



H.P.C. CREDIT UNION

Winter Newsletter

4th Quarter

Winter 2006

Thanks For Using Your H.P.C. Credit Union

We're always saying how the Credit Union is your best and most cost-effective financial solution to all your financial needs - whether they are checking, savings, credit cards, or other types of loans. Still, with all the "noise" out there in the financial marketplace, it's easy to get distracted by for-profit banks and other financial institutions making introductory offers only to slam-dunk you down the road with high interest rates and/or service charges.

As 2006 draws to a close, H.P.C. Credit Union would just like to thank you for keeping your eye on the financial ball and recognizing that your Credit Union is still your best overall deal when it comes to financial services. Believe us - we don't take that loyalty for granted. We work hard to offer you the best financial products and services at the lowest possible cost. And, we will continue to work hard in 2007 and beyond to retain your loyalty. Thanks for giving H.P.C. Credit Union the opportunity to be your financial institution of choice these past 12 months.



Don't Get Phished, Pharmed, Or Vished

The identity thieves are at it again, and they are getting more and more devious in their attempts to lure you into their nets. Once they have your personal information, they can wreak havoc on your financial life, costing you hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

First, there was phishing and pharming to obtain your personal and financial information via e-mail. Phishing is where you reply directly to the e-mail. Pharming is a more elaborate scheme where the perpetrators lure you (via e-mail) to a Web site that resembles the real thing. However, it's an elaborate "mirror site" where all your information (passwords, account numbers) go directly into the thieves' hands for their immediate misuse.

With the public getting wise to Internet scams, thieves are turning to a new ploy, vishing, that combines old and new technology. The old technology is the telephone, which thieves believe their victims are more familiar with and relaxed about. The new technology is Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), a type of phone service, which allows thieves to blanket an area with fake phone calls and then harvest information once the victim responds to the phone call. Since the phone calls (both outgoing and incoming) hitch a "free ride" on the thieves' Internet service, the phone calls cost them virtually nothing.

It usually works like this: The victim receives a phone call with a recorded message saying their credit card has been compromised and to call a certain phone number immediately. Once they call that number, another recorded voice asks them to enter their 16 digit account number. Easily obtainable software converts the phone keystrokes into a numeric display. We'll leave the rest to your imagination.

The solutions are easy. With phishing and pharming, go directly to your financial institution's Web site. Log in and see if there are any messages concerning your account. Do not reply directly to e-mails, and do not click on links supplied in the e-mails. If you get a phone call with a recorded message, do not call the number given. Instead, call your financial institution's number (usually printed on the back of the credit card) to ask if there is a problem with your account.

Your Credit Union wants you to play it safe with your personal and account information. Don't become a victim of identity theft. It can cost you big and take months to make right again.

For January ONLY - H.P.C. Credit Union will be offering a "Free Credit Report" consultation. Make an appointment with a CU Specialist and find what your Credit Score is and how to improve it. Call 354-4698 today for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MANAGER

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS - Your H.P.C. Credit Union's Annual Meeting will be held at the K of C Hall in Alpena. This year's Annual Meeting will be the Meeting - Dinner/Dance - and Prizes. Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 17th, 2007.

AS OF APRIL 1, 2006 THE NCUSIF Deposit Insurance limit for individual retirement accounts (IRA's) and Keogh accounts at the Credit Union was increased to \$250,000. This coverage is separate from the insurance on other share and deposit accounts which will remain at \$100,000.

Also, beginning in 2007, taxpayers can directly deposit tax refunds to IRAs. The IRS has announced that beginning in January 2007, taxpayers will be able to arrange direct deposits of tax refunds to their IRAs.

IMPORTANT DEBIT CARD PROCESSING CHANGES - In the past, debit card activity and transactions would not immediately hit your account. As of December 4th, the dollar amount of any debit card transaction will be "held as secured funds" in your account until the transaction hits and is withdrawn. The money is no longer available for your use. If any share drafts or electronic items hit your account during this time, your account will be considered overdrawn and electronic items could be returned.

ATTENTION ALL H.P.C. VISA CARD HOLDERS - Effective February 1st, 2007, there will be a \$15.00 late payment fee charged for VISA payments received 15 days after payment due date.

Reminder - you may make your H.P.C. VISA payment through CU@Home, CU*Talk, and at any H.P.C. Credit Union location. Payments received this way will be credited to your H.P.C. VISA account the following day.

FOR THOSE MEMBERS WITH MORTGAGE LOANS - Please be sure the Credit Union has a copy of your paid property tax receipts for 2005 including Summer and School Taxes. On January 16th, 2007 the Credit Union will be ordering tax receipts for those accounts that have not provided this information to the Credit Union. A fee of \$20 will be assessed to obtain this information.

FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HEAD OFF TO WARMER CLIMATES for the long winter months, please be sure to change your address with the Credit Union so you may continue to receive credit union correspondence in a timely manner. Remember, the post office WILL NOT forward your monthly or quarterly statements - you must change your address with the Credit Union, or be charged a return mail fee.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEE Nancy Denomme. We look forward to working with her and feel she is a wonderful addition to our credit union team.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU! As 2006 draws to a close, we at H.P.C. Credit Union would like to thank each and every member for using the many products and services offered by the Credit Union. We would also like to thank our volunteers for their hours of service and our fantastic employees who are equally deserving of our appreciation.

Thank you members for a wonderful 2006 and we hope the New Year brings each and every one of you good health and prosperity.

Wishing you and the world "Peace" this holiday season.

Cindy M. Krentz, Manager

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(located in the Alpena Mall)

Visit us at www.hpccu.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ring In The New Year With New Wheels

If you're looking to ring in the new year behind the wheel of a new vehicle, get a pre-approved loan from the H.P.C. Credit Union before you go shopping. You'll be in a much better negotiating position. Wintertime is a great time to buy a car because often vehicle sales are slow, and the dealers are willing to talk. Having your financing all set means you are in the same position as buyers with cash in their pocket: The catbird seat. Plus, if you choose to purchase credit disability insurance, you'll almost always pay less for these at the Credit Union than at the dealer. And remember, Loan Protection (Life) Insurance is provided absolutely free on ALL Installment Loans for qualified borrowers up to \$20,000. Whether you're in the market for a new car or one that's just new to you, call on your Credit Union first. It's just one less thing for you to worry about during your car buying experience.

Look to the for your next

Vehicle Loan!



Get Started Now

With the holidays right around the corner, more and more people are finding that gift giving is throwing a monkey wrench into their budgets. We have the answer - a holiday savings account at your Credit Union. With a holiday savings account, you set a budget for gift giving and then set aside an equal portion of the budget every month (or every paycheck) to go into your holiday savings account. As the 2007 holidays draw near, you will be able to go shopping without hurting your budget for holiday gifts.

Start shopping guilt and pain free in 2007 by opening a holiday savings account today. Call or stop by your H.P.C. Credit Union.

Your Credit Union: Family Edition

Here's a perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for brother or the grandchild with the overflowing toy box - membership in the Credit Union. As a member of the Credit Union, you're eligible to share the benefits of belonging with your immediate family. So instead of a tie that will gather dust in the back of the closet, or a toy that's forgotten in a few days, your gift can provide lifelong access to lower rates on loans, higher rates on savings, and friendly service. It truly is the gift that keeps on giving because as a financial cooperative, H.P.C. Credit Union returns its profits to its members. Call or stop by the Credit Union to find out how easy it is to help your family members experience the credit union difference.

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

H.P.C. Credit Union's Mission is to serve and promote members' personal financial success and to continue the Credit Union's Philosophy of "People Helping People."

Top Five Most Common Tax Mistakes

1. Simple math errors. Always recheck your math calculations (addition, multiplication, and subtraction).
2. Entering incorrect Social Security numbers. Double-check all the SSNs on your return. All must be correct in order to process the return.
3. Every dependent claimed on your return - even a new baby - must have a Social Security number.
4. Don't forget to include interest income, dividends, and capital gains. All financial institutions report these amounts to IRS.
5. Last but not least - don't forget to sign your return.

Avoid Instant Tax Refunds

Your Credit Union wants you to be aware of the growing trend by large income tax preparing firms to offer you "instant" money for your state and federal income tax refunds. They offer to cut you a check "on the spot" in exchange for authorizing the state and federal government to route your refund directly into their bank account.

The only "catch" is that this service usually comes with a hefty service charge, sometimes as much as 10 to 20 percent of the refund. It may not sound like much, but this fee is outrageously high when you convert it to an annual percent rate (APR). Think about it: A 10% "service charge" of \$100 on a \$1,000 tax refund in exchange for forgoing a one-month wait for your money works out to an APR of 133%. And what's worse, they are loaning you your own money!

With today's electronic filing of federal and most state income taxes, the wait time for your refund has been dramatically reduced (in some cases, you may get your refund check in a week to 10 days). Is it really worth it to pay an exorbitant service charge so you can get your money instantly? Your Credit Union doesn't think so. Sit tight for a couple of weeks and use that extra money to your benefit.

Get Your H.P.C. Credit Union Check Card Today (Debit Card)

Want to make your purchases faster and easier? Apply today for a check card from your Credit Union. A check card looks just like a MasterCard and is accepted wherever credit cards are accepted. Only with a check card, your purchases are automatically deducted from your checking account. It's like writing a check, only without the writing and without having to present identification. You don't even have to remember a Personal Identification Number (PIN) if you don't want to. Just push the "credit button" and sign your name to the receipt (oftentimes not even necessary on purchases less than \$25), and you're good to go. But, having and remembering a PIN will add greater functionality to your check card, such as getting cash back with your purchases and withdrawing cash from an automated teller machine. Just remember to deduct the amount of your purchase or cash withdrawal from your checkbook register.

With all its timesaving benefits, a Credit Union check card is a must-have for any busy person on the go. Get yours today by calling or stopping by your H.P.C. Credit Union.

Spring Forward Early This Year

Beginning in 2007, Daylight Saving Time is extended one month - it starts at 2 a.m. on the second

Sunday in March and ends at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November. The new times were set in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Daylight Saving Time
Begins Sunday, March 11, 2007

Clip and Return

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DRAWING

2 LUCKY COUPLES
Elk Viewing Sleigh Ride and Gourmet Dinner at Thunder Bay Golf Resort

Drawing Will Be Held Jan. 26, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Member Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

One Entry Per Account

Congratulations Last Quarter Winners

1st Place - JoAnn Szymanski

2nd Place - Charles Marusak