



## Holiday Relief

### Take Advantage of Low Loan Rates While You Still Can!

Since June 30th, the Federal Reserve Board has increased the Federal Fund Rate 5 times to raise it to 2.25%, while at the same time hinting that future increases are coming soon. Banks and most other financial institutions have quickly followed suit by raising their loan rates. **But not your Credit Union.**

We offer personal loans, VISA Classic and Platinum credit cards, Home Equity and first mortgage loans. So, if you are in the market to borrow money for holiday bill consolidation, post-holiday car buying, pre-spring home improvement or for any other reason, call 212-664-3970 or stop by before it's too late.

## 7 Ways to Start the New Year Off Right

1. **Make the Credit Union Your Primary Financial Institution.** Move your financial services to the Credit Union, and experience the difference. Share with us what you need and we'll help you with a financial plan to beat all previous New Year's resolutions!
2. **Pay Yourself First.** We offer special tools that help you get the best use of your paycheck. Utilize direct deposit or payroll deduction to force regular savings habits and to save time on payday.
3. **Spot-Budget for 2005.** Target challenge areas such as clothing or entertainment, and build a budget around them. Get a book that will allow you to save receipts for these categories and take notes on how well the budget is working.
4. **Check Your Credit Report.** Make a ritual of checking your "slate" at the beginning of the year to be sure it's clean. If you are unsure of how to obtain a copy of your credit report, contact the Credit Union.
5. **Take Care of Any Charged Holiday Expenses Early.** Put a cap on holiday charges. If consolidating your credit cards at a lower rate is in order, handle it soon after the new year. We always have valuable tools to help you manage your debt.
6. **Create an emergency fund.** Start by returning unwanted gifts quickly so that you don't get stuck with a reduced price, or go to eBay to auction off those items you'll never use. Having the money in an account is far more practical than saving those items for next year's white elephant or re-gifting!
7. **Be Realistic with your Resolutions.** Those that are not based on reality often end up broken within the first week of the new year. Think about your habits and break down your resolution into small tasks or behavioral changes. You're more likely to succeed in making a change, and will be able to look back on 2005 with satisfaction.

## Smart Decisions Begin with Planning

Your Credit Union has made a variety of insurance services available to help protect you. The smart planning you do today safeguards your security, now and in the future. This added benefit of credit union membership gives you access to a full portfolio of high-quality insurance and protection products.

- **Life Insurance and Annuities**
- **Health and Accident Insurance**
- **Auto and Homeowners Insurance**
- **... and more**



When planning for your insurance needs, begin with a thorough review of your current policies. Periodic review ensures you have the right types and amounts of coverage. Life events such as the birth of a child, your children leaving for college, or your own retirement may warrant changes.

There are many plans and options to choose from. A professional insurance counselor can make it easier by helping you evaluate your current situation, determine your needs and suggest appropriate coverage. If you would like a no-obligation insurance consultation, call Members Financial Services at 1-877-MEMBERS. They can answer any questions you may have and provide you with educational and product information on a wide variety of insurance products.

# Privacy Policy

As a member-owned financial cooperative, we are committed to making available financial products and services that will enable you to meet your financial needs and reach your financial goals. We respect your privacy, and protecting personal information and using it in a manner consistent with your expectation is a high priority for everyone associated with the NBC (NY) EFCU.

What follows is a description of the information we collect and disclose, including the parties who receive nonpublic information from us as we conduct the business of the NBC (NY) EFCU.

## Information We Collect About You

We collect only the personal information that is necessary to conduct our business. That means just what is relevant and necessary to provide you with competitive financial products and services - no more. Information about you is collected from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications and other forms.
- Information obtained when verifying information you provide on an application or other forms.
- Information about your transactions with us or with other financial institutions.
- Information we receive from credit-reporting agencies.

As a member, you will always have the opportunity to review your information and make necessary changes to ensure that our records are complete and accurate.

## How We Use That Information

In order to administer, manage, and service your accounts to provide you with products and services, it is necessary for us to disclose or provide certain information about you to our service providers. These disclosures typically include information to:

- Service or process financial transactions that a member requests or authorizes.
- In response to confirmations or inquiries from other financial institutions as you have requested or authorized.
- Follow instructions as you authorize.
- Protect the interest and assets of the NBC (NY) EFCU.

We will share information only to administer the products and services we provide, when required to do so by the government or court actions, or when we partner with other businesses to offer a broader array of products and services.

We will partner only with businesses that follow strict confidentiality requirements and that follow strict privacy protection of all shared information. The businesses we select will offer products designed to enhance our members' economic well being. Under no circumstance will we authorize these firms to charge your account without your express consent. In addition, we will not sell member information to telemarketing firms.

## Disclosure of Information on Former Members

If you should decide to terminate your membership with us, we will not share information we have collected about you, except as may

be permitted or required by law.

## How We Protect Your Information

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees who need to know such information in order to provide products and services to you. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your nonpublic personal information.

## Your Right to Choose

An important part of maintaining your trust and confidence is by respecting your right to choose not to have nonpublic personal information shared with others. To the extent possible (other than information permitted or required by law), we will honor any member's request to keep their information from being shared with our business partners. Simply write us a letter stating that you do not wish for us to share your personal information with any business partner we engage with on a voluntary basis. (Please remember to sign your letter.)

## What You Can Do to Help Protect Your Privacy

The NBC (NY) EFCU is committed to protecting the privacy of its members. Members can help by following these simple guidelines:

- Protect your account number, card numbers, personal identification numbers (PINs), and passwords. Never keep your PIN with your debit or credit card, which can provide free access to your accounts if your card is lost or stolen.
- Never give out your account numbers, social security number or other personal credit information over the phone unless you initiate the call. If someone calls you on behalf of the Credit Union, and asks for your account number, hang-up. Official Credit Union staff have access to your account numbers, hence there's no need to ask for it.
- Tear up or shred receipts, bank statements and unused credit card offers.
- Keep track of your mail. If a statement, bill or check is missing, it is possible that someone may have changed your billing address. Contact that service provider immediately.
- Review your credit report annually! Report and correct mistakes to the credit bureau.
- Make sure you do business with reputable companies, especially over the internet.
- Keep your information with us current. It is important that we have current information on how to reach you. If we detect potentially fraudulent, unauthorized activity or other suspicious transactions on your accounts, we will attempt to contact you immediately. Please let us know if your address or home/work phone number changes.

We want you to know that we will take extra care to protect the personal information with which you, our members, entrust to us as diligently as we undertake the protection of your financial security. We are proud to serve you, our financial partner, and endeavor to earn and maintain your ongoing trust.

## FEES & CHARGES

All financial institutions have fees for some of their services. In keeping with the Credit Union philosophy, our fees are fewer and far lower than those of other financial institutions. So, when you are making a decision about your primary financial institution, remember to check their fee schedules. The money you save will still be your own when you chose the NBC (NY) EFCU.

Money Orders	\$1.00
Gift Cheques	2.00
Travelers Cheques	N/C
Travelers Cheques for Two (per \$100)	.50
Transaction Inquiry	.50(1)
ATM transaction - Inquires & Transfers	.50(2)
ATM transaction - Withdrawals & POS	1.00(2)
3rd Party Checks (under \$500)	1.00
History of Account	2.00(1)
Copy of Paid Check	2.00
Copy of Statement	5.00
Stop Payment of Check	5.00
Certified Check	5.00
Dormant Account (quarterly)	5.00(3)
Check Hold Violation	5.00
NSF - ACH and Check Cleared	10.00
NSF - ACH and Check Returned	20.00
Overnight ACH and Check Hold	20.00
Deposited Check Returned	10.00
Early Withdrawal From Holiday Club	10.00
Premature Withdrawal - IRA	10.00
Account Maintenance - IRA (annual)	10.00
Outgoing Wire - Domestic	10.00
Outgoing Wire - International	30.00
Liens and Levies	25.00

- (1) Free when you use MARS.
- (2) Inquires, transfers, POS, and first 4 withdrawals a month are free under the Premium Package.
- (3) No activity for 3 years. (Members will receive a notification letter prior to the implementation of this fee.)

**Premium Package** - If you use or sign up for 4 of the 7 eligible products or services listed below, you will get the Premium Package Advantages.

- Share Savings Account
- Sharedraft/Checking Account
- Holiday Club Account
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- VISA Credit Card
- Share Certificates
- Direct Deposit of Net Pay, Social Security, or Other Retirement Benefit

## IDENTITY THEFT

# An American Epidemic

According to the Federal Trade Commission, ID theft has become the fastest growing white-collar crime in America with more than 27 million victims and over 53 billion dollars lost in the last 5 years. It is an equal-opportunity crime, affecting victims of all races, incomes, and ages. Individuals whose identities have been stolen can spend months or even years – not to mention their own hard-earned money – cleaning up the mess the thieves have made of their good name and credit record. Unfortunately this type of crime generally goes unnoticed for a year or longer because the thieves often change the mailing address when opening new accounts in the victim's name. The victim's nightmare starts to unfold when terrible events begin to happen. They lose job opportunities, are denied loans for education, housing, or cars, or may even be arrested for crimes they had not committed.

The three pieces of information thieves need to steal your identity are your full name, your date of birth, and most important, your social security number (SSN). Protect this information at all costs. **Do not** carry your social security card with you. **Do not** write down your SSN anywhere. **Do not** use it as part of an account number or personal identification number. The only entities that may need this information are your employer, your financial institution, and the government. If someone doesn't have a valid need for a SSN, **do not** reveal it. As a consumer, you have the right to say "no!"

*Coming in Next Quarter's Issue: Part 2 - How To Protect Yourself*

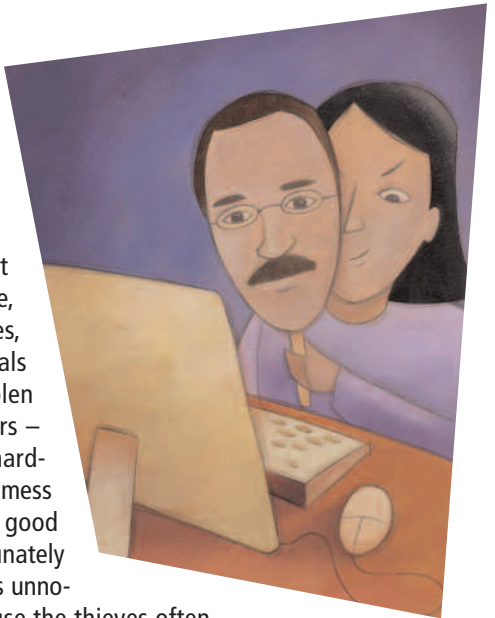
## Free Wallet Calendar

We have enclosed a handy pocket calendar in with your December statement as a thank-you for your membership. Pop it in your wallet and you'll have this handy reference available anytime you need it!



## Tax Refunds – Quicker, Safer, Easier

Have the IRS directly deposit your tax refund into your Credit Union account and you'll receive it 3 weeks earlier. On IRS tax forms 1040, 1040A ABA 1040EZ, simply enter savings or checking, your account number, and the Credit Union's ABA/Transit number (226092009). Note that direct deposit is also available on most state tax returns.



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

January 17	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
February 21	<b>Presidents Day</b>

## First Quarter Holiday Club Winner

Any member who opens a Holiday Club Account is automatically entered in our "Holiday Club Cash Bonus" drawing. Congratulations to Barbara Lopez, our first quarter winner of \$50. Our next drawing for \$50 will be held on March 15th. If you don't have a Credit Union Holiday Club Account, open one today!

## IRAs Demystified

In 1974, the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act gave birth to the Individual Retirement Account (IRA), allowing individuals of all income brackets to save (mostly tax-deferred) for their own retirement. More than 25 years later this gift from the federal government continues to be shrouded in myths, misconceptions and misunderstandings. Let's try to set the record straight:

### MYTH: A child cannot open an IRA.

All that's required to open a Traditional or Roth IRA is taxable compensation. Neither type of IRA has a minimum age limit. So long as a child has earned income, that child may contribute to an IRA.

### MYTH: A nonworking spouse is ineligible for an IRA.

For couples filing a joint income tax return, an IRA contribution for a nonworking spouse is allowed based on the working spouse's earned income.

### MYTH: Contributions to an IRA must be made by December 31st.

Although the tax-year ends on December 31st, the IRS allows IRA contributions to be made as late as the deadline to file your income tax return (usually April 15th) without the benefit of an extension.

### MYTH: At age 70 1/2 you must take a minimum required distribution every year from each Traditional IRA you own.

The minimum required distribution for all your Traditional IRAs can be totaled, and that total can then be taken from any one (or more) of your Traditional IRAs.

### MYTH: Once you begin taking minimum required distributions, you must take the required amount for the year and cannot increase that amount.

The required distribution specifies the minimum withdrawal amount only. If you take less than that amount, you will be assessed a penalty of 50% of the amount that should have been withdrawn. However, you can always take more than the minimum distribution amount without penalty.

## Credit Union IRAs

Your Credit Union offers Traditional, Roth, and Coverdel Education accounts. So come in and sign up today. The longer you wait, the less in dividends you are earning towards your retirement.

Disclaimer: Since there are always exceptions to rules, check with your tax advisor for your particular circumstances.



# RATEWATCH

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005

DIVIDENDS*	APR**	APY**
Regular Share Savings	1.50%	1.511%
Vacation Club	1.50%	1.511%
Holiday Club	1.75%	1.770%
IRA Share Account	2.50%	2.528%
Escrow Account	0.25%	0.251%
<b>Share Draft/Checking</b>		
minimum balance \$ 500	0.25%	0.251%
minimum balance \$2,500	0.50%	0.503%
<b>Share &amp; IRA Certificates</b>		
6-11 months	1.75%	1.770%
12-23 months	2.50%	2.535%
24-36 months	3.25%	3.308%
37-59 months	3.35%	3.412%
60 months	4.50%	4.606%

LOANS	MAXIMUM AMOUNT	MAXIMUM TERM	INTEREST RATE
Personal Loans	\$10,000	0-12 months	8.50%
		13-24 months	9.00%
		25-36 months	9.50%
		37-48 months	10.00%
		49-60 months	10.50%
New Vehicle Loans	100% of Invoice before taxes	0-24 months	3.90%
		25-36 months	4.40%
		37-60 months	4.90%
Used Vehicle Loans	100% of N.A.D.A. Trade-in Value	0-24 months	4.90%
		25-36 months	5.40%
		37-60 months	5.90%
Used Vehicle Loans	100% of N.A.D.A. Retail Value	0-24 months	5.90%
		25-36 months	6.40%
		37-60 months	6.90%
Share Secured	Total Shares	0-60 months	Share Rate Plus 2.0% (min 3.9%)
Overdraft Protection	\$1,000	Revolving	13.90%
VISA Classic Credit Card	\$10,000	Revolving	9.90%
VISA Platinum Credit Card	\$30,000	Revolving	14.90%
Mini Home Equity Loan***	\$25,000	0-60 months	6.50%
	\$35,000	61-84 months	6.75%
	\$50,000	85-120 months	7.00%
Home Equity Line of Credit***	\$100,000	Revolving	Prime Rate
First Mortgage*** N/A		360 months	Determined Daily

NOTE: All rates in effect as of publication date. Subject to change without notice. For current rates, call or visit the Credit Union.

\* Maximum Balance of \$50.00 is Required To Earn Interest On Share Accounts

\*\* Annual Percentage Rate/Annual Percentage Yield to qualified borrowers.

\*\*\* New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut properties only.

NCUA



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