

Your Financial Health



Summer 2009

We're Still Serving Up

Summer FUN



What's summer without some fun? Despite tough economic times, University Health Federal Credit Union is still serving up summer fun. We're offering a menu of savings with affordable loans on boats, watercraft, and recreational vehicles.

**Special rate now through August 31, 2009!
Borrow up to \$1,200 for up to 12 months.
Your rate could be as low as 6.75% APR*.**

Personal service, quick approval and flexible terms are the perfect compliment to your great low rate. Don't stay hungry for rest, relaxation and recreation. Feast on the possibilities at University Health Federal Credit Union. Call (706) 774-8850 or (888) 774-6210 (toll-free). You can also find out more by visiting www.universityhealthfcu.org today.

*Annual Percentage Rate.
All loans subject to credit approval.

Security Breaches Likely When Using Free WiFi

The free WiFi you utilize at the coffee shop, the airport or the library is helpful and convenient. But is it secure? Actually, there is nearly a 75% chance that it is not, reports *Forbes*.

In December, 2008, *Forbes* published the findings of a security study conducted by AirTight Networks, a manufacturer of wireless intrusion protection hardware and software. AirTight scanned the WiFi networks at some of the largest airports in the U. S. The worst location for WiFi compromises was Newark Airport. Only 9% of the networks they scanned in this airport were secure. Only 23% of the networks scanned at Chicago O'Hare and JFK in New York were secure.

So, if you plan to use free public WiFi, what can you do to protect yourself?

1. Do not visit your credit union's Web site when using a free WiFi connection. Take care of your home banking only when you are absolutely sure you have a secure connection.
2. Don't transmit personal information of any kind on an http:// connection. Make certain you are on an encrypted https:// page.
3. Don't use POP e-mail software like Outlook because it does not encrypt your log-in information. Use secure Web mail instead.
4. Don't leave your laptop connected to the Internet when not in use.
5. Avoid joining networks with names like "Free Public WiFi."



Enhanced
Visit Our  Web site at
www.universityhealthfcu.org

We've made our Web site even better! Now it is easier to navigate. You'll find all the rates in one convenient spot, and there is a home banking sign-in box on every page! Log on today and let us know what you think at comments@universityhealthfcu.org.



CREDIT CARD

RED FLAGS

That Could Cost You

MONEY



www.universityhealthfcu.org

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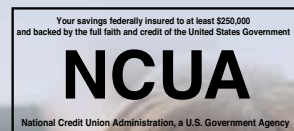
Mon, Tue, Thur: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wed: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Fri: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Martinez Branch
4106 Columbia Road, Suite 104
Martinez, GA 30907
(706) 854-1485
(706) 854-1466 Fax

Mon, Tue, Thur: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wed: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Fri: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Audio Response
Local: (706) 774-9465 or
(706) 774-3466
Toll-free: (888) 774-6210
**Online Banking &
Bill Pay Available!**

Holiday Closings
Independence Day July 3
Labor Day September 7



While mortgage and savings rates have decreased, many credit card rates are on the rise. In late March, Bankrate.com, which monitors the interest rates offered by the 10 biggest credit-card issuers, reported increases for four consecutive weeks. These rate hikes were made across the board, even to cardholders with excellent credit scores and spotless payment histories.

Some credit card issuers may be raising rates to increase their bottom lines before new Federal regulations go into effect in July 2010 that will prohibit them from raising interest rates on existing balances unless the cardholder is more than 30 days late with a payment. Whatever the card issuers' motivation, the steep climb in interest rates will raise minimum monthly payments and push many struggling cardholders into financial difficulties.

The best advice for consumers: read carefully the terms of your credit card. Even if you had a great deal when you opened the account, you could be paying too much now. At least once a year, credit card companies will send out what is called a "change of terms notice" to document any changes to your account terms. It is very important to read the entire letter so you won't be surprised by drastic changes to your account.

Here are changes to watch for:

- 1. Rising Annual Percentage Rates.** An increase in your rate will affect the amount of interest you pay on your existing balance as well as new purchases.
- 2. Cash Advance Charges.** Credit card companies often send notice of a change in cash advance or other fees. If you are not aware of the change, you could run up quite a bit in fees without realizing it.
- 3. Surprise Clauses.** Look for little changes in the "rules" of your account. For example, a new clause might say that if the customer is late making payments on two occasions over a rolling 12-month period, the company has the ability to raise the interest rate being charged on outstanding balances by a certain percentage. That rate hike could be huge! According to Investopedia.com, in 2008 one major credit card company changed the APR on the customer's outstanding balance from 23.99% to 32.24%.
- 4. Changing Benefits/Rewards.** Watch for changes in rewards programs. A notification could inform you that you will receive less credit for each dollar you charge or alter the way you can access your rewards.
- 5. Notification of Information Sharing.** Your credit card company could notify you that they will begin sharing your information unless you opt out.
- 6. Changes in Dispute Deadlines.** You may have a shorter length of time to contact your credit card company to correct mistakes. Look for changes in this policy, but also always review your credit card account statements promptly.

Don't be caught off guard! Compare your current rate with a University Health Federal Credit Union Visa® credit card. Our rates and fees are lower than most banks, and we work to keep our rates as low as possible. Transfer your balances from other high-interest cards and save even more. **Your rate could be as low as 10.5% APR*.**

Call the credit union at (706) 774-8850 or (888) 774-6210 (toll-free). You can also find out more by visiting www.universityhealthfcu.org today.

*Annual Percentage Rate.