



H.P.C. CREDIT UNION Spring Newsletter

1st Quarter

Spring 2006

Avoid Becoming A Victim

ID theft occurs when a criminal uses your account or personal information (your birth date, address, driver's license, or Social Security number) and uses it to secure loans, credit cards, checks, merchandise, etc. Good news - you can dramatically reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft by following these relatively simple steps:

- ✓ Protect your Social Security number. Don't carry it with you and only give it out if absolutely necessary. Don't have your driver's license or Social Security number printed on your checks.
- ✓ Do not have your Social Security number on your driver's license.
- ✓ Shred all credit card offers. Also, remove and shred the address portion of your junk mail. Always shred "old" credit card and ATM receipts, checks, deposit slips, insurance papers, pay stubs, tax records, etc. Most identity thieves find the information they need to perpetrate crimes by going through people's trash.
- ✓ Make photocopies and keep a record of all your credit and ID cards (names, account numbers, and customer service numbers). Keep the information in a secure place. By doing this, you will have the information necessary to cancel your cards in case any of your cards become lost or stolen.
- ✓ Do not leave paid bills in your mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up — mail them at your local post office.
- ✓ Memorize your password and PIN numbers. Don't carry them with you.
- ✓ Never allow sales clerks to write your credit card numbers on your checks for additional information.
- ✓ Call your credit card company if your card has expired and you have not received a new one.
- ✓ Do not buy anything over the telephone or Internet unless you initiated the call or transaction.
- ✓ Never give your personal information, credit card, or Social Security number over the telephone to someone claiming that you have won a prize.
- ✓ Check your credit report at least once a year — examine it thoroughly. Credit reporting bureaus are the ones selling your name to the credit card companies that flood your mailbox with offers. The national credit bureaus offer a toll-free number that enables consumers to opt-out of all pre-approved credit offers with just one phone call. Call 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) for more information.

Online Crooks: Don't Get "PHISHED"

If you receive such an e-mail, DON'T REPLY and notify your Credit Union immediately.

One form of "PHISHING" occurs when online crooks steal the Credit Union's logo and/or copy its corporate image to send phony e-mails asking you to "verify" your account information. If you take the bait by replying with your private financial information, the "phishers" use it to steal funds from your account. Remember, your Credit Union will NEVER ask you to "verify" account details by e-mail. We already have this information!

Four Ways To Fight Higher Gas Prices

If prices at the pump are pinching your pocketbook, here are four ways to fight back:

1. **Combine trips.** Several short trips from a cold start use twice as much gas as a multi-purpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
2. **Travel light.** Use a roof rack only when necessary. The drag it creates can reduce fuel efficiency by 5 percent. Don't drive around with unnecessary items in the trunk either. An extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce a typical car's fuel economy by 1 to 2 percent.
3. **Avoid excessive speed and save.** As a rule of thumb, figure for each 5 mph over 60 mph that you are paying 7 percent more for gas.
4. **Take it easy.** Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration, braking) can lower your gas mileage as much as 33 percent at highway speeds and 5 percent in the city.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MANAGER

YOUR H.P.C. CREDIT UNION'S ANNUAL MEETING was held March 18th, 2006 at the Alpena High School Auditorium. There were 398 members in attendance who enjoyed the entertainment provided by Chuck King, comedian and masters certified hypnotist. We congratulate Bob Lakin and Bill Garant on re-election to the Board of Directors. We look forward to another 3 years of working with these gentlemen.

A BIG THANK YOU to all members who participated in the 50/50 raffle at the 57th Annual Meeting. Monies from the 50/50 are being sent to the Michigan Credit Union League Legislative Action Fund (MCUL-LAF). Congratulations to Shirley Rousseau on winning the 50/50.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EMPLOYEE PEGGY SZATKOWSKI on her decision to retire. Peggy has been an employee of our Credit Union for 29 years and as much as everyone is happy for her to be starting a well-earned retirement, there is no doubt, that we will be very sad to see her go. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Committee Members, Employee and Members of H.P.C. Credit Union, we wish her the best of health and happiness during her retirement.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS is pleased to announce EZ-pay - a new bill payment service which the Credit Union will be offering. This service will allow you to pay any bill you could possibly have right from the privacy of your own home with the help of your personal computer. You do need a draft (checking) account with the credit union for the funds to be withdrawn from. This new service will be offered free of charge for the first year to the first 125 members who sign up. So contact a member service representative for more information!

PLANNING A HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT? Stop by the Credit Union for information on a Home Equity Loan at a great introductory rate of 4.9%.

REMEMBER YOUR 2005 IRA DEADLINE is Monday, April 17th.

MEMBERS WITH MORTGAGE BALANCES - All 2005 taxes are now considered delinquent. Please bring in a copy of your paid property tax receipt so we may update your mortgage file. If we do not receive a copy of your paid tax receipt by May 1st, 2006, we will order a copy and a fee of \$20 will be charged to your account.

A REMINDER TO MEMBERS - your H.P.C. Credit Union will be closing both offices at 1:00 p.m. on Good Friday, April 14th and will be closed Saturday April 15th for the Easter Holiday.

Have a Very Happy Easter!

Cindy M. Krentz, Manager

Did You Know?

Credit card fact - in 2004, credit card companies collected more than \$14.8 billion in late fees.

Did you know that your H.P.C. Credit Union does not charge late fees?

KEEP US POSTED! If you plan on moving or have recently moved, please remember to notify the credit union by mail of your new address and phone number.



Main Office: 1234 W. Chisholm Street • Alpena, MI 49707 • (989) 354-4698 • FAX (989) 356-6912
Branch: 2336 U.S.23 South • Alpena, MI 49707 • Toll Free # 1-888-554-5944

(located in the Alpena Mall)

Visit us at www.hpccu.com



Rebuild Your Nest With Help From H.P.C. Credit Union

Spring is in the air and all creatures large and small are busy rebuilding their nests. If you're thinking of tackling your home improvement projects, be prepared for sticker shock. Higher energy costs and last fall's natural disasters have driven up prices on some building materials such as concrete and gypsum wallboard. On the other hand, large numbers of downed trees have kept lumber and plywood prices in check.

Despite rising costs, making home improvements remains a good investment. Replacing leaky windows and doors can save hundreds of dollars in energy costs. Updating a kitchen or bath not only makes your home more comfortable and livable, you may recoup more than 90 percent of the cost when you sell your home, according to the annual Cost VS. Value Report from Remodeling Magazine. However, you will recoup less of the cost of some other improvements such as a basement remodel (76 percent) or adding a sunroom (71 percent).

Whether your remodel is large or small, a home improvement loan from H.P.C. Credit Union is an ideal way to finance your project. We offer a variety of loan programs, all with great rates and terms, and the interest may be tax deductible. See your tax advisor for details. We'll work with you to find the right financing package to suit your needs. So stop by the credit union today and let us help.



Loans That Float Your Boat

Is this the summer you'll spend on the water? Dreaming of a ski boat or skiff, bass boat, or buccaneer? Not sure exactly what you're looking for? Start by doing your homework. Visit with boat owners. You'll find them at boat shows, in clubs, and on message boards

and in chat rooms on the Web. Find out what they like and dislike about the boats they own or want to own. Pick up boating magazines such as Boat Trader (or visit its Web site at www.boattraderonline.com) to get a feel for the wide range of sizes and prices that are available. Once you narrow the field, take the types of boats you are interested in on a test ride.

Whatever boat you decide on, be sure you make H.P.C. Credit Union your first port of call. Whatever your taste in watercraft, we have a boat loan that won't sink your budget. Stop by or call today.

Clip and Return

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DRAWING

Cash Prizes
1st Place \$200
2nd Place \$100

Drawing Will Be Held April 28, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

Member Name _____

Account Number _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

One Entry Per Account
Congratulations Last Quarter Winners
 1st Place - Daniel Standen
 2nd Place - Norbert Roznowski

MODEL PRINTING SERVICE, INC.

H.P.C. CREDIT UNION HOURS:

Main Office (Chisholm Street)

Drive-Thru: Monday thru Friday opens at **8:30 a.m.** - 5:30 p.m.

Lobby: Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: **DRIVE-THRU ONLY** - 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Branch (located in the Alpena Mall)

Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Closed Saturday

In The Market For A Motorcycle?

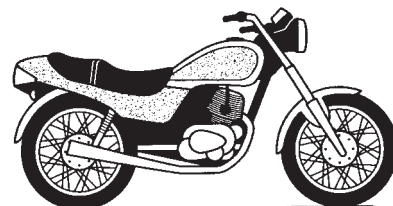
Looking for a way to cut your cost of commuting? Or dreaming of taking to the open road on a sunny Saturday? According to the Motorcycle Information Council, a wider range of Americans are becoming- motorcyclists. But before you hop on and rev up the engine, here are three things you need to do:

1. Take a "basic rider" or "basic street survivor" course. To find one, ask at the dealer or call the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 800-446-9227 or visit www.msfsa.org.

2. Do your homework. Check out the annual buying guide issues of motorcycle magazines. Start with the type of motorcycle that attracted you to the idea in the first place; compare the advantages and disadvantages of different makes and models. Keep in mind how you intend to use it.

3. Establish your budget.

You may want to start with a less expensive bike in case you change your mind. Don't forget to account for safety equipment and riding apparel. Then see H.P.C. Credit Union about a loan. Just as pre-approved financing puts you in the driver's seat when shopping for a car, you'll be in a much better bargaining position with your credit union loan.



MOTORCYCLE LOANS
 AVAILABLE AT
H.P.C. CREDIT UNION



IRAs: A Great Savings Option

An Individual Retirement Account (IRA) remains one of the best ways to save for Your future:

Roth IRA - There is no tax deduction when opened, but interest accumulates tax-free. And, when you begin to withdraw from the account at retirement, it is tax-free. Early withdrawals are permitted for special circumstances (first-time home purchase or if you become disabled).

The annual 2005 contribution for a Roth IRA is \$4,000 and for those age 50 or older, an additional contribution of \$500 (\$4,500).

Traditional IRA - A possible tax deduction for tax year 2005, and the interest is tax-deferred until you begin to withdraw from the account at retirement. See your tax advisor for details.

The annual 2005 contribution for a Traditional IRA is \$4,000 and for those age 50 or older, an additional contribution of \$500 (\$4,500).

There are additional details you should know before opening any type of IRA. Stop by your credit union and talk to one of our specialists to determine which type of IRA is best for you. Remember, you still have time to start your 2005 IRA, or you can start your 2006 IRA. Let your H.P.C. Credit Union help you start yours today.

Remember Your 2005 IRA Deadline!
 Monday, 17 April 2006