



HOT NEWS

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April 2004



Hours & Phone



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8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Phone: (609) 348-1683
Mon-Wed-Fri
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

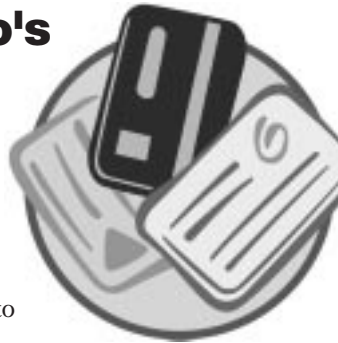
Find Your Account Number and Win \$25!

If you are one of the lucky members who finds his or her account number hidden in this issue of "Hot News" by April 30, 2004 you will win \$25. Congratulations to last quarter's winner Jeff Harvey.

Plastic Card Do's and Don'ts

Do...

- Sign your plastic cards with permanent ink immediately upon receipt.
- Commit your PIN to memory.
- Carry only the cards you plan to use.
- Store unused cards in a secure, locked place.
- Open your billing statements promptly and reconcile your account(s).
- Review all plastic card transactions carefully, and immediately report anything you find unusual, or transactions you don't recognize.
- Inventory all plastic cards and keep a listing separate from where you store your cards.
- Take receipts with you (including carbons) or tear them up before they are thrown away.
- Routinely check your credit report for any unusual or unrecognizable activity.
- Notify the post office to put a hold on your mail when you're out of town; or arrange for a trusted friend or neighbor to collect your mail each day.



Don't...

- Loan your cards to anyone.
- Keep your Social Security number in your wallet.
- Keep personal information in your desk at work.
- Give your card, card number, Social Security number or PIN to anyone.
- Put your card number on a postcard or on the outside of any envelope.
- Write your plastic card number on a personal check.
- Give pertinent personal information, such as account numbers, your Social Security number or PIN over the phone.
- Allow your card out of sight during a sales transaction.

Source: CUNA Mutual Group

Paying By Check in the 21st Century Check 21

Beginning in October, 2004, federal law will allow a new type of payment document called a "substitute check" that will be used for clearing and settlement. The purpose of this document (as made possible by The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act or Check 21) is to permit quicker processing of checks through the use of an electronic image of the check itself. The process eliminates the cumbersome transporting of a physical document to and from the Federal Reserve System and the payable through financial institution. This new efficiency will provide for:

- Checks clearing faster
 - Reduction of check fraud
 - Increase in security
 - Reduction of check processing costs.
- Because Check 21 will significantly reduce the amount of time required to move money out of your account to pay your checks, you will need to keep closer tabs on your account balance to make sure funds are available on time.

Just follow this simple rule now and after the Check 21 becomes law, if you don't have the funds in your account, don't write the check.

As the October deadline approaches, look for additional information on Check 21 in future editions of "HOT NEWS" and for inserts mailed with your statement.

HOLIDAYS

Memorial Day
Monday
May 31

Independence Day
Monday
July 5

Board of Directors

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Changing Your Address?

Keep In Touch!

Are you moving or changing phone numbers? We want to make sure you have the latest financial account information. If you are changing addresses or phone numbers, please mail or fax us a letter authorizing us to update our records. Address changes must include your signature.



AMERICA'S
CREDIT
UNIONS®

Where people are
worth more than money.™

ATLANTIC CITY FIREMEN'S FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Simplified Checking Makes Managing Your Account Easy!

Finding the best checking account can be time-consuming. We have taken the guesswork out of managing your money with our simple and convenient Credit Union checking accounts. With the needs of your busy life in mind, our services provide a variety of benefits to best serve your checking needs. In addition, a checking account at the Credit Union gives you peace of mind. Member deposits at the Credit Union are insured against loss up to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a U.S. government agency. Come in to the Credit Union or call for a simple explanation of how our services are easy and convenient. A Credit Union checking account can be for you.



Simplify your life. Open a Checking Account with the Credit Union!

Time for a Change?

If you are changing your name or address, be sure to notify the Credit Union so that we can keep accurate records. Especially in the case of an address change, statements and other important Credit Union communications can be returned without your proper information. This is a serious concern for both you and the Credit Union, as it is costly and may cause us to lose permanent contact with you.

For an address change

Please provide your new address in writing with your account number to the Credit Union by mail or in the office. Notifying the post office will only temporarily forward your mail.

For a name change

Always notify the Social Security administration of your change so that your earnings will be credited properly. Bring updated identification into the Credit Union so that we may update our records and place your new signature on file.

Account Ownership and Co-Signers

Do you know who is a co-signer on your account(s). Is there someone who shouldn't be, or someone who should? Remember, a co-signer on an account has almost all the same rights and privileges as the account owner. Also remember, only authorized signers on an account can perform account functions, such as withdrawals funds, setup sub accounts, transfer money or make any changes to the account.

It is your responsibility to properly maintain and keep your account information up to date. If you have any questions or need to verify any of your account information give our Northfield Office a call at 609-272-1000 or check the information the next time you're in our office.



Hidden Auto-Financing Charges Cost Consumers Higher Rates

Hidden auto-financing charges cost consumers \$1 billion each year, and blacks and Latinos are particular targets, a consumer-advocacy group claims in a recent Associated Press report.

When a car buyer arranges financing through an auto dealer, lenders quote a finance rate based on the buyer's credit history. In some cases, dealers are increasing that rate by several percentage points and sharing the profit with lenders, the Consumer Federation of America contends.

Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation, said it's reasonable for dealers to charge a fee for setting up financing, but he said they should charge a flat rate of \$100 or \$200 instead of marking up financing rates. Now, he said, consumers avoid the charges only if they're savvy enough to know the lender's rate.

Members can avoid these markups by calling our loan department and getting a rate quote before you reach any terms with an auto dealer.