



**APRIL 2010
NEWSLETTER**

105 EAST CHERRY STREET
VERMILLION, SD 57069
PHONE: 605-677-5214 FAX: 605-677-5449
EMAIL: OFFICE@VERMILLIONFCU.COM
WEBSITE: WWW.VERMILLIONFCU.COM

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

ANNUAL MEETING

Economist Dr. Randall Waldron will be our guest speaker with an update on the economy. Join us at Vermillion Federal Credit Union's 50th Annual Meeting, being held Tuesday - April 6, 2010 at the WH Over Museum. Contact the credit union for further details. All members of the credit union are invited to join us for dinner and a brief meeting. Listed below are the current volunteers and staff. There are two positions on the Board of Directors to be filled this year. If interested, please contact a volunteer or CU staff.

* term expires this year			CREDIT UNION OFFICERS		
BOARD OF DIRECTORS		SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE	CREDIT UNION STAFF		
Cathi Powell Ruth Bremer David Aronson Aaron Fader * Nicholas Koster Michael Gillispie		Deb Larson, Chairperson Randall Waldron Kevin Loftus	Janet Mount, CEO Julie Becker, COO Jamie Neitzke, Loan Officer Robin DeVries, Member Service Kathy Lynch, Member Service Amber – Teller Randy – Teller		

Absolute Mobile Shredding will be here
Thursday April 29, from 3-6pm

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:
Monday, May 31 – Memorial Day
Monday, July 5 – Independence Day



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



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. Contact Carrie Probst (605)275-1785 or Karen Bittner (605)275-1798 directly at their office.



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

NO FEE ATM LOCATIONS



Table with 1 column and 5 rows listing ATM locations: Vermillion Federal Credit Union, Public Safety Center, The Dakota Dome, and The Eagle's Clubroom.

Shared branching with Services Center Federal Credit Union in Yankton (Parkston and Springfield) allows us several additional no fee ATM's throughout southeastern South Dakota. See our webpage or call your credit union office for those locations.



Happy Easter



NEW OVERDRAFT RULES FOR DEBIT AND ATM CARDS

New Federal Reserve Rules give debit and ATM card users additional options regarding overdrafts. Beginning in July, we will offer you the ability to make a decision about overdrafts for transactions made with your debit card.

The basic facts: An overdraft occurs when you make a purchase or ATM transaction but you don't have enough money in your account to pay for it. For a fee, your credit union has transferred funds, advanced a line of credit, or covered it allowing you to be negative for a short period of time. This fee is applied each time this happened.

The new rule: You choose. In the past you were automatically enrolled with funds transfer from your share (savings) and if approved, a line of credit that would automatically transfer. Beginning in July, we must now have your written permission to apply standard overdraft practices to everyday debit card and ATM transactions before you can be charged any fees. If you do not opt in (agree) the standard overdraft protection will not apply and your debit card and ATM transactions will typically be declined. The new rules give you flexibility when deciding. You can opt in (agree) right away or any time by signing an agreement. You also have the ability to opt out at any time.

The new rules do not cover checks or automatic bill payments that you may have set up for paying bills such as mortgage, rent or utilities. In these instances you will still be automatically enrolled in the standard overdraft transfer practices.

Within the next couple of months you will be getting a form from us. This form gives you the opportunity to opt in (agree). The form has to be signed and sent back to us for overdraft protection to be put in place. If not, the overdraft practice you have now will be cancelled and potential ATM or debit card transactions could be declined. Watch for the form in the mail. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE BUZZ ABOUT CREDIT UNIONS?

Many well known financial advisors are talking about credit unions.

With all the hype about fees and interest rates they continue to suggest trying out a credit union.

Here's what you already know and they are saying:

CBS Sunday Morning (2/28/10): From financial advisor Suze Orman: "We are now standing on land that in my opinion has financial faults going all the way through it. So you have got to make sure that you are not dependent on anybody else's financial plan for you. The economy cannot save you. The administration cannot save you. You have got to save yourself. What I want all of you to do is go to creditcardconnection.org and find a good credit union near you. Anybody can join a credit union, where you get a credit union credit card."

In January Diane Sawyer, on ABC's World News reported "Thousands of folks are moving their money from large banks to community banks... and credit unions. Why? To avoid high fees and impersonal service. Credit union members have known this for years. They join up and earn higher interest on their savings and get cheaper rates on loans. A recent independent national survey showed credit unions beat banks in 10 of 11 interest-rate categories. Overall the numbers look good for credit unions, given the climate. They continue to offer affordable rates for loans and savings."

Six Ways to Find a Credit Union (And Why You Should Look) by Dana Dratch (a freelance writer based in Atlanta) on Bankrate.com: "It's true you won't find credit unions or their ATM's on every corner. But if you're willing to trade a little convenience for more personalized service – plus better rates on credit cards, loans and savings accounts – a credit union is the way to go."

"It's true with a credit union you give up convenience, but in return, you get better deals" says Clark Howard, author of *Get Clark Smart: The Ultimate Guide for the Savvy Consumer* and host of a nationally syndicated radio talk show on finances and CNN's HLN *Clark Howard Show*. "Unlike banks, credit unions are member organizations. By depositing as little as \$5, you become a stakeholder in the institution."

Dave Ramsey is a personal money management expert, national radio personality and best selling author of *The Total Money Makeover* and other books. Dave is also the creator of the Financial Peace University, a class with 13 lessons that teach you to dump credit, get control of your money and construct a plan to walk in financial peace. "The biggest thing you want to look at is the 'hassle factor' if your institution goes broke and closes up shop. I haven't done business with big banks for years, primarily because of the awful customer service you get at most of them. I like local, community banks, and I believe whole-heartedly in credit unions. As a rule, these institutions practice excellent customer service. Plus, most of them didn't get mixed up in the sub-prime debacle. Community banks and credit unions are both safe, and in most cases, they're both fabulous places to put your money!"

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) Dated: Sunday February 14, 2010: "The secret is out, not that it was ever much of a secret. Credit unions are a wise alternative to banks for thrifty consumers." Suze Orman gave this advice to CNN's Campbell Brown last month: "If you happen to have a credit card at a financial institution that is not respecting you – charging you fees, charging all kinds of things – you should all do something: Get a credit union credit card."

Bye, Bye, Banks: Time to Join A Credit Union by Bob Trebilcock on moneywatch.com: But the nation's 8,000 credit unions have more to recommend them than the mere fact that they are not banks. They also offer a fairly good value proposition, with higher savings yields and lower rates and fees. That may be why credit unions, which now have 92 million members, are seeing their fastest growth since 2003.

"In case you're wholly unfamiliar with this breed of financial institution; a credit union is a nonprofit owned by its members. The financial structure helps explain why credit unions can pay more on savings and charge less on loans. The credit union channels any excess funds back to its members." says Mark Wolff of the Credit Union National Association.

CBS'S Early Show financial contributor Vera Gibbons gave kudos to credit unions while talking with Harry Smith on December 17, 2009. "Contrary to earlier belief anyone can belong to a credit union. Go to www.culookup.com, for one near you. Credit Unions are fully insured by NCUA, look for the blue sticker. At a credit union you have a better chance of obtaining a personal loan. The profit goes back to members in the form of better rates. Overall satisfaction rates high with credit union members."

TOP 10 WAYS TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

1. Stop sharing information with strangers – particularly via telephone and email scams and your trash can!
2. Request a free credit report every year from the three credit reporting companies at www.annualcreditreport.com.
3. Remove your name from marketing lists (call 1-888-5OPT-OUT) to reduce junk mail containing personal information.
4. Check financial statements, including bank, credit card and investment accounts, every month for unusual transactions. If you can, sign up for electronic statements, this reduces your risk.
5. Do not list your social security number or driver's license number on checks.
6. Avoid using checks if possible and bank online.
7. Keep personal ID documents in a secure place at home, one that visitors cannot access.
8. NEVER respond to unsolicited emails or calls which ask for information such as SSN and account numbers.
9. Only add reliable software to your computer. Keep antivirus software up to date. It often expires once a year.
10. Keep bank cards and checks at home unless needed.

When you must carry credit cards and personal ID, keep them secure – old fashioned pickpockets still account for 30 percent of identity thefts. To learn more about preventative tips and what to do if your identity gets stolen go to www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD?

Vermillion Federal Credit Union offers both types of cards, but finds that not everyone understands the difference. It is really quite simple. The credit card is like getting a loan from your credit union. You buy an item and the cost is charged against your account to be paid at the end of the monthly billing cycle. If you can't afford to pay the entire "loan", you can make a partial (minimum or larger) monthly payment and a finance charge is applied to the "loan" at the end of the month. The debit card, on the other hand, is a type of electronic "share draft". When you enter your PIN for a purchase, the money is removed from your checking account. If the PIN option is not available, you sign for authorization and that amount is placed on hold in your account. It is a quick inexpensive way to make a purchase, rather than writing checks, however, you need to keep track and make certain you have sufficient funds in the checking account to cover the purchase to avoid fees.



Do you have online banking? Why not? It is safe, convenient and best of all... FREE! Would you like to convert your monthly mailed statement to an electronic version? It's possible. E*statements are an easy way to keep track of your monthly statement. When you need it, simply go to the online banking website and view or print. There are 10 years worth of statements saved online. Plus if you sign up for e*statements you automatically have the ability to view the checks you have written. Also view your daily transaction receipts and yearly tax statements.

The credit union's online banking program – It'sMe247 – is a very safe, convenient way to track your accounts... plus there is no cost to our members. All your personal information is encrypted using advanced algorithms to scramble your personal information so it can not be read as the information travels over the internet. Plus we have just added an extra layer of security. If you have not previously set up your security question, you might want to call us and have them reset. You will automatically be prompted to answer a different one every time you log on. And if you haven't logged on to your account within the last 90 days, you will be asked to call the credit union to reset your password.

We also have CUEasyPay, which is online bill pay. Set up all your monthly payments to be made automatically, no stamps, no envelopes or writing checks. You can set up reminders or set up to automatically make recurring payments.