

Member Matters

A Publication
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Advantage

April 2003

Message From The CEO - Janice Zuchowicz

Surviving The Flood

On February 18, 2003, a sprinkler in the Loan Department burst and we arrived to find water everywhere! So, we rolled up our sleeves and got down to work.

Thanks to Deborah Lemke, Property Coordinator for Providence Medical Building, and the assistance of other Providence Hospital associates, we were able to reopen Wednesday, February 20, 2003.

We still need to repair the damage done by the water to the office. We hope this process will not interfere with providing service to our members. We appreciate your patience during our recovery and repairs.

Any Service Center charges for February 18 and February 19, 2003, have been reimbursed to your account. Once again, thank you for your patience during the flood situation and repairs.

College Savings Plan - Time Goes By In A Flash!

Don't wait for your child to enter high school...begin saving today, and put your money to work over time.

Even if you don't have a lot of money to invest right away, 529 plans are a great way to get started. A 529 plan is a national savings program with federal tax-free withdrawals if used for qualified education costs at eligible schools. Anyone can contribute, regardless of income, and it is transferable among family members.

529 plans provide many benefits including:

- Tax-deferred earnings growth potential
- Federal tax-free distributions for qualified expenses
- Enhanced gift and estate tax benefits
- Generous contribution amounts
- Investment/plan flexibility
- Plan control and flexibility
- Can be used at many eligible national colleges

I can help you achieve what is important to you. Contact me for a free consultation on college savings options. My office is located inside of Credit Union Advantage. My phone number is 248-354-1300, ext. 326.

Maryann Foster, doing business as America Group Financial Services, offers securities through VeraVest Investments, Inc. a registered broker/dealer, member NASD/SIPC. Financial Advisor is located inside of Credit Union Advantage which is neither a subsidiary of nor controlled by VeraVest Investments, Inc. Products and services 1) are not Credit Union guaranteed, 2) are not NCUA insured, 3) may lose value. OSJ: 29100 Northwestern Highway Ste 405 Southfield, MI 48034, 248-354-1300. 02-0499W



Maryann Foster



New & Improved Web Site & Home Banking www.cuadvantage.coop

Our web site is just one of the many ways we can help you save time and money. You can obtain information about our convenient products and services, submit loan applications, calculate loan payments and much more.



Online banking through NetBranch can provide you with access to your CU Advantage accounts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Plus, it's FREE!

If you have access to the Internet and your PAT (personalized audio teller) PIN, you can sign onto NetBranch. When you enter NetBranch you have your credit union account at your fingertips. It's one of the safest ways to conduct routine transactions, make account inquiries, and more.

Request NetBranch today! All you need is your account number and your PAT PIN, and you can sign onto this FREE service through our web site at www.cuadvantage.coop. Click on the "Home Banking" button and you're ready to start. If you do not already have a PIN, simply click on the "Learn More About NetBranch & How To Enroll" copy at the bottom of the screen.

E-Mail Statements Fast, Convenient & Secure

If you prefer to receive your credit union statement via e-mail instead of by mail, you can request this great service. E-mail statements are available. **Sign-up forms are available at the credit union.** Requests must be received at least 7 business days prior to a statement closing date (end of month).

If you have already requested your e-mail statements, you will no longer receive a printed statement in the mail. However, if you decide you would like to receive a printed statement again, you can request it at any time. Notification must be received at least 7 business days prior to a statement closing date.

New Auto Loans

If you're planning to purchase a new or used vehicle, there is a wide range of special offers available from dealers and manufacturers that change from week-to-week. Before you choose an offer that seems to good to be true, consider this information first.

- Generally, consumers must forfeit the factory rebate on their new vehicle in lieu of the 0% financing deal.
- 0% financing is often applicable only to certain makes and models, leaving the consumer with little to choose from. Financing your auto through Credit Union Advantage keeps your options open.
- Many 0% offers are restricted to shorter loan terms, resulting in higher monthly payments. Financing your auto through CU Advantage offers terms up to 64 months for qualified borrowers.
- Consumers with less-than-exemplary credit usually will not qualify for 0% financing. According to a Consumer Task Force for Automotive issues survey, fewer than 10% of those who want to take advantage of this offer actually get 0% loan rates. CU Advantage has financing options for a wide range of borrowers.

When you need a loan, go to the one you know and trust...your credit union.

It's easy to apply:

- Visit our new web site at www.cuadvantage.coop and apply online.
- Call 248-849-3110, or stop by our office.

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are subject to change.



Teen Advantage & Penny Savers Clubs Services For Youth



Penny Savers Club

If you have a child age 12 and under, now is the time to open a Penny Savers Club account for them. This is a great way for your child to learn about financial responsibility and have fun at the same time.

- Special gift when opening a new account
- Earn dividends and no maintenance fees
- Coloring contests and savings promotions
- Newsletters filled with stories, games and puzzles
- Birthday cards
- Periodic statements detailing account activity
- And more

All Penny Savers Club members have the chance to win a "Snack Pack." The Snack Pack is filled with: candy, cookies, snack cakes, chips and more. Open a new Penny Savers Club account with a \$5.00 deposit or make a deposit of \$5.00 or more into an existing account, and receive an entry into our drawing. Contest ends June 30, 2003

Teen Advantage Club

If you have a teen age 13-17, now is a great time to open a Teen Advantage Club account. Services are based on age and include:

- Savings, IRAs and Certificates
- Savings Promotions
- Checking Account & Debit MasterCard / ATM Card
- Christmas & Vacation Club Accounts
- PAT - Personal Audio Teller
- Home Banking
- VISA Credit Card
- And more



All Teen Advantage Club members have the chance to win a DVD Player. Open a new Teen Advantage Club account with a \$25.00 deposit or make a deposit of \$25.00 or more into an existing account, and receive an entry into a drawing for a DVD Player. Contest ends June 30, 2003

Start your child or teen on the road to a secure financial future. Open an account today!

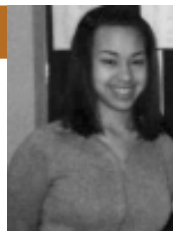
News Briefs

Teen Advantage Club Savings Winner

Congratulations to Ashley Blakely! Ashley won two tickets to the Detroit Lions football game back in December, during the Teen Advantage Savings contest. We hope you enjoyed the game.

New 24/7 Lending Application Line 1-866-691-6226

Enjoy the convenience of applying for your CU Advantage Loan toll-free through our 24-Hour Loan Center. You'll talk directly to a loan representative who will walk you through the request and advise you of your options. You'll receive fast processing and instant approval. This service is available for all loans except mortgages. It's fast and easy. Call today!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CREDIT INSURANCE

Dear Member:

When you borrowed from your credit union, you may have chosen to protect your loan(s) with credit insurance. If so, please read this important notice. Effective May 1, 2003 the cost for disability coverage will increase. YOUR MONTHLY PAYMENT WILL NOT GO UP because of these changes in your insurance. Instead the small additional cost will be added to your loan amount, so it may extend your payment period or make the final payment slightly larger. To keep your loan(s) protected by credit insurance, simply continue making your regular loan payment. If you decide you no longer want the insurance, send us a written request to discontinue your coverage. Thank you for doing business at your credit union. We look forward to serving you in the future.

Upcoming Seminars

Courtesy of CU Advantage & America Group

All seminars will be held at the credit union.

Topic: Elder Care Planning

April 16, 2003
12 Noon

Topic: Mutual Funds/American Funds

May 14, 2003
12 Noon

Topic: Income For Life

June 17, 2003
12 Noon

Topic: Smart Women Finish Rich

July 16, 2003
12 Noon

Topic: Section 529

August 13, 2003
12 Noon

Topic: Estate Planning

September 10, 2003
12 Noon

Topic: Elder Care/LTC Seminar

October 15, 2003
12 Noon

Topic: Income For Life

November 12, 2003
12 Noon

Holiday Closings

Good Friday

April 18, 2003 - Closing at 12 Noon

Memorial Day

Monday, May 26, 2003

Independence Day

Friday, July 4, 2003

Labor Day

Monday, September 1, 2003

Box Scores

Assets: \$17 Million

Members: 4,000



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