

The Unified Connection

October
2007

A publication of Unified Communities Federal Credit Union



**Unified
Communities**
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Happy Credit Union Day 2007

Mark your calendars! UCFCU is celebrating International Credit Union Day on Thursday, October 18th. Stop by either branch to enjoy refreshments and celebrate with us! International Credit Union Day celebrates the history, tradition and spirit of the international credit union movement. Since their origin, credit unions have been unique financial institutions, created not for profit, but to serve members as cooperatives. Credit Unions exist to provide a safe, convenient place for members like you to save money and get loans at reasonable rates.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for being an important part of Unified Communities Federal Credit Union. We are dedicated to improving the lives of our members and are guided by a simple premise - that people are worth more than money. Take full advantage of your credit union membership and be sure to tell your family and friends to come in and experience the "Credit Union Difference" today!

Holiday Closings - 2007

Columbus Day — Monday, October 8th

Veteran's Day — Monday, November 12th

Thanksgiving Day — Thursday, November 22th

Christmas Eve — Monday, December 24th

Christmas Day — Tuesday, December 25th

New Year's Day - Tuesday, January 1st

MAKE THE SWITCH

SWITCH your checking account to Unified Communities Federal Credit Union. Say goodbye to the bank and bring your checking account home to your credit union and you will enjoy:

- **No minimum balance requirements**
- **No monthly statement fees**
- **No per check transaction charges**
- **Access to your account through 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs worldwide**
- **Debit Card purchases wherever MasterCard is accepted**
- **Free direct deposit**
- **Free online banking**
- **Overdraft Protection Options**



Visit our office or call one of our friendly staff to help you make the SWITCH today!

Direct Deposit Trims Your To-Do List

We're a nation on the go. There's work time, fitness time, child time, spouse time, parent time, friend time, and — if you're lucky — some quiet time. Wouldn't it be nice to worry about one less thing? Try direct deposit. No matter where your check's coming from, direct deposit takes the worry out of:

- Stolen or misplaced checks
- Delayed deposits
- Lost time

Ask us to help you switch to direct deposit today!

Mission Statement

"Unified Communities Federal Credit Union is a member-owned cooperative, that will continually strive to provide professional services, remaining competitive and fiscally responsible to its members' needs."



VISA® GIFT CARDS

The Perfect Gift for Everyone on Your List!

VISA® Gift Cards can help take the guesswork out of your holiday shopping. It's perfect for college students, nieces & nephews, and even teachers! These pre-paid cards are accepted all over the United States wherever VISA® Debit cards are accepted. There is a small fee for the card, and you decide the value of the card from \$25 - \$500. Pick up your perfect gift at one of our offices, **TODAY!**

Belleville High School Senior Receives \$500 Credit Union Scholarship

Nicole Houston believes that if kids start a savings account from an early age like she did, "It will build their strength to learn to save money and make a better future". Nicole became Unified Communities Federal Credit Union's

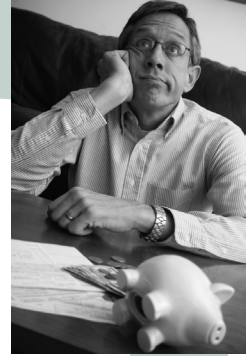


Mary Carnarvon-LaHousse, CEO, presents Nicole Houston with a check from UCFCU for \$500.

2007 Theodore Hancox Scholarship recipient by submitting an essay on the value of the credit union in her community. Nicole is a 2007 Belleville High School graduate and she will be attending Washtenaw Community College. In her scholarship submission essay Nicole says, "I feel like the employees of the credit union want to help the members of the community to improve their lives in all ways." She adds, "I have known them to do many things such as offering free workshops, donating prizes to community events, and involvement in charities and fundraisers." UCFCU is proud to support higher education and wishes Nicole and all students a successful academic experience!

Considering a Pay-Day Loan? See Your Credit Union First!

If you're in a pinch for money, come in to see us instead of a payday lender. You can get the money you need by applying for a credit union line of credit. It's a good weapon against payday lenders — saving you hundreds of dollars vs. a payday loan.



Applying for a line of credit is as easy as applying for a signature loan. You'll have an available line of credit with a maximum line amount. If you overdraw your checking account, money from your line of credit is automatically transferred into your checking account.

A line of credit works like an unsecured loan, and interest rates generally are comparable to credit card interest rates.

If you're in need of money, use a service you can trust. Come see us today.

2nd Annual Belleville Fire Department Golf Outing August 18, 2007

All proceeds from the golf outing go towards training, education & tooling for the Belleville Fire Department. In 2006, the Belleville Fire Department responded to 456 emergency calls.



Pictured above at the golf outing are Firemen (left to right) Mark Schlund, Lee Grant and Jim Stewart. Women (left to right) Lynne Schiffour, Executive Vice President, Mary Carnarvon-LaHousse, CEO, and Martha Warren, Belleville Branch Manager

What to Do When Your ARM Is Due

If you have an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) and your fixed-rate period is drawing to an end, your first rate adjustment is looming. It's time to devise a plan.

Many ARM borrowers are facing that task with uncertainty. One of three homeowners with ARMs say they don't know what they'll do when their rate adjusts, according to a March 2007 Bankrate.com survey. If you're among those who feel unsure, you have three basic options when your adjustment is due:

1. Refinance into a fixed-rate 30-year (or shorter term) mortgage. You'll never have to worry about rate adjustments however, the rate might be slightly higher and you may also have to pay closing costs to refinance. Your savings depends on how long you plan on staying in your home. If you plan to stay in your home more than a few years the savings will add up.
2. Refinance into a new ARM that has terms better suited to your situation. You'll face the decision again in a few years about what to do when the rate adjusts. Still, a new ARM might be a viable option if you plan to sell your house in a couple of years. You'd save a bit on monthly payments in the meantime. Remember to factor in closing costs and any prepayment penalties.
3. Stay with the ARM you have and take the rate adjustment. If you have a low-rate ARM and it can't climb much, you might want to stay in it for the remaining few years and see what happens—if you can live with the uncertainty. It also makes sense to stay in your current ARM if you plan to sell your home soon.

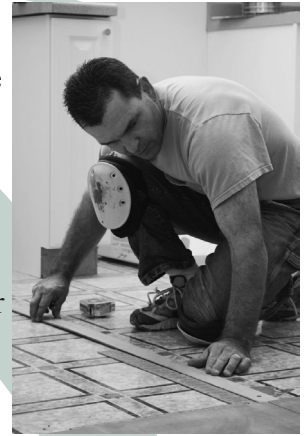
If you need help to decipher your ARM contract and plan your next move, turn to the Mortgage Center at Unified Communities Federal Credit Union. We have your best interests at heart. Call 888-562-6865 or click on the Mortgage Center link on our website at www.unifiedcommunitiesfcu.com.



Looking for your first home?

Go with someone you know.

Why rent when you can own? The low interest rates on home mortgages make now the best time for you to purchase your first home! Your credit union offers a variety of options that make it easy for you to afford to move up from being a renter to being a proud home owner!



- Apply Online!
- Free Pre-Approval!
- No Closing Costs Options Available!
- Zero Down Payment!

Getting your first home loan through Unified gives you so many options! Our popular Real Estate Rebate program matches you with a qualified real estate agent and returns money to you at closing. We also offer discounted private mortgage insurance rates, competitive interest rates and excellent service throughout the life of your loan. Check us out online or stop by one of our branches, and make the move today!

Verify Your Account Beneficiaries and Joint Owners

Many members open accounts with the intention of adding a beneficiary or joint owner at a later date. Sometimes life situations change and a review should be made concerning who has access to your account. In any case, it's a good idea to ask us to check the status of joint owners and beneficiaries for your account the next time you are in the office.

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Office Hours
Mon. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCING “**brass**” MAGAZINE

We have some exciting news for our young adult members, ages 16 - 25! You're about to receive your first issue of “**brass**” magazine starting in early November. To show our appreciation for your membership, we are providing complimentary copies of **brass** to our young adult members, as a resource on making, managing, and multiplying money. So what is **brass**?

Brass is about young adults, money, and how it affects your life. A quarterly magazine published in February, May, August, and November, **brass** is made up of content produced by young writers, photographers, and graphic designers - just like you. **Brass** doesn't talk at you. We see you eye to eye.

Brass' goal is to provide direct, intelligent, entertaining content to young adults about the money side of life. From planning your retirement to throwing cheap parties, **brass** looks at your young adult life and how you handle money.

Like **brass**, Unified Communities Federal Credit Union wants to convey to you the importance of understanding how money works. For your dreams to come true, you need to know how money and your life interact. We are committed to helping you meet your financial challenges and reaching your dreams.

Thank you for being a member of Unified Communities Federal Credit Union. We hope you enjoy **brass**.

Holiday Club Accounts Spread Cheer to Santa's Savers

Do the holidays leave you wincing from the credit card bill long after the holiday euphoria has worn off? If so, we're here to help.

A Holiday Club account lets you save for holiday spending in advance rather than relying on credit cards at the last minute. You even can arrange to have the money deducted directly from your paycheck, making saving as painless as possible. Knowing that you'll have the money to pay for the holidays will put the cheer back into this year's gift giving.



Get Ready, Get Set, Go Shopping!

Reap the savings of the “After Thanksgiving Day Sales” with a special Holiday Shopping Loan from UCFCU!



Borrow up to \$2500.00
Payments as low as
\$220 a month
for 12 Months
Rate as low as 9.5% APR

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Limited time offer available from November 19, 2007 through January 31, 2008. Rates can change. Your rate will be based on your credit score and the term of your loan.



TEENS – Get your first auto loan here!

Unified Communities Federal Credit Union wants to help young people establish good credit ratings at affordable rates. Car dealers, banks, and other finance companies may take advantage of a young person's inexperience in financing and charge higher rates and fees for their loans. You can trust your credit union to provide you with low rates and an explanation of the loan process and services. For example, apply for pre-approved financing and you can shop with confidence knowing that your loan is approved for a specific dollar amount. Plus, your payments can be set up for automatic transfer payments from your account or direct deposit. First time borrowers may need a cosigner, but once you have established good credit, you'll be on your way to independent financing. It's fast and easy to apply.

- Visit our office
- Apply online at www.unifiedcommunitiesfcu.com
- Call (734) 485-3300 (Canton) or (734) 697-4800 (Belleville) to start the process

DO IT TODAY!