



OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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VERMILLION FEDERAL CREDIT UNION HOURS:

LOBBY HOURS: Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday, 9 am to 12 noon

DRIVE UP HOURS: Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 5 pm
Friday, 8 am to 5:30 pm
Saturday, 9 am to 12 noon

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION WEEK * Credit Unions BUILD A Better WORLD *

Each year the third week of October is designated as International Credit Union Week. Credit Unions are member-owned not-for-profit financial institutions served by a volunteer Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee. The Credit Union philosophy remains "not for profit, not for charity, but for service". We will celebrate International Credit Union Day on Friday - October 21st, with lunch from 11:00 until 1:00. Sanford Vermillion will be hosting a flu shot clinic. Everyone who attends will get lunch along with a souvenir and you can register for prizes.

In conjunction with ICU Day and the inspiration of this year's slogan we will be hosting a charity drive. We have selected three charities from our community and would like you to bring a donation for one or more of the following organizations:

- The Heartland Humane Society serves the communities of Vermillion, Yankton and Hartington (heartlandhumanesociety.net). They are always in need of foster homes for dogs and puppies, but for the shelter they could use cleaning supplies, clumping cat litter, dry kitten food and dry diet adult cat food.
- The Vermillion Food Pantry (vermillionfoodpantry.org) serves all of Clay County and is in need of nonperishable food and toiletry items (see their website for more specific needs).
- The Jolley Art Block program provides nearly 400 elementary students art lessons for the 2011-12 school year and are in need of glue sticks, watercolor paper, drawing paper, art gum eraser and Tempera paint (any color).

For every person who comes in during our celebration from 11 to 1, the credit union will donate \$1 to the organization you specify on your prize registration form. In addition, if you make a donation, the credit union will donate an additional \$1 to the specified organization.

Representatives from CU Mortgage Direct LLC will be here to answer any questions you may have. Rates continue to be very, very low; you might want to ask them if refinancing your mortgage is a good idea and how much it can save you.

DORMANT ACCOUNT LETTERS

Inactive and dormant accounts will be reviewed in November and charged in December. Any dividend bearing account that *does not currently earn* dividends and has no active accounts *attached* to it can constitute a dormant account. **If you have an active checking account, debit card, loan or term share certificate this fee would not apply to you.** The inactive and dormant accounts will be charged a \$5 per month fee. Letters will be sent in November to anyone this may affect. If you receive a letter, please contact the credit union office to discuss your options; otherwise don't worry about it.

CREDIT UNION OFFICERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE	CREDIT UNION STAFF
Cathi Powell, President Ruth Bremer Aaron Fader Nicholas Koster Michael Gillispie Rachel Alexander Douglas Brunick	Deb Larson, Chairperson Kevin Loftus Bergen Peterson	Janet Mount, CEO Julie Becker, COO Jamie Neitzke, Loan Officer Kathy Lynch, Member Service Kela, Member Service Deana Fuller, Compliance Officer

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Monday, October 10 – Native American/Columbus Day
Friday, November 11 – Veteran's Day (open Saturday 9-12)
Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Day (open Fri/Sat)
Monday, December 26 – Observance Christmas Day
Monday - January 2, 2012 – Observance New Year's Day



YOUR ACCOUNT, 24/7 ACCESS, DEBIT CARDS & WHAT MIGHT GO WRONG!

Vermillion FCU offers a FREE Visa debit card, FREE online banking, FREE audio response and FREE ATM transactions. With the ease of modern technology, you have access to your funds pretty much any time you want... HOWEVER, extenuating circumstances sometimes do arise. It is always good to be prepared with a back up plan in case something happens. Such as, if you don't normally use checks, maybe you should have some on hand for such emergencies. It could be that your debit card would be temporarily blocked because the Fraud Alert Management Team cannot contact you to verify suspicious activity. To help avoid this, please keep us updated with your phone numbers and address. Except when the online banking/audio response systems may be down things should run smoothly. Always remember, it is NOT impossible to overdraw your account using only a debit card. Please do not rely on the balance that an ATM machine gives you. Transactions are processed on several different networks and most of these networks do not communicate with each other. For example: 1) If you swipe and sign, the transaction is processed on the Pulse network. 2) If you use your PIN, the transaction is processed on the Cirrus network. Since these two networks do not speak, they do not communicate how money has been spent one way or another, therefore it IS POSSIBLE to become overdrawn. Then if you throw into the mix having ACH transactions and checks drawing from your account – watch out! The only way to help avoid the possibility of overdrafts is to write everything down and keep a running total in a check register. This way you can track your spending and avoid overdraft charges. Please sign up for audio response in case online banking isn't available.

Reminder... Debit cards that have not been active for the last three months are subject to being closed. If you have a card that may be inactive and at risk for closure, please use it or at least let us know you would like to keep it open.

FREE CREDIT REPORT

You are entitled to one free credit report per year from each of the three major credit reporting agencies. Log on to www.annualcreditreport.com and access your free reports. There are no associated fees. You will not receive credit score; but you are able to find a list of creditors, account numbers, balance and contact info. You will be able to print out your credit bureau report and at the end is information on how to correct any errors.

Contact information:

CREDIT REPORTING CONTACT INFORMATION
Credit Bureaus: Equifax – www.equifax.com – (800)685-1111
Experian – www.experian.com – (888)397-3742
Transunion – www.transunion.com – (800)888-4213
Free Credit Reports: www.annualcreditreport.com -- (877)322-8228
Social Security Administration (fraud line) – (800)269-0271
Government Assistance: Federal Trade Commission – www.ftc.gov (877)382-4357

PRE-PAID VISA CARDS

Your credit union offers pre-paid Visa Gift, Visa Travel and Visa Everyday spend cards. The latter can be used as an alternative to using a debit card attached to your checking account. Gift cards are one-time use, perfect for gift giving. The travel cards are reloadable an unlimited number of times and good for 24 months. The Gift and Travel cards are instant issue in the credit union office with initial load. The pre-paid everyday spend cards are also reloadable an unlimited amount of times and good for 30 months. These everyday spend cards come embossed with your name within 7-10 business days. If you are interested in one of these pre-paid Visa cards ask a member service representative for more information.

SAVE WITH ONLINE ACCOUNT STATEMENTS AND ELECTRONIC NOTICES

Did you know that your monthly account statements are accessible online? Why have it mailed to you when you can choose to view your statement from ItsMe24/7? Print them only if needed. What's more, your credit union saves by eliminating the monthly processing charge. How about your other account notices? These too can be set up electronically. For example, if you had an overdraft, you can be notified via the message center or an email rather than waiting for the paper notice to be mailed. To set these up: Log on to It'sMe24/7, choose "My Messages" and eAlert subscriptions. Click 'create new account eAlert subscription' and mark the box 'send me an eNotice rather than a printed notice'. Just verify your email, add and you are done... notices will no longer be mailed.

PRIVACY POLICY

The mission of Vermillion Federal Credit union, through member ownership and involvement, is to provide financial services in a professional and responsive manner, reflecting the credit union philosophy, "people helping people". We are also committed to protecting your privacy and upholding our confidentiality policy in regard to any information you entrust to us. Your personal financial information will not be obtained by unfamiliar entities for unauthorized use. If you would like a detailed copy of our Privacy Policy, please contact the credit union.

Randy has left the credit union to pursue his masters' degree at USD. Good Luck Randy!

Welcome Deana! Deana joined the credit union staff as of the end of August.

In addition to compliance issues, she will be helping Jamie with loans. If you have a loan question give her a call.



www.facebook.com/vermillionFCU.com

Stay current with what's happening at VFCU!! "Like" our Facebook page to receive special offers and promotions! In addition, keep up-to-date on banking scams and banking news that affects you. Want to know more?? Visit www.facebook.com/vermillionFCU.com!!

FREE ATM LOCATIONS



Vermillion Federal Credit Union - 105 East Cherry Street, Vermillion, SD
Public Safety Center - 15 Washington Street, Vermillion, SD
City Hall - 25 Center St, Vermillion, SD
The Dakota Dome - 1101 N Dakota St, Vermillion, SD
The Eagle's Clubroom - 114 W Main St, Vermillion, SD

Shared branching with Services Center Federal Credit Union in Yankton (Parkston and Springfield) allows us several additional no fee ATMs throughout southeastern South Dakota. Visit www.vermillionfcu.com or call your credit union office for those locations.



Your Credit Union, in partnership with CU Mortgage Direct, LLC, is able to offer you a full range of mortgage products to fit your lifestyle. CU Mortgage Direct, LLC, is a Credit Union Service Organization (CUSO), so you will find the same philosophies and outstanding member service you have come to expect from your Credit Union.

- ✓ New Purchases
- ✓ Refinance
- ✓ Conventional
- ✓ VA
- ✓ FHA
- ✓ RD

✓ SDHDA ✓ Mortgages also available in Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota and Iowa

CU Mortgage Direct, LLC, is able to offer you an advantage over most other mortgage companies. They can offer a lower monthly mortgage insurance premium if you are financing above 80% loan to value. CU Mortgage Direct representative Ryan Meyer will process your application. You may contact us or Ryan directly at (605)275-1783 to answer your mortgage questions.



UPDATE FROM CU MORTGAGE DIRECT, LLC

The final ruling for this portion of the S.A.F.E Act went into effect on 8/1/2011. Although **CU Mortgage Direct, LLC staff** is exempt from this requirement, we felt it was better for our Mortgage Loan Originators to be Nationally and State licensed and registered with Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System Registry.

S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008

Effective July 21, 2011, the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act (SAFE Act) will be administered and enforced by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). The SAFE Mortgage Licensing Act is designed to enhance consumer protection and reduce fraud by encouraging states to establish minimum standards for the licensing and registration of state-licensed mortgage loan originators and for the [Conference of State Bank Supervisors \(CSBS\)](#) and the [American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators \(AARMR\)](#) to establish and maintain a nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry for the residential mortgage industry. The SAFE Act sets a minimum standard for licensing and registering mortgage loan originators. Specific state licensing requirements can be found at the [Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System Registry \(NMLSR\)](#).

Home equity, home improvement and construction loans are available at Vermillion FCU; please contact Jamie or Janet at the credit union office.

FEE CHANGE: Effective August 15, 2011 – There was established a \$12 charge on all checks you deposit that are returned to you unpaid for any reason. Previously your account was subject to a fee of \$10. Reasons include such things as insufficient funds, stop pay, closed account, etc.

Example: John Doe gives you a check and you deposit or cash it through your credit union account. However, it turns out that John Doe does not have enough money in his account at his financial institution and the check is returned insufficient funds. The amount of the check PLUS the \$12 fee will be taken from your account and the check will be given back to you.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE APPROVED HOLIDAY LOAN SPECIAL

Again this year the credit union is offering a special rate on holiday loans. The holiday loan follows the exact same guidelines and criteria as a signature loan, except that the maximum term is 12 months. As with all loans, an application must be completed and submitted for approval. If approved, the loan will be disbursed at the special rate and must be paid in full by Christmas 2012. Christmas loans will not be eligible for an extension or loan skip in 2011 or 2012. The special holiday rate will only be available beginning November 1, 2011 and continue through January 31, 2012. Stop by the office or call Jamie with any questions.

HOLIDAY LOAN SKIPS

As a unique "gift" to you, your credit union allows you to skip one payment per loan, freeing up some extra holiday cash. It is not mandatory that the interest portion of the payment be made, however if you chose to do so, please indicate so when you sign and return the below coupon. Most loans are eligible. Exceptions include: loans that have not yet made the first payment, loans that are currently delinquent, current and new Christmas loans, loans with force-placed automobile insurance, loans that have previously deferred payments in 2011, new loans within the last 6 months (or must have made 6 payments), lines of credit, loans with incomplete loan files (missing proof of insurance, title or other collateral), loans with a history of delinquency, and loans on accounts with unpaid fees or overdrawn accounts. Holiday loan skip coupon will be valid on existing loans with payments due November 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. Remember to submit your signed coupon (*one for each loan*) at least *10 days prior* to the scheduled payment; otherwise you may not be eligible until the next month.

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE LOAN SKIP

If you would like a holiday payment skipped and you believe you are eligible by the above stated criteria, complete the "Holiday Loan Skip Coupon" below. A separate coupon is needed for **each loan** and must be submitted at least 10 days before the payment is due. The loan skip is allowed whether it is to be made payroll deduction or if you make the payment yourself. **With payroll deduction or ACH origination, the amount normally deducted will still be deposited to the credit union, only it will be deposited in your regular share (savings) account rather than applied to the loan. You may then withdraw those funds at any time.**

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU ARE APPROVED FOR THE HOLIDAY LOAN SKIP: If you send the coupon in and you are not approved, you **will be notified**.

***** **HOLIDAY * LOAN * SKIP * COUPON** *****
*** **IMPORTANT NOTICE** ***

If you skip your payment finance charges continue to accumulate during the waved payment period and will extend the term of the loan. Please indicate below if you would like the current interest paid. If not marked the interest will accumulate and be added to the loan balance.

_____ YES, please pay appropriate interest _____ NO, please do not make interest payment

YES! I would like to defer my payment for one month.

I have read and understand the terms and conditions listed above and I meet the requirements. If this coupon is not signed below, it will not be honored. If a payment date (month) is not indicated, it is assumed the December payment is to be skipped. Turn in **signed** coupon 10 days **prior** to payment.

NAME (please print) _____

ACCOUNT # _____ LOAN SUFFIX _____ (ONE COUPON PER PAYMENT)

PAYMENT AMOUNT \$ _____ DUE DATE _____

PRIMARY ACCOUNTHOLDERS SIGNATURE

X

PLEASE MAIL/RETURN AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE LOAN PAYMENT IS DUE:

VERMILLION FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

105 EAST CHERRY STREET

VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA 57069

ONE HOLIDAY LOAN SKIP COUPON PER LOAN - PLEASE