

A publication of United Maryland Employees Federal Credit Union

Find Your Name and Win \$100!

Each quarter, we insert three members' names somewhere in the newsletter. If you find your name, call us and we'll deposit \$100 in your account!



Holidays

The credit union will be closed for the following holidays:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 18
Presidents Day
Monday, February 15



You Had the Rest, Now Try the Best

You had all those other credit cards. Here are a few reasons why our Visa credit card is better than they were:

- Our Visa Gold credit card rate WILL NOT EXCEED 9.99% APR* for purchases
- Our Visa Classic credit card rate WILL NOT EXCEED 12.99% APR* for purchases
- WE WILL NOT change the rate we charge you even if your payments are not made on the due date.
- WE WILL NOT charge you an annual fee to use our card.
- WE WILL NOT charge you to transfer a balance to our card.
- WE WILL give you a 25-day interest-free grace period to pay your account in full.

Looking for ways to cut your expenses? If you're still carrying a card with an interest rate of 10% or more, transferring your current balance to our lowest rate—**9.99% APR**—is one way to do it. Just go to www.umefcu.org and click on "Apply for a Loan." Where you're asked to select a purpose for the loan, select "Visa Credit Card." In the comments section of the online loan application, be sure to include the name of the credit card balance you want to transfer and the amount of each card you want

to transfer. We'll let you know via mail whether your balance transfer has been approved.

*APR = annual percentage rate



The Incredible Shrinking 401(k)

Enjoy the Advantages of an IRA

Has your 401(k) balance been dropping lower and lower over the last couple of years? That wouldn't happen to a UMEFCU IRA account!

You're never at risk of losing any of your principal in a UMEFCU IRA. So you can rest easy, knowing it will be there when you need it no matter what happens in the stock market. Plus, you can use payroll deduction Joseph G. Hartlove, Jr. to ensure that you make regular deposits to it. Your deduction can be as little as \$5 per payday.

Of course, the more you put into your IRA, the more you'll be able to take out of it when you retire. If, for instance, you contributed \$20 a week for the next 20 years—or \$1,000 a year—your IRA would be worth \$23,470 at the end of that period. That's a nice chunk of change, as they say.

We offer both Roth and traditional IRAs. Each kind has its respective advantages. In either case, expect to save money on your taxes.

Like all our savings accounts, our IRA accounts are federally insured. Balances up to \$250,000 enjoy the full protection of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

To learn more, call 410-998-2323 or stop by and speak with a member service representative.

*This assumes a 1.5% annual percentage rate.



Need to Skip a Payment?

If it will help take the pressure off making your payments in January and February of this year, we encourage our members to apply for a Skip-A-Pay request. Simply fill out the form shown here and submit. You will be notified if your request has been approved.

There will be a \$10.00 charge for each loan you skip a payment on. Interest will continue to accrue. Your accounts must be in good standing and you must not have had a late payment in the last 6 months. This offer does not apply to Pot O' Gold loans, Home Equity Loans, VISA credit cards and lines of credit.

Skip-A-Pay Authorization Form

(Must have a Skip-A-Pay Authorization Form for each loan.)

Take the \$_____ fee from my:

Share Savings Account

Acct. #: _____

Checking Account

Acct. #: _____

Member Name: _____

Loan Payment Due Date: _____

Loan Account #: _____

Loan Amount \$: _____ Monthly Biweekly Weekly

Co-Signer Name: _____

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Co-Signer Signature, if necessary: _____ Date: _____

(The fee will be deducted from the United Maryland Employees FCU account designated above.)

By signing above, you authorize United Maryland Employees Federal Credit Union to extend your final loan payment by one month. Interest will continue to accrue on your loan during the period of time you skip your payment. If you make weekly payments, you may skip four (4) payments. If you make bi-weekly payments, you may skip two (2) payments. All loans must be current to qualify. Skip A Pay requests must be received prior to February 28, 2010.

Credit Union Privacy Notice

Our credit union is committed to providing you with financial products and services to meet your needs and help you reach your financial goals. The Credit Union is also committed to protecting your personal information.

We are required by law to give you this privacy notice. If after reading this notice you have any questions, please contact us by telephone. What follows is a description of the information we collect and disclose, including the parties who receive nonpublic information from us as we conduct the business of the Credit Union.

Information We Collect About You

We collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications and other forms;
- Information about your transactions with us or others;
- Information we receive from a credit reporting agency;
- Information obtained when verifying the information you provide on an application or other forms. This may be obtained from your current or past employers, or from other institutions where you conduct financial transactions.

We may disclose all of the information we collect, as described above.

Parties Who Receive Information from Us

We may disclose nonpublic personal information about you to the following types of third parties:

- Financial companies, such as insurance companies and mortgage service companies; and
- Non-financial companies, such as consumer reporting agencies.

Disclosure of Information to Parties That Provide Services to Us

We are committed to providing you with competitive products and services to meet your financial needs. We may disclose all of the information we collect, as described above, to the companies that perform services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with whom we have joint marketing agreements. We never sell information to outside parties. The information we provide to outside parties is used only for Credit Union business. We only work with companies who agree to maintain strong confidentiality protections and limit the use of information we provide. As a result of these

arrangements, we may disclose all of the information we collect, as described above. We may also disclose information about you under other circumstances as permitted or required by law. These disclosures typically include information to process transactions on your behalf, conduct the operations of our credit union, follow your instructions as you authorize or protect the security of our financial records.

Disclosure of Information About Former Members

If you decide to terminate your membership with the Credit Union, we will not share information we have collected about you, except as may be permitted or required by law.

How We Protect Your Information

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations Pamela Monger to guard your nonpublic personal information.

What Members Can Do to Help

Our credit union is committed to protecting the privacy of its members. Members can help by following these simple guidelines:

- Protect your account numbers, card numbers, PINs (personal identification numbers) and passwords. Having your PIN with your debit or credit card will provide free access to your accounts to others if your card is lost or stolen.
- Use caution when disclosing your account numbers, social security numbers, etc. to other persons. If someone calls you, explains the call is on behalf of the Credit Union and asks for your account number, you should beware. Official Credit Union staff will have access to your information and will not need to ask for it.
- Keep your information with us current. It is important that we have current information on how to reach you. If we detect potentially fraudulent or unauthorized activity or use of an account, we will attempt to contact you immediately. If your address or phone number changes, please let us know.

Let us know if you have questions. Please do not hesitate to call us—we are here to serve you!



Calculating credit scores

Credit scores are arrived at in various ways. Depending on the formula being used, different weight will be given to different aspects of your credit history. On the right is a pie chart illustrating the factors generally considered, along with percentages reflecting the relative importance each would be given in calculating the most widely used credit score, the FICO score. (See "Credit scores: What they are and why they matter" for other types.)

It is illegal to consider anyone's race, religion, national origin, sex or marital status when calculating a credit score. Here are some other factors that would generally not affect your score:

- Your age
- Where you live
- Interest rates you're currently paying
- Child/family support obligations
- Rental agreements
- Requests for your credit report by you or others
- Credit counseling



A new score to think about: your ID score

There's now an easy way to calculate the chances your identity has been used by someone else for criminal purposes. A company called ID Analytics has come up with an online test that generates a number between 1 and 999—your ID score—that represents the probability that your personal information is being used fraudulently. The test is free and can be found at www.myidscore.com.

The ID score isn't meant to replace tools like credit monitoring, fraud alerts and credit freezes. Rather, it's intended to complement them.

TIPS from the Identity Theft Resource Center

- ▶ Check your credit reports from all three credit reporting agencies once a year. (Instead of contacting them individually, go to annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228.)
- ▶ Don't put your Social Security number or driver's license number on your checks.
- ▶ Never give your Social Security number to anyone unless they have a good reason for needing it.
- ▶ Carefully destroy papers you throw out that have sensitive or identifying information. A crosscut paper shredder works best.



Credit Scores—What they are and why they matter

What difference could three little numbers make in your life? A big one. The three digits that make up your credit score could save you a lot of money—or cost you a lot of money. They could mean the difference between a high interest rate and a low one—or the difference between getting credit and being denied it. They could also be the deciding factor when a prospective employer is considering hiring you.

A credit score represents your creditworthiness. At any given time, your credit score may vary, depending on whose data and whose formula Jessica Singer are being used to determine the score.

There are different types of scores, and they all involve the use of different formulas. Scores have been developed by the nationwide agencies that gather information about your bill paying history and issue credit reports and by other types of businesses, including individual lenders. Some of the most popular scores are Experian's PLUS score, TransUnion's Emperica score, CreditXpert's Credit score and Fair Isaac's FICO scores, which are based solely on credit bureau data.

Some companies provide consumers with scores that merely indicate a consumer's general level of credit risk. Those scores are actually estimated scores that few lenders will rely on.