

Your Financial Health



Winter 2012

It's Family Time! Join Us for the Annual Meeting

There's nothing like a time for families to get together. That's why University Health Federal Credit Union always looks forward to our Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting provides us the opportunity to express our appreciation for our members and grow the sense of community that is part of what makes us special.

You'll hear reports of what has been happening at the credit union over the last year – reports that will help you feel confident in our safety and stability. You'll also have the opportunity to help elect our volunteer board of directors to serve the credit union in the coming year. You won't want to miss it, so mark your calendars now. We hope to see you there.

University Health FCU Annual Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2012
2:00 p.m.
University Hospital Levi W. Hill, III Auditorium

Break the Cycle of Holiday Debt

Did you spend the last few months building up holiday debt? If you want to make sure that next year is different, now is the time to start. Open a Christmas Club account in January and be ready by the time this year's holiday season arrives. You can make regular payments through payroll deduction or at your convenience.

Time is on your side right now, so don't wait! For more information, call (706) 774-8850 or visit www.universityhealthfcu.org.



Fraud Alert:

Don't Pay What You Don't Owe

An estimated 20 million Americans are paying fees they don't owe on their monthly phone bills. The scam is called "cramming." According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), "Cramming happens when a company adds a charge to your phone bill for a service you didn't order, agree to, or use." The charge may show up just once or every month. The FTC sites examples such as charges for international calls you didn't make or for services like "web hosting." These fees are often hard to identify because they may sound like charges you actually owe.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, 19 out of 20 people don't recognize these charges, and they pay them every month. That can cost the unsuspecting consumer hundreds of dollars a year. Typically, when consumers discover the charges, phone companies will only credit the amount of the fees for the past 60 days.

To protect yourself, review the charges on your phone bills (and all your other bills, too, for that matter) every month. If your bill goes up even a few dollars, look for the cause. Look at every page and question any fee you don't recognize or understand. Many cramming charges are for generic-sounding services such as "Activation," "Member Fee," or "Minimum Use Fee."

Ask for a credit if you believe you have been charged for something you don't owe, and make certain you ask for the charge to be permanently removed in the future.

For more information on cramming, visit the Federal Trade Commission's Web site at: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro18.shtm>.



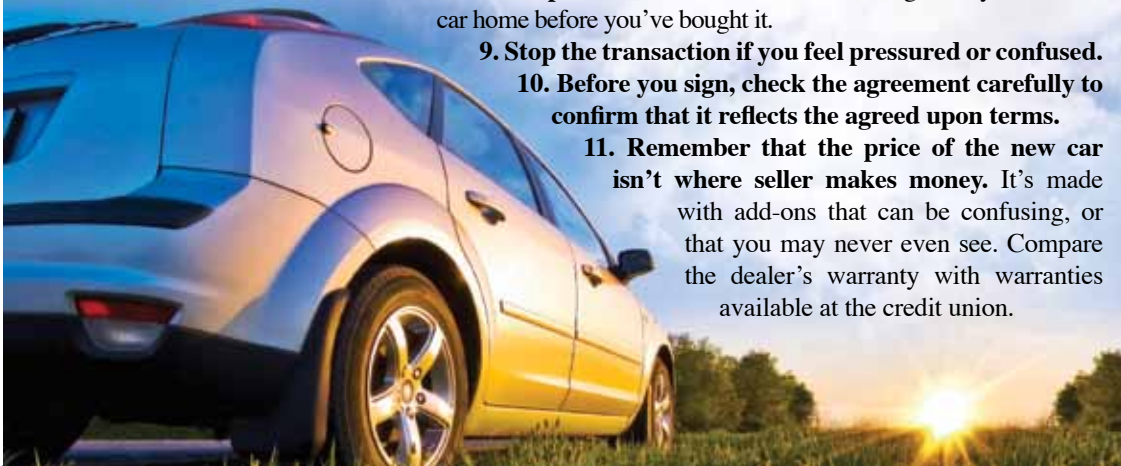
Your Guide to **Smart** Auto Shopping



Buying a car can be a tough experience. How do you know you're getting the best deal? How can you keep yourself from paying too much? And with complaints of auto-related fraud on the rise, how do you protect yourself against fraud?

For the inexperienced car-buyer, the process can be intimidating. Follow these steps and you'll be much more likely to end up paying a fair price on the vehicle that will best suit your needs.

- 1. Slow down!** Speeding through the process can be dangerous! Don't let yourself fall in love with a car that you "just can't live without."
- 2. Budget before you shop.** Begin the process by determining what you can afford. Take a hard look at your budget to determine what size car payment you can handle each month. That will narrow your options.
- 3. Make financing your next step.** Come to the credit union to be approved for financing first. You have more bargaining power when you have your financing worked out BEFORE you go into the dealer. Dealer financing may look too good to pass up, but don't be fooled. Most consumers don't qualify for the best advertised rate, and end up paying more in interest than they would at their financial institution.
- 4. Do your homework.** Doing some research at the library or online on the performance ratings of various cars will narrow your choices further. The annual *Consumer Reports* car issue (April) is one good source for that information. Check pricing guides so you'll know what the vehicle should cost.
- 5. Don't deal with dealerships that require you to sign a mandatory arbitration agreement.**
- 6. Don't buy on your first visit.** You will pay more if you don't shop around.
- 7. Never leave a deposit until the seller agrees to your price.** One key strategy is to negotiate price up from the dealer's cost, rather than down from the manufacturer's suggested retail price.
- 8. Don't fall for "spot deliver."** That's a dealer offering to let you take the car home before you've bought it.
- 9. Stop the transaction if you feel pressured or confused.**
- 10. Before you sign, check the agreement carefully to confirm that it reflects the agreed upon terms.**
- 11. Remember that the price of the new car isn't where seller makes money.** It's made with add-ons that can be confusing, or that you may never even see. Compare the dealer's warranty with warranties available at the credit union.



Become a Candidate for the Board of Directors

Members of the 2012 University Health Federal Credit Union board will be decided at the Annual Meeting.

The following positions are posted for membership:
Board of Directors – 3 positions, 3-year terms

If you are interested in running for a position on the 2012 board of directors and are a member in good standing, able to attend monthly board meetings (one hour maximum) and a one-day planning session, please contact one of the following nominating committee members by **Friday, January 20, 2012**. They will be happy to discuss any questions you may have concerning a board position and the responsibility involved.

Nominating Committee
Andrew Nelson (45901)
Laura Tallent (45707)
Johnny Melles (45255)

All interested individuals will be included on the ballot to be passed out at the Annual Meeting. We will also take nominations from the floor at that time. The ballots will then be collected and counted. Results will be announced at the end of the meeting. Remember, you must be a credit union member and be present at the Annual Meeting to vote in this election.

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.

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

Audio Response
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