

Notes of Interest

October 2010

A Quarterly Publication of
GEMC
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Announcing *Mobile Money*

Anytime Access to Your Accounts on your Mobile Phone



If you're like most people, your cell phone is more than just a phone. It's a calendar, address book, photo album, email inbox and the only way you remember your mother-in-law's birthday. Wouldn't it be great if your cell phone could also access and manage your money? Now it can. GEMC Federal Credit Union members can now use Mobile Money to check balances, review

account history, move money between accounts, pay bills, and receive account alerts. Any mobile device using SMS (text messaging) or a mobile browser can be activated to use the service.

Mobile Money is free and can be activated quickly and easily through Online Banking at www.gemc.org.

Attention Christmas Club Account Holders:

Christmas Club funds will be automatically transferred into your Checking Account. If you do not have a checking account, the funds will go into your 01 Savings Account.



Holiday Closings:

Monday, October 11 - Columbus Day

Thursday, November 11 - Veterans Day

Thursday & Friday
November 25 & 26th - Thanksgiving Holiday

Thursday & Friday
December 23rd & 24th - Christmas Holiday

Friday, December 31st - New Year Holiday

Boost your holiday spending budget with a Christmas Club Account!

Holiday Skip-a-Pay is Back!

See page 2 for details. Skip-a-Pay form is available online at gemc.org.



Credit Card Tips

Have credit card success with these simple tips
page 3

GEMC FCU Credit Cards

Which one is best for you?
page 3

Your Vote Matters

Learn where your elected officials stand on Credit Union issues.
page 3

President's Letter

page 3

Christmas has come early with our Holiday Skip-a-Pay Program

Don't miss your chance to keep a little cash in your pockets this holiday season. With Holiday Skip-a-Pay, you can skip your December 2010 or January 2011 loan payment and keep that cash to cover those holiday expenses.

Participating is easy. Simply go to www.gemc.org to print the form. Once you've filled it out, return it to us — by fax, mail, or in person. There is a \$20 fee per loan to participate, which you may have debited from your checking or savings account, or you may submit a cash or check payment when you submit the Skip-a-Pay application.

Don't delay! We must receive your Skip-a-Pay application before the loan due date in the month you want to skip. Fill out and return your application today.



Build A Better Tomorrow

Make Your Vote Matter

The fact that you are a credit union member shows that you care — about the financial well-being of your family and about working together with others for the good of all. It shows you want to build a better tomorrow. Those are also compelling reasons to exercise your right to vote.

Both on a local and national level, America faces issues today that will have far-reaching effects on our lives. The officials elected in congressional, state and local elections will make decisions that will determine how we live in the years to come. Yet only 64% of voting-age citizens voted in the 2008 presidential election, and only 48% exercised their right to vote in the 2006 General Election. Your

voice will only matter if you allow it to be heard.

By going to the polls, you have a chance to make a difference in your future and the future of those you love. When you become an informed voter who understands the issues and knows the candidates' positions, you are taking the first step to building a better tomorrow.

Credit union members believe in "people helping people." What better way to help our communities on the local and national levels than by exercising our right to vote? Credit union members comprise 44% of all registered voters nationwide. If every credit union member voted, they



President's Letter

Welcome, Credit Union members!

Whether you're a new member and this is your first issue of *Notes of Interest* or you're a long-time Credit Union member and reader, thank you so much for devoting a few moments of your time to us.

So far this year, over 650 members have joined GEMC Federal Credit Union. These members, along with over 11,000 others have discovered the benefits that credit unions, and particularly GEMC Federal Credit Union, contribute to their financial lives. As you know, a credit union is a financial institution that operates as a non-profit cooperative, allowing members' savings to provide loans to borrowers, making it possible for all members to share in its overall success.

In business and serving members since 1969, GEMC FCU has grown to \$80 million in assets

Now is the best time to transfer your balances to a GEMC FCU VISA

If your credit cards are making changes that are costing you more of your hard-earned money, then it's time to move over to a Visa Credit Card from GEMC Federal Credit Union.

- Rates as low as 8.9% APR* on purchases, cash advances, and balance transfers.
- No annual fees, hidden fees or rate hikes.

Apply now at www.gemc.org.

APR: Annual Percentage Rate. Qualification based on an assessment of individual creditworthiness and our underwriting standards. All Credit Union loan programs, rates, forms, and conditions are subject to change at any time without notice. Call us at 770-270-7851 for current rates, terms and conditions.



Get the **Most** from your Credit Card

5 Tips for Credit Card Success

The average American consumer has 2.7 cards in their wallets. To avoid the possibly negative effects of credit cards, GEMC FCU suggests you follow these five simple tips below.

Remember, the information below represents industry averages, and not necessarily GEMC Federal Credit Union's credit card program.

1. Know when your payment is due and pay on time.

You'll avoid late fees as well as penalty interest rates applied to your account, and it will help you maintain a good credit record.

2. Stay below your credit limit.

You may be charged a fee and possibly see an increase in your interest rate to a higher penalty rate. Keep a record of your spending or check your balance online.

3. Be aware of fees.

Pay attention to the transactions that trigger fees, such as: late payments, cash advances, transferring balances, having a payment returned or even paying your bill by phone. Read your credit card agreement to learn more



about the fees that your credit card company charges.

4. Pay more than the minimum payment.

Pay your balance in full each month or try to pay as much as possible over the minimum payment. Over time, you'll save on interest charges and you'll pay off your balance sooner.

5. Watch for changes in the terms of your account.

Credit card issuers can change the terms and conditions of your account at any time. Read your monthly bill carefully and take note of any changes.

Article excerpts from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System 7/17/2010 - http://www.federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo/fivetips_creditcard.htm

Current Rates

Regular Savings/Holiday Club

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Dividend Rate | 0.40% |
| Annual Percentage Yield | 0.40% |

Dividends are posted on October 1, 2010 for 3rd quarter 2010. Notice: 01 regular savings accounts with an Average Daily Balance of \$100 or less will not receive dividends. Any account closed before the end of the dividend period will forfeit dividends accrued. There will be a \$15 fee per quarter for members over the age of 16 with a savings balance of less than \$100 and no activity on the account for one year or more. If the fee brings the account balance below \$5, the account will be closed.

IRA Accounts

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| IRA Dividends | 0.85% |
| Annual Percentage Yield | 0.85% |

Dividends are posted on October 1, 2010 for 3rd quarter 2010. Any IRA account with an Average Daily Balance of less than \$500.00 and no transaction activity for two calendar years will be assessed an annual fee of \$10.

Locations/Contact Information

Main Office:

2100 East Exchange Place, Suite #101
Tucker, GA 30084
(770) 270-7851 (800) 241-5374 x7851
(770) 938-9221 - Fax

Note that the Main Office mailing address has changed. The P.O. Box address is no longer valid. Please mail all Main Office correspondence to the street address listed above.

Douglasville Office:

4040 Bankhead Highway
P.O. Box 1527 • Douglasville, GA 30133-1527
(770) 949-3557 (770) 947-1857 - Fax

Dallas Office:

120 GreyStone Power Blvd. • Dallas, GA 30157
(770) 445-2800 (770) 445-4946 - Fax

Lost or Stolen VISA Credit Card: (800) 299-9842

Lost or Stolen VISA Debit Card: (800) 472-3272

Powerline Telephone Teller: (888) 462-2844

Car Solutions Car Buying Service: (404) 530-9000

MEMBERS Financial Services -

Investment Services: (770) 476-6400 x1208

First Mortgage:

Credit Union Financial Services
(678) 658-4466 (800) 503-6855

Liberty Mutual Insurance - Home/Auto/Life

(678) 383-9219 x56835

Credit Union Board of Directors

Chair - Tony Tucker, Mitchell EMC

Vice Chair - Tim Williams, GreyStone Power

Secretary - Matt Brinson, Planters EMC

Chief Financial Officer - Richard West,
Georgia EMC

Joe Simpson, Excelsior EMC, Retired

Julianna McConnell, The Preston Group

Ray Miller, SEDC, Retired

Build a Better Tomorrow

...continued from page 2

would have a dramatic impact on local, state and national elections. The credit union voice would be heard loud and clear. Make your vote matter – please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 2nd!

For information on candidates, issues and important dates, please visit www.gcuu.org/electionwatch10.

President's Letter

...continued from page 2

and provides many products and services that are found in most large, stockholder-owned commercial banks. What sets us apart from the big bank branch down the street? I'm proud to say it is our staff and volunteer Board of Directors. We will do everything in our power to make your banking experience at GEMC FCU the best it can be. We are committed to providing the best fit for our members, not just what creates the most stockholder return.

We believe our newest product, Mobile Money, is a great addition to our long list of value-added products and services. Members with cell phones and SMS text or mobile web access now have their Credit Union accounts in the palms of their hands.

As the holidays roll around, turn to your Credit Union for products to help you save for and pay for your holiday expenses. Take the opportunity to start your Christmas Club account now by setting aside a small amount each pay period. Your account will grow into a tidy sum just in time for the 2011 holiday season. To have a secret stash of cash for gifts or spending gives a great relief to a tight budget.

Finally, we'd like to remind you to *please* cast your vote on Tuesday, November 2. As an industry, credit unions have been directly affected by recent financial reform legislation, even though credit unions were not a part of the financial crisis. This link, www.gcuu.org/electionwatch10, will take you to a resource site containing information about candidates and voter resources. Click on the Candidate icon and learn more about vacant offices and candidate bids in your voting area. Click the Voter Information tab to find your voting center.

Once again, thank you to all our new and not-so-new members who have taken the time to read this latest edition of *Notes of Interest*. We hope that you have found the articles informative and useful. Let's talk again next quarter!

Denise Swan

President, GEMC FCU

