

the PULSE

FALL 2011

Published for the Members of St. Agnes Employees Federal Credit Union



Happy Credit Union Day 2011

At some point, you've probably wondered what the difference is between credit unions and other financial institutions. In reality, many differences exist, but the short of it is this: Credit unions exist to help people, not to make a profit. That difference resulted in St. Agnes Employees Federal Credit Union being established as a financial cooperative rather than a bank. Although we don't sell groceries or farming supplies or electricity, we share the same principles as other cooperatives. At a cooperative, you're a member/owner, not a customer.

In order to increase public awareness of cooperatives and promote their formation and growth, the United Nations General Assembly has designated 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) with the theme "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World."

As financial cooperatives that stand on social responsibility and economic viability, credit unions play a substantial role in the global cooperative movement. In 97 countries, close to 186 million people are members of credit unions. Credit unions around the world have taken that message to heart and adapted it for their International Credit Union Day celebration on October 20, 2011, which is the launch of the 2012 IYC. Cooperatives address the common goals of their members. Cooperative principles include:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training, and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community.

These principles underscore the cooperative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity.

Here are a few examples from the World Council of Credit Unions of how credit unions worldwide are exercising cooperative principles to promote the above values:

- In Mexico, credit union field officers physically take credit union services to the poor in marginalized areas of the country through new handheld technologies, giving them an opportunity and affordable alternative to access financial services.
- Amid the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, men and women alike are getting the chance to experience democracy firsthand by voting at their local Islamic investment and finance cooperatives (credit unions).
- In Kenya, a credit union with a membership consisting of secondary school teachers offers an HIV/AIDS peer education training program to help members help their communities.
- In Haiti, credit unions have strived to maintain operations in the face of a catastrophic disaster, so that their members have access to the resources they need to begin rebuilding their lives and homes after 2010's devastating earthquake.
- In the U.S., credit unions are committed to providing a safe and affordable alternative to predatory payday lenders. Credit unions are always looking for opportunities to bring affordable services to communities in need.

As financial cooperatives, credit unions are much more than money lenders and holders. Like all cooperatives, we stand for the power of people helping people. Credit unions are prime examples of how the cooperative spirit transforms individuals and advances communities, the first steps toward building a better world.





**U.S. SAVINGS
BONDS**

US Savings Bonds are Going Paperless in 2012

Paper Series EE and I Savings Bonds will no longer be sold through financial institutions or mail-in orders after December 31, 2011. Savings bonds aren't going away, though. You can purchase electronic savings bonds online through TreasuryDirect at www.treasurydirect.gov.

Ending sales of paper savings bonds will save taxpayers an estimated \$70 million over the next five years. In addition, unlike paper savings bonds, electronic savings bonds aren't easily lost or misplaced. And with TreasuryDirect, you can manage your savings securely online, anytime.

Existing paper savings bonds will earn interest for 30 years from the issue date or until redeemed. Financial institutions will continue to redeem paper bonds. You also can convert your paper savings bonds to electronic savings bonds in TreasuryDirect using a program called SmartExchange. There's no charge to convert paper bonds. No earned interest will be lost, and the bonds will keep their original issue dates and current interest rate terms. Paper bonds which have not yet matured but are lost, stolen or destroyed can be reissued in paper or electronic form.

To use TreasuryDirect, you will need to have an account at a financial institution to receive direct deposit payments and as a potential funding source for purchases. You also will need internet access to view and use your account. Finally, an email address is necessary so you can receive important messages about your account.

For more information, visit www.treasurydirect.gov.

Consumer Action Handbook

Use the Consumer Action Handbook to find the best and most direct solutions to consumer problems. The free guide features consumer tips, a sample complaint letter, and sources of assistance. To request a copy:

- Send your name and address to Handbook, Pueblo, CO 81009
- Visit www.consumeraction.gov
- Call 888-8-PUEBLO (888-878-3256) weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST

SKIP-A-PAYMENT means MORE CASH



in **YOUR** pocket.

Money tight? Worried about having enough money to make ends meet? Worry no more with SAEFCU's Skip-A-Pay!

Your loan must be in good standing and you must meet other criteria, as well. But the end result is the same – you'll have a little extra cash in your pocket. Visit our website at www.saefcu.org for more information and an application.



New CU Online Features

New features have been added to enhance CU Online.

Nickname: This feature allows you to create a "nickname" for your share and loan accounts. If you have an extra share account that appears as "06-SPECIAL

SAVINGS", you can change it to "HAWAII VACATION 2012". The nickname will only appear when you view your account online, not on your account statement or at the credit union.

Account Alerts: Set up email or text message alerts to remind you of an upcoming loan payment or when your share balance is over or under a certain dollar amount.

If you are not already signed up for CU Online, visit our website at www.saefcu.org and click on the "Sign up for CU Online" link.

Your Debit Card: Choosing Debit or Credit

You're at the checkout, you hand the cashier your debit card, and she asks if you want to use credit or debit.

Both will result in funds being withdrawn from your checking account, both include fraud protection, and you can track both by using St. Agnes Employees Federal Credit Union's online banking Web site or by reconciling your monthly statement.

Choosing credit sends your payment through the card network directly to your checking account. It may take a couple days for the merchant to process your payment, so funds are not immediately removed from your account.

If you opt for debit, or are asked to enter your PIN (personal identification number), the payment goes through the Interlink network. You type in your four-digit PIN number, and no signature is needed. Funds are immediately withdrawn from your checking account, as if you had taken cash out of an ATM.

In both cases—signature and PIN—transactions are secure. The Electronic Funds Transfer Act covers both signature-based and PIN-based debit transactions. Under the law, if your debit card is lost or stolen, you only are liable for the first \$50 as long as you report the loss within two days.

Whether you choose credit or debit at checkout, make sure you're paying with your SAEFCU debit card.

When you sign for your purchases you earn **UChoose Rewards®**. Earn one point per \$2 every time you use your card and sign for your purchases. Plus, earn additional points by shopping at participating retailers in-store or online at www.uchooserewards.com. Take all the points you've earned, and choose from millions of items – from brand name products to travel excursions, gift cards, event tickets, and access to unique activities.

If you're not already registered for UChoose Rewards go to www.uchooserewards.com to register today!

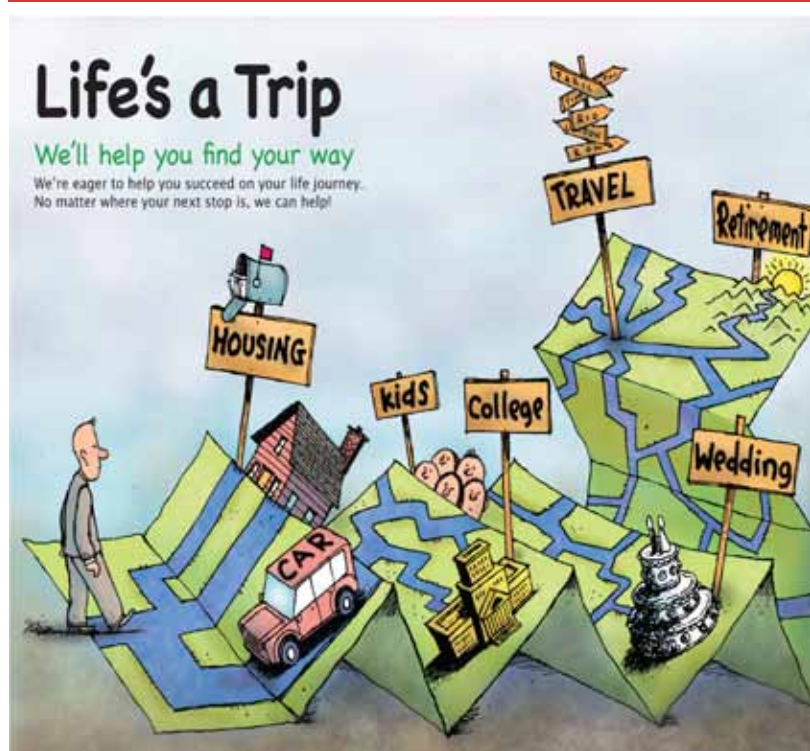


Now's a great time to drive a real bargain!

Auto loan rates at SAEFCU are incredibly low — **as low as 2.50% APR* on new cars and as low as 2.90% APR on used cars** — making it high time to get the vehicle of your dreams (or needs)!

Call anytime day or night to apply at 1-888-273-7228, call our loan officer during normal business hours at (410) 368-3227 or apply online at www.saefcu.org.

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rates quoted are the lowest available ("as low as"). Actual rate may differ and is dependent on the amount financed, applicant's credit history and amount financed.



Information CENTER

Holiday Closings

Columbus Day	Closed - Monday, October 10, 2011
Veterans Day	Closed - Friday, November 11, 2011
Thanksgiving	Closed - Thursday, November 24, 2011
Christmas	Closing - Monday, December 26, 2011
New Year's	Closed - Monday, January 2, 2012

Locations

St. Agnes Hospital
900 Caton Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21229

Maiden Choice Medical Center
720 Maiden Choice Lane, Suite E, Baltimore, MD 21228

Hours

	St. Agnes Hospital	Maiden Choice Medical Center
Monday	7:30 am - 4 pm	8:30 am - 3 pm
Tuesday	7 am - 2:30 pm	8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Wednesday	8 am - 4 pm	8:30 am - 3 pm
Thursday	9 am - noon 3 pm - 6 pm	8:30 am - noon
Friday	7 am - 2 pm	8:30 am - 2 pm

Telephone Hours

Same as office hours
410-368-3125
Press 3 to reach the hospital office
Press 5 to reach the Maiden Choice office

Quick Check (24 hour audio response)

410-368-8606

Fax

410-869-8293 (Maiden Choice)
410-368-3584 (St. Agnes Hospital)

Lost & Stolen ATM & VISA Check Card

800-554-8969

Lost & Stolen Visa Credit Card

800-808-7230

Email

info@saefcu.org



MOVING?

Once you're a SAEFCU member, you can take us with you when you change jobs or move. ONCE A MEMBER, ALWAYS A MEMBER.

SAINT AGNES
EMPLOYEES FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION

LOAN RATES

LOAN TYPE	APR*
Personal Loans	as low as 9.90%
Share Secured	2% above current dividend rate
New Car Loans	as low as 2.50%
Used Car Loans	as low as 2.90%

VISA® CREDIT CARDS

VISA Classic	10.90% fixed
VISA Gold	9.90% fixed
Visa® Platinum	8.90% fixed

HOME EQUITY

Line of Credit	Prime** plus .25%
Closed-End/Fixed Rate	
5 year	4.50%
10 year	5.00%
15 year	5.50%

Loan rates are subject to change.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.saefcu.org

FOR ALL LOAN AND SAVINGS RATES

*Annual Percentage Rate

**Prime rate as published on www.moneycafe.com/library/primerate.htm. The equity loan rate is subject to change on the first day of the quarter (January, April, July & October) following a change in the prime rate. Minimum 3%.

***Rates quoted are the lowest available ("as low as"). Actual rate may differ and is dependent on the applicant's credit history and/or term of loan.

OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH AS OF August 31, 2011

Assets	\$42,176,999
Shares	\$37,973,881
Loans	\$22,212,538
Members	7,114

Always Keep Your Contact Information Current

Remember to tell us when you have new contact information - mailing address, e-mail address, and cell, home or work phone numbers.

For your security, we must receive your changes in writing (with your signature). Changes can be faxed to 410-869-8293 or mailed to: SAEFCU, 720-E Maiden Choice Lane, Baltimore, MD 21228



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