)
- You are not eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA if you exceed certain income limitations
- You can withdraw regular contributions at any time without penalty

With a Roth IRA, you do not receive a tax deduction up front, but you avoid paying taxes when you take the money out. This is beneficial if you think your tax rate will be the same or higher when you retire.

CFCU offers both traditional and Roth IRAs. We will be happy to answer your questions and help you open your account. For more information, call 607-257-8500.

\*Please consult your tax advisor for more information and specific tax advice.

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



concert tickets: \$0  
(hearing your favorite song live: priceless)

## You Could WIN Tickets to an EXCLUSIVE Concert Event Given by Soundstage.\*

Sign when using your CFCU Debit MasterCard® card between February 1 and March 31, 2008, and be automatically entered to WIN!

One lucky grand prize winner will receive:

- 3-day/2-night trip for winner and a guest
- 2 concert tickets to an EXCLUSIVE concert of your choice given by Soundstage
- Round-trip air transportation
- Hotel accommodations
- A \$500 MasterCard Gift Card



\*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Prize options vary & are customized per team. Components subject to approval & availability. Other restrictions apply. Max prize value: \$57,500/ea. Void where prohibited. PIN-based & international transactions ineligible. Starts 02/01/08. Ends 03/31/08. See Official Rules & complete details.

**Official Rules. No Purchase Necessary To Enter Or Win. PIN-Based & International Transactions Not Eligible For Automatic Entry. Purchasing Will Not Increase Your Odds of Winning.** All entries, whether submitted by using a MasterCard® card as described below or via 3" x 5" mail-in entry, have an equal chance of winning. For the purpose of this Sweepstakes, MasterCard card use includes transactions initiated by MasterCard cards & MasterCard products/devices (i.e. PayPass) directly linked to MasterCard customer financial institution accounts. **Eligibility:** Sweepstakes only open to legal residents of the 50 United States including the District of Columbia, 18 years of age or older prior to 2/1/08, except employees & their immediate families (spouses, parents, children, & siblings & their respective spouses) & those living in the same household of each of MasterCard International Incorporated ("Sponsor"), MasterCard customer financial institutions, Soundstage, & each of their respective parent companies, affiliates, distributors, subsidiaries, advertising/promotion agencies, & Project Support Team, Inc. ("P/S/T") (collectively, "Released Parties"). This Sweepstakes is subject to all applicable federal, state, & local laws & regulations. Void where prohibited. **How To Enter:** Sweepstakes begins at 12:00:01AM Central Time ("CT") on 2/1/08 & ends at 11:59:59PM CT on 3/31/08 ("Promotion Period"). 1) Automatically receive (1) Sweepstakes entry for each MasterCard card transaction made during the Promotion Period; 2) Automatically receive (1) additional Sweepstakes entry for each MasterCard PayPass tap transaction made at a PayPass-enabled merchant during the Promotion Period. For a list of PayPass enabled merchants, visit [www.mastercard.com/paypassmerchants](http://www.mastercard.com/paypassmerchants). Account adjustment transactions/returns, PIN-based & international transactions, late payment fees, over-limit or over-draft fees, return check fees, check re-order fees, cash advances, annual fees, balance transfers and/or other fees assessed on your account are not considered eligible transactions for automatic Sweepstakes entry. Entries from unauthorized card use or made with lost, stolen, or fraudulent MasterCard cards are void. Only purchases made with a MasterCard card that is in good standing (both at time of entry & winner selection) & issued by a MasterCard customer financial institution in the U.S. to an identifiable end user & that are processed & submitted through MasterCard International Incorporated's U.S. transaction processing system during the Promotion Period are eligible for automatic entry; or 3) **To enter the Sweepstakes without making a purchase & receive (2) entries,** hand print your name, complete mailing address, telephone number, age & the words "MasterCard Sweepstakes with Soundstage" on a plain 3" x 5" piece of paper & mail it in a sealed, stamped & hand printed #10 envelope to: MasterCard Sweepstakes with Soundstage, P.O. Box 14015, Bridgeport, CT 06673-4105. Enter as often as you wish by mail, but each entry must be mailed separately to be received by 4/7/08. No photocopied, computer generated facsimiles, mechanically reproduced, or mass entries permitted. Your use of your MasterCard card to make a purchase and/or your submission of a 3" x 5" mail-in entry constitutes your consent to participate in this Sweepstakes & your consent for Sponsor to obtain, use, & transfer your name, address & other information for the purpose of administering this Sweepstakes. Released Parties are not responsible for lost, incomplete, illegible, late, misdirected, stolen, postage-due, or mutilated entries or mail; any error, omission, interruption, defect or delay in transmission, 3<sup>rd</sup> party transaction classification, transaction processing, or communication; technical or mechanical malfunctions; failures or malfunctions of phones, phone lines, or telephone systems; errors in these Official Rules, in any Sweepstakes-related advertisements or other materials; human-processing error; failures of electronic equipment, computer hardware or software; or inaccurate entry information, whether caused by equipment, programming used in this Sweepstakes, human error, or otherwise. Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to void any & all entries of an entrant who Sponsor believes has attempted to tamper with or impair the administration, security, fairness, or proper play of this Sweepstakes. **(1) Grand Prize:** 3-day/2-night trip for winner & (1) guest to a 2008 or 2009 Soundstage concert of winner's choice based on a list designated by Sponsor at the Grainger Theatre in Chicago, IL. Trip includes round-trip coach air transportation from a major U.S. airport near winner's residence, standard double-occupancy hotel accommodations, (2) tickets to the selected concert, round-trip ground transportation to/from the airport & the applicable hotel, & a \$500 MasterCard Gift Card which may be used as spending money (Approximate Retail Value "ARV" - \$4,000). Selected concert subject to Sponsor approval & ticket availability. Actual prize value will vary depending on final flight itinerary & travel dates. Sponsor, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to provide ground transportation in lieu of air transportation. Winner & guest must present valid government issued photo identification for concert admission. Tickets subject to terms & conditions set forth therein & winner & guest must comply with all venue rules & regulations. Winner & guest may not wear, or otherwise display, the corporate or commercial identification of any 3<sup>rd</sup> party at concert without the prior consent of Sponsor & may be required to wear apparel directed by Sponsor or be relocated to a non-interruptive area of concert taping. No food, drink, coats, cameras, camera phones or recording devices allowed in venue & venue reserves the right to hold & remove any camera or recording device for return after concert. Winner & guest must be 18 years of age or older & must travel on the same itinerary. If any prize-related activity(s) is canceled or postponed for any reason, balance of prize will be awarded in full satisfaction of prize award. Travel & hotel accommodation restrictions apply. MasterCard Gift Card restrictions may apply. Federal, state, & local taxes & all other expenses not specified herein are winner's sole responsibility. **Winner Selection:** Winner will be selected in a random drawing on or about 5/5/08 from among all eligible entries received by P/S/T, an independent judging organization whose decisions will be final & binding in all matters relating to this Sweepstakes. Winner will be notified by P/S/T by telephone and/or mail. In the event that the potential winner is selected via a MasterCard card transaction, prize will be awarded to the primary account holder (as determined by the MasterCard customer financial institution's account records & subject to said financial institution's timely identification of the account holder) named on the account accessed by the MasterCard card used to make the entry & in the event that a corporate MasterCard card winning account is selected, prize will be awarded to the individual named on the MasterCard card that is used to transact the winning entry (as determined by the MasterCard customer financial institution's account records & subject to said financial institution's timely identification of the individual named on the applicable MasterCard card). If awarding of the prize is in conflict with corporate written policy or not feasible after Sponsor's good faith effort to obtain account holder contact information from the applicable MasterCard customer financial institution, prize will be forfeited & an alternate winner may be selected. Odds of winning will depend on the number of eligible entries received. **Miscellaneous:** No transfer, assignment, cash redemption, or substitution of prize (or portion thereof) except by Sponsor due to prize unavailability, & then for a prize (or applicable portion thereof) of equal or greater value. Winner will be required to execute & return a notarized Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability Release & (where legal) Publicity Release within (3) days of issuance of notification. Guest (or, if considered a minor in his/her state of residence, his/her parent or legal guardian) will be required to sign & return a Liability Release & (where legal) Publicity Release prior to the issuance of travel documents. Non-compliance with any of the foregoing may result in disqualification & awarding of prize to an alternate winner as determined by Sponsor. If prize notification letter is returned as undeliverable, winner will be disqualified & an alternate winner may be selected. By participating, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules & agree that: 1) Released Parties & their designees & assigns shall have the right & permission to use (unless prohibited by law) their name, voice, city/state of residence, biographical information, photograph, and/or likeness for advertising and/or trade and/or any other purpose in any media or format, online or offline, now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission, or notification; & 2) Released Parties & their designees & assigns & all of their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives & agents shall have no liability & will be held harmless for any claim, liability, loss, injury or death to entrant or any other person, including, without limitation, damage to personal or real property, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of the prize (including any travel or prize activity related thereto) or participation in this Sweepstakes. **Winner List:** For the winner's name, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by 6/2/08 to: MasterCard Sweepstakes with Soundstage Winner, P.O. Box 13106, Bridgeport, CT 06673-3106. ©2008 MasterCard. All Rights Reserved. @ MMVII Window to the World Communications, Inc. and HD Ready LLC. All Rights Reserved. SOUNDSTAGE® is a registered trademark of Window to the World Communications, Inc. **Sponsor:** MasterCard International Incorporated, 2000 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY 10577. **Promoter:** Project Support Team, Inc., 100 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT 06811/www.ProjectSupportTeam.com.

*You may elect to have your name & address removed from lists of names & addresses used by MasterCard International Incorporated to direct mail skill contests or sweepstakes. To so prohibit mailing of all skill contests or sweepstakes by MasterCard International Incorporated to you, you must send a removal request containing your name & address (please also include the first 6 digits of your MasterCard card number, if any) to the following address: ATTN: Sweepstakes Exclusion Notification System, Global Promotions Manager, MasterCard International Incorporated, 2000 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY 10577-2509.*

*Additionally, if you do not wish to receive future sweepstakes mailings from CFCU Community Credit Union, please send the same information to CFCU Community Credit Union at 1030 Craft Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.*

**CONSUMER DISCLOSURE: NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.** You have not yet won. PIN-based & international transactions not eligible. Void where prohibited. (1) Grand Prize valued at \$4,000. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Starts 2/1/08. Ends 3/31/08. See Official Rules for prize restrictions. Sponsored by MasterCard International Incorporated, 2000 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY 10577-2509.

