

THE CU Exchange

Serving the Saint Luke's Medical Community

APRIL 2009



Annual Parking Lot Picnic May 6th

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual Member Appreciation Picnic Luncheon.

This annual parking lot picnic lunch will be served 11:00am to 1:00pm on Wednesday, May 6th, in the parking lot of Westport/Plaza Branch. A special gift will be given to all who join us. We will also have vendors from Costco, AutoDirect, Sentry Insurance and Mortgage Solutions.

You will be able to vote for your favorite volunteer Board or Committee member; the one whose voice and help assists the Credit Union with financial and service programs.

Later that day, at 4:30, the Credit Union will hold its 48th Annual Membership Meeting in the Board Room.

Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be awarded.

So come one, come all to the Credit Union on May 6th! I hope you will join us, and...

...register to WIN!

From April 1st through May 15th we're giving away a GPS Navigation System, generously provided by Sentry Insurance.

Come register for a chance to win. ♦

The President's Memo

In these unprecedented times, the Credit Union wants you to know that "your money is safe with us." With the news discussing bank failures nearly everyday here, market prices down there, it's enough to scare all of us.

Credit Unions, unlike some other types of financial service corporations, are owned by our members and are not a stock owned company. What does this mean to you? *The value of your money at the Credit Union does not shift.*

We only invest our member's funds into government backed securities to guarantee our return. We and many others, unfortunately, have felt the depressed market with investment rates at an all time low.

A comfortable capital position is the king of this situation. This means the Credit Union has been saving money (capital) for many years to withstand an unfavorable market. We are prepared for a rate shock when interest rates shift.

So, sleep well at night and know that YOUR Credit Union is taking good care of your hard earned money, and that your balance will always be protected.

Susie Venable

Credit Score "Rewards" Program

The Credit Union wants to help you work for a positive change...a positive change in your *credit score*. Here is how the Credit Score Rewards program works. Once you have had your Credit Union loan for one year or more, we will, at your request, review your credit score again. If your prompt payments have boosted your score substantially, we will adjust down your rate.

Your *credit score* is an essential element to getting a loan approved. The score can make a BIG difference in your monthly payment and how much interest you pay on the loan. *Example:*

Amount Borrowed: \$5000

Score 575: 19% interest/ \$183. payment

Score 700: 12% interest/ \$166. payment

You'll pay over \$600.00 LESS in interest with the higher score of 700.

Although the monthly payment is only a \$17 difference, the big difference is in the interest which is over a \$600.00 savings.

If you understand the importance of a good credit score and you would like to see yours improve, call the Credit Union. We can help with a share secured loan! Paying your loan back in full and on time establishes a favorable credit history so that in the future, you can be considered for an unsecured loan at an acceptable interest rate. Rebuilding or starting your credit history takes a little time, so you need to be patient.

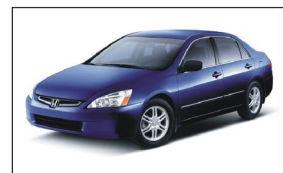
Budget ideas and saving tips are one of the many things your Credit Union does to help our members. Call or stop by today and start improving your Credit Score! ♦

Reduce Your Loan Rate with...

AutoDirect, and your Credit Union! We have partnered with AutoDirect to help make buying your next car easy...and less expensive.

From April 10th through May 31st, we will reduce your loan rate by ¼% on any auto purchased through AutoDirect. **And, if you have your payment set up through payroll deduction we will reduce your rate by another ¼% giving you a total savings of ½% off your approved rate.** To make this even sweeter...AutoDirect will make the first car payment on your new loan up to \$300.00.

AutoDirect has helped many Credit Union members find just the vehicle they were looking for. Just complete a loan application online, call or stop by any office location and get ready to drive away in that car of your dreams. ♦



Every AutoDirect vehicle is inspected and certified by an independent mechanic.

theINbox

good things to know

Keep Us Current

Don't forget to let the Credit Union know if you have a change of address; both home address and e-mail address. Keep your account information safe by making sure that information is not sent to an address you no longer occupy. Remember, once a member, always a member, so even if you move away, you can continue to be a Saint Luke's Credit Union Member.

Wake UP Your Account

Your Credit Union is required by law to escheat (give) to the state any funds from a members account that have been dormant after a period of time. Dormant means there has been no activity—deposits or withdrawals—during a 12 month period. Once a member's account has become dormant, there is a \$2.00 per month fee. If you haven't used your account in the last 12 months, it only takes a small deposit of \$1.00 to make your account active again for a year. Contact the Credit Union in writing if you would like to close your account.

Traveler's Checks Here

If you are traveling this summer, don't let your fun time be spoiled by stolen or lost cash. It happens, and when cash is lost IT'S GONE! A better idea is to carry traveler's checks. For a minimal charge you can have the peace of mind knowing you can get travelers checks replaced if lost or stolen, usually within 24 hours. Consider carrying a small amount of cash but for the larger items, such as meals or shopping use traveler's checks.

Take a "Staycation" This Year

What is a Staycation? A staycation is just like a vacation, but you remain at home or in your immediate area for local adventures. Staycations are becoming very popular with the increase cost in travel and overnight stays. All of those area attractions in your own state or city become prime locations for day trips. Whether you go hiking, shopping in a historic district, or just go for a drive, a staycation lets you take time away from work or school without the cost and stress of a long, far away trip.

Costs are minimized since lodging expenses are not a factor in your budget. Gasoline and restaurants will likely be your biggest expenses, which will be

quite a savings compared to a traditional vacation that includes airfare, hotel and taxis, along with the inconvenience of security screening.

Another benefit to staycations is the economic support of your local economy. When you stay in your local area, you support local merchants.

Save even more by purchasing tickets to area attractions from YOUR Credit Union. Check our website for ticket prices to Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun, Silver Dollar City and Whitewater. We also sell discounted tickets to AMC theaters. So, enjoy some time off this year, take a staycation, relax and reduce your stress level. ♦

Spruce Up The Castle

Even with all of the ups and downs of the housing market, your home is still your castle. So, don't neglect the turrets or the moat! Ignoring problems like a leaky roof or a crumbling foundation won't make them go away. Keeping up with maintenance and repairs not only makes your home a nicer place, but also helps protect your investment.

But remember, if you are planning a major remodel, you will rarely recoup the entire cost and some improvements have a higher percentage payback than others. Upgrading the kitchen or the bathroom will return more on your investment than adding a sunroom or updating a home office. *(continued next column)*

For any home projects, large or small, see the Credit Union first. We have a Home Equity Loan that can fit those needs. We may not be able to help pick out the new color scheme, but we will help you figure out the financing that matches your style. Call or come by any location today for more information. ♦

Help Your CU!

Your Credit Union is always looking for volunteers to aid in financial and service decisions. The foundation of credit unions has always been the volunteer nature of our Board and Committee members. If you would like to help YOUR Credit Union...look no further, we have the following positions open:

- Board of Directors – two 3-yr positions
- Committee Member – one 3-yr position

If you would be interested in being a valuable volunteer for the Credit Union please contact:

Debbie Couch, Membership Chairperson @ 816-932-3688 / dcouch@saint-lukes.org, or Susie Venable @ 932-5300 / svenable@saint-lukes.org. ♦

Unlock Yourself!

In our "password society," it's easy to forget one of the many passwords you've created when surfing the web. If you've been locked out of online banking (FastNET) due to errors in logging on, you can now "unlock yourself." It's easy to set up. Just click the **FastNET** link on our home page. When the login screen appears, you will find the link "unlock account," next to the password box. Click the link and answer one easy question correctly, and you will regain access to your account....it's just that easy. ♦

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

- Memorial Day – May 25th
- Independence Day - July 3rd
- Labor Day – September 7th
- Columbus Day – October 12th

- Veterans Day – November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – November 26th
- Christmas Eve – Dec 24th (close at 1:00 pm)
- Christmas Day – Dec 25th
- New Years Eve – Dec 31st (close at 1:00 pm)

Some merchants require you to maintain your card security thru Verified by VISA. Verified by VISA is another security feature to enhance your online purchasing and it's easy to sign up. Click on the Verified by VISA link on our home page. Once you have registered your card, you can shop at all online merchants whenever you want with the security that your card is protected. ♦



Plaza/Westport

4200 Pennsylvania, Ste 161
Kansas City, MO 64111
(816) 932-5300
Fax: (816) 932-3175
Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri
7:30-5:00 p.m.
Wed: 7:30-4:00 p.m.

South

12300 Metcalf Ave.
Overland Park, KS 66213
(913) 317-7770
T, Th & F 8:00-4:00 p.m.

North

5800 NW Barry Road
Kansas City, MO 64151
(816) 880-6364
MWF 8:00-4:30 p.m.

East

100 N. E. Saint Luke's Blvd.
Lee's Summit, MO 64086
(816) 347-4833
M & F 8:00-4:30 p.m.

FastLINE 24-Hour Teller: (816) 932-FAST (3278)

Toll Free Access: 1-888-888-0624

