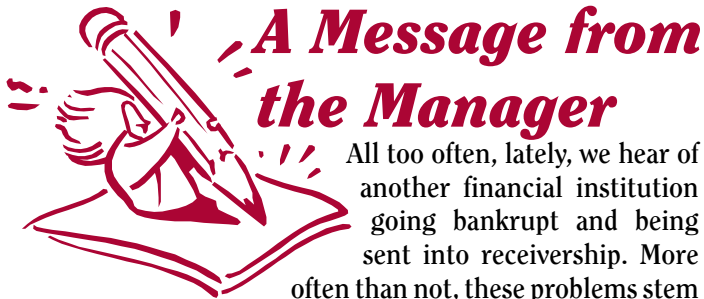




## WHITING REFINERY Federal Credit Union

1339 119th STREET • WHITING, INDIANA 46394 • (219) 659-3254 • www.wrfcu.org • July 2009



### *A Message from the Manager*

All too often, lately, we hear of another financial institution going bankrupt and being sent into receivership. More often than not, these problems stem from the subprime mortgage crisis. The financial industry has been in the headlines for months, and many consumers are confused and worried about the safety of their money.

Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union (WRFCU) is proud to say that we are safe, sound and secure. The credit union's objective has always been to serve the membership in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner. We maintain very high capital levels, and have plenty of money to lend to our members. Our current capital-to-asset ratio stands at over 24%. Federal regulators consider anything over 7% to be well capitalized. Our conservative lending practices have helped us maintain a low Delinquent Loan/Total Loan ratio of .15% while the average of our peers is at 1.58%. The credit union

ended the year 2008 in the black with net income at \$513,559.35. Many of our peers were not as profitable.

Quite a few of the financial institutions you hear about in the news made risky decisions based on greed. However, WRFCU has never participated in subprime mortgage lending, no-verification mortgages, outrageous salary and compensation packages, or any of the other things we've been hearing about. As a not-for-profit financial institution, our primary responsibility has always been to you, our members. We strive to maintain a strong, healthy organization along with providing and delivering high quality financial services. In fact, even in this down economy, we are still offering above-market savings rates and competitive lending rates. We only offer products and services that are safe for the credit union and that add value for the membership.

In conclusion, I would like to thank every one of you for allowing WRFCU the opportunity to be your financial partner, and for the continued confidence you have always shown in your support of the credit union.

**Carol A Graziani, Manager**



### **JUST A REMINDER**

Just a reminder, BP no longer offers the service of Payroll Deduction to its employees. If you wish to have money withdrawn from your paycheck and sent to the credit union, you will need to sign up for Direct Deposit. Call the credit union for more information.



### **By Way of Your Computer**

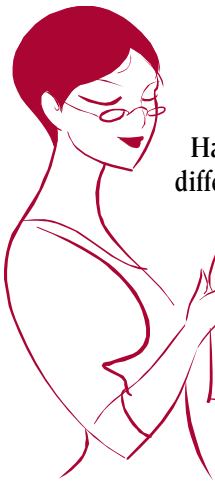


According to the Federal Trade Commission, approximately 9 million people fall victim each year to identity theft. An easy way for thieves to target you is through your computer and online activities. Your credit union offers these tips to help you secure your personal information:

- Use anti-virus and anti-spyware along with a firewall on your computer.
- Install software updates and fixes as soon as they become available.
- Never enter private (Personal) information on public computers (hotel, airport, library, etc.). These computers

may be infected with a keylogger or spyware that captures everything you type.

- Protect passwords. Use at least seven characters and have your passwords contain numbers and upper/lowercase letters.
- Never click on e-mail messages that contain hyperlinks to Web sites. Close the e-mail and manually type in the address.
- Be careful about opening any attachments or downloading any files from e-mails.
- Don't e-mail personal or financial information. E-mail is not a secure method of transmitting personal information.
- If you initiate an online transaction that contains personal or financial information through an organization's Web site, always make sure that the site is secure. There should be a lock icon on the browser's status bar and the URL for the Web site should begin with "https:" – the "s" stands for secure.



## Improving your Credit Score

Having a high credit score can mean the difference of thousand of dollars in saved interest expense compared to others with a lower score.

If your credit score isn't as high as you want it to be, take control by following these tips:

1. Always pay your bills on time.

Your payment history represents 35% of your credit score.

2. Don't close older accounts you have paid off. The positive factor for your credit score is how much available credit you have at your disposal when compared to your credit balance. Also, 15% of your credit score is based on the length of your credit history – that includes the age of your oldest account as well as the average of all your accounts.

3. Don't apply for credit too frequently. Applying for too much credit too often will decrease your credit score because this is a characteristic of high credit risk groups.

4. Keep your credit card balances low. If you max out your cards, it will affect your credit score negatively. The more debt you pay off, the better your score. A good rule of thumb is to keep your credit card balances below 25% of your credit limits.

5. Minimize loan applications. Every time you apply for a loan, the potential lender requests your credit report for review. This can hurt your credit score. Make all loan requests within a two-week period. All the credit report lookups are bundled together as one single request – not multiple requests.

6. As for a credit limit increase. Increasing your credit limit makes the debt/credit limit ratio look better. Don't use the extra credit or you defeat the whole purpose of improving your credit score. The goal is to have as much available credit and use as little as possible.

7. Remember to check for errors on your credit report. Contact the credit reporting agencies to fix any errors.

It pays to increase your credit score. It also takes discipline and dedication. It's worth it when you reach a good credit standing that allows you to qualify for loans, lower interest rates, and more.

## SECURING YOUR HOME WHILE ON VACATION



The last thing you want to worry about while on your much needed vacation is your home. If your home will be vacant while you're away, take a few steps to ensure that it's secure. Here are a few tips to make it look as though you are still at home:

- Make it appear that you're at home – use timers to turn on interior lights at normal intervals and use a timer to turn on and off a radio.
- Never leave a message on your phone voicemail saying that you will be away.
- Ensure all windows are locked and secure. Place strip of wood in sliding window tracks and sliding glass doors for extra security. Also, always lock the door to your attached garage.

- If you normally park a car in your driveway, ask a neighbor to park their car there.
- Have someone mow your lawn.
- Cancel the newspaper and suspend mail deliver for the time you're away by filling out a simple form with the post office and calling the newspaper circulation department. Make sure you give several days notice.
- Don't leave a key hidden outside your house. Instead, leave it with a trusted family member, friend, or neighbor. Have this person check your house regularly. Let this person know how long you'll be gone and when you'll be returning. Also, leave information about how you can be contacted in case of emergency.

## What Is A Share Secured Loan?



Credit union share secured loans are available for members who are in need of funds but do not wish to deplete their savings. This type of loan allows members to borrow money by using their own savings funds as collateral. Your share account will be held as collateral for the loan, and once the

loan is paid off, the hold is released. And, you will continue to earn interest on the balance in your share account even though there is a loan against your account. You also will be borrowing money at a much lower interest rate than you could with an unsecured loan. A secured loan is also a great resource for anyone who is looking for a loan to establish credit or re-establish credit.

Stop by or call the credit union today to find out more about a share secured loan. Guaranteed approval with no credit inquiry required, and in most cases, funds are available the same day. Current Share Secured Rate – 4.50%.



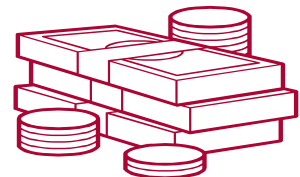
## ***Teach Your Children to Save***

It's said that charity begins at home. But as important as it is to teach your kids about sharing with those less fortunate, an equally vital lesson is the benefit of saving. Many money management experts recommend using an allowance as the primary teaching tool. An allowance provides a hands-on method of teaching your children both how to spend and how to save.

An allowance for a child is the same as a paycheck for an adult. Both involve the need for planning and decision-making. By using their own funds, their limit becomes real and tangible to them. When they only get a certain amount each week – rather than treating your wallet like an unlimited cash machine – it will quickly become clear they can't have everything they want. Your kids should understand why they are receiving an allowance and what expenses they are suppose to cover with it, including setting some of the money aside in savings. Help your children decide on a sensible amount to save each week – at least 10 percent of their allowance or total income. Show them how by saving money from each week's allowance that they will be able to purchase items they want later but can't afford right now. Also stress the benefit of saving for long-term goals, like a car or college. Bring your kids to the credit union and help them make deposits in their very own share savings accounts. The sooner you can help get your kids into the savings habit, the better.

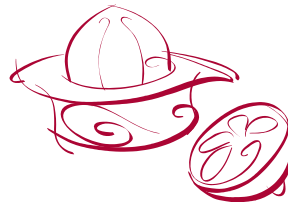


## ***Cash to Go With Travelers Checks***



Financial counselors advise if you want to control your spending, pay with cash, not a credit card. But if you're traveling, a wallet stuffed with cash can signal would-be muggers. That's why before you embark on your trip, you'll want to make the credit union your first stop so you can purchase travelers checks. They are safer than cash and accepted virtually anywhere. So even if you plan to travel with plastic cards, traveler's checks can be an important supplement by allowing you to make purchases or eat in restaurants that don't accept credit or debit cards. Whether you are going around the world or just around the state, pick up some travelers checks at the credit union.

## ***Used Cars! Lemons or Lemonade?***



There was a time that buying a used car was said to be the same as buying someone else's troubles. But today, vehicles are much more reliable and your chances of finding a good, pre-owned one that fits both your budget and your transportation needs are greatly enhanced. When you buy a new vehicle, the minute you drive it off the lot, it loses thousands of dollars in value. When you buy used, someone else has absorbed that depreciation. In addition, you have several research tools at your disposal to help you make a sound buying decision. Web sites, such as [www.edmunds.com](http://www.edmunds.com) and [www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com) (Kelley Blue Book), can

help you compare features and prices. Dealers often offer pre-owned certification, extended warranties, and vehicle history reports on many of the used vehicles on their lots.

Before making your offer on a used car, either to a dealer or a private party, ask to see the service history. It also may be well worth the money to have a trusted mechanic check over the vehicle to look for obvious problems. Then, see the credit union for financing, where you will find favorable rates and terms to fit your budget.

## ***Dividend News***

The Board of Directors declared to pay 1.25% APR/1.26% APY on all eligible share accounts for the Second quarter of 2009 payable July 1, 2009.

---

## ***Certificate Rates***

1 Year (\$1,000.00 min) 2.25%APR/2.27%APY  
2 Year (\$1,000.00 min) 2.50%APR/2.53%APY

---

## ***Loan Rates***

### **SIGNATURE LOAN (\$10,000 maximum)**

7.00% 12 Months  
9.50% 48 Months

### **SHARE PLEDGE LOAN**

4.50% 60 Months

### **STOCK LOAN (50% Market Value)**

5.00% 60 Months

### **EDUCATIONAL LOAN**

7.00% 48 Months

### **MORTGAGE LOANS**

Our low loan rates change often. Call Ted Izak at Lake Mortgage for more information or to apply for a loan. 219-769-5941 or 1-800-627-5566.

## ***Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union***

*SERVING OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1935*

1339 - 119th Street,  
Whiting, Indiana 46394  
(219)659-3254

### **HOURS**

8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Monday thru Friday  
Payday Friday - Open until 6:00 p.m.

[www.wrfcu.org](http://www.wrfcu.org)

---

## ***Holiday Closings***

**Friday, July 3, 2009  
JULY FOURTH HOLIDAY**

**Monday, September 7, 2009  
LABOR DAY**

Your Savings Federally Insured to \$100,000

# **NCUA**

National Credit Union Administration.

a U.S. Government Agency

**Savings Rate: 1.25% APR/1.26% APY  
2 Year (\$1,000.00 min) 2.50%APR/2.53%APY**

**WHITING REFINERY  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
1339 - 119th Street  
Whiting, Indiana 46394**

PRSTD STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Hammond, IN  
Permit #1