

CREDIT Views

Coming Soon: New Prepaid Cards

Our Visa® Gift cards have been so popular that we're adding two new prepaid cards to our lineup. In addition to the gift card, we'll offer a reloadable card that can be personalized and a travel card that's an alternative to traveler's cheques. Both of the new cards can be used for purchases and at ATMs, and both cards can be reloaded. Watch for more information on these new prepaid cards, coming soon to Columbus Metro!



Inside:

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Is It Time To Refinance
Your Home?

3.

Test Your Identity Theft IQ

ONLINE BANKING: SAFER THAN EVER

We are working to implement new security enhancements to deter fraud and ensure that we provide you with the highest level of security while you bank online with MetroWeb.

Most of the time, your online banking experience will be the same as it was before. However, there will be an extra layer of security working behind the scenes to protect your account. The new security may – very infrequently – prompt you to verify your identity. This means you can manage your accounts with an even greater sense of confidence.

When these changes are implemented on May 4, you'll be asked to create a username for your account. You'll enter this username – instead of your account number – each time that you log on to MetroWeb. In the weeks and months that follow, you'll also be asked to create a set of security questions that only you will know the answer to. You will be prompted to answer these questions if we need to verify your identity (this should happen very rarely). Once you complete these steps, you can continue banking online with even greater peace of mind.

If you have any questions about these new security measures and how they work, please don't hesitate to call us, stop in or visit www.columbusmetro.org/online_security.html.



Super Money Market

\$20,000 minimum..... 1.50% APY
 \$50,000 or more.....2.00% APY

6 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$1,000 minimum 2.50% APY

12 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$500 minimum 2.75% APY

15 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$500 minimum 2.75% APY

Allows deposits of \$250 or more

36 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$500 minimum 3.25% APY

60 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$500 minimum 4.00% APY

Education Growth

Fund Certificate

\$250 minimum 3.00% APY

Vehicle Loan (2007 to 2009)

As low as..... 5.74% APR*

Up to 72 months

Vehicle Loan (2003 to 2006)

As low as..... 6.24% APR*

Up to 66 months

Vehicle Loan (2002 & older)

As low as..... 7.74% APR*

Up to 60 months

Home Equity Loan—Fixed Rate

As low as5.99% APR*

Up to 180 months

Home Equity Line of Credit

Redi-Line.....3.50% APR

First Mortgages

Contact Keith Louderback at
 ext. 3026 or [klouderback@
 columbusmetro.org](mailto:klouderback@columbusmetro.org)

*Rates current as of 3/18/09
 and subject to change without
 notice. See a Member Services
 Representative for full details. APY =
 Annual Percentage Yield. APR =
 Annual Percentage Rate. Loans made
 subject to standard loan approval
 guidelines. * The rate you pay may
 vary based on your credit history
 and/or loan-to-value ratio.*

IS IT TIME TO REFINANCE YOUR HOME?



With mortgage rates near all-time lows, you may be wondering whether you should refinance your existing home loan now. The answer: It depends.

Your decision to refinance should be based on your answers to a couple of questions. First, how long will it take you to recoup the cost of refinancing? And second, how long do you intend to stay in your home?

How long will it take to recoup the cost of refinancing?

If you decide to refinance, there will be closing costs associated with your new loan. The national average for closing costs on a \$200,000 loan is \$3,118, according to Bankrate.com.

Some simple calculations will help you determine your break-even point. You'll need to know what your new mortgage payment would be and the amount of closing costs you'd pay if you refinance.

1. Write down your current mortgage payment (principal and interest).
2. Write down your new mortgage payment if you refinanced.
3. Subtract #1 from #2. This is your monthly savings.
4. Now, divide the total fees you'll pay to refinance by #3 (be sure to include any prepayment penalties your current lender will charge). This tells you how many months it will take for your refinance to pay off.

Once you know the answer to this question, you can move on to the second.

How long do you expect to stay in your home?

Let's say that your answer to the first question is 36 months. If you only plan to stay in your existing home for two more years, it doesn't make sense to refinance — you won't save enough to recover your closing costs. On the other hand, if you expect to stay there for five or 10 more years, you could save thousands of dollars.

The rates and fees for your new mortgage will greatly affect the profitability of a refinance. That's why you should turn to Columbus Metro. Our mortgage loans offer competitive rates and low closing costs. And our mortgage specialist, Keith Louderback, has over 14 years of mortgage lending experience. You can count on him to help you find a mortgage that fits your needs — not just today, but for years to come.

Contact Keith at 614.239.0210 or 800.986.3876 ext. 3026 or klouderback@columbusmetro.org.

TEST YOUR IDENTITY THEFT IQ

True or false:

1. Most identity theft occurs when hackers gain access to accounts online.
2. Identity theft only affects a few thousand people each year.
3. Fraudulent e-mails are becoming less and less common.

The answer to all three statements is false. In reality,

1. Most thieves obtain personal information by stealing paper mail or wallets or by tricking consumers into giving out the information themselves.
2. There are more than eight million cases of identity theft in the U.S. each year.
3. Phishing e-mails are still very common, and thieves are now using text messages to try to elicit information as well.



There are lots of simple precautions that you can take to protect yourself from the threat of identity theft. Our online services are a great place to start. Use MetroWeb to monitor your accounts regularly. Then add e-statements and MetroWeb Bill Pay to keep sensitive account information out of your mailbox.

For more information about our online services, visit www.columbusmetro.org. More information on identity theft is available from the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, www.privacyrights.org, or from the Federal Trade Commission, www.ftc.gov.

THIEVES TARGET CELL PHONE USERS

There's a new threat to cell phone users everywhere. The scam has been dubbed "smishing," a term derived from the SMS technology used for text messages.

Smishing is similar to deceptive e-mail and phone scams. In all of these forms of fraud, scammers try to trick victims into revealing personal information like account numbers, Social Security numbers and passwords. The information is used to withdraw money from the victim's accounts or obtain credit in the victim's name.

To protect yourself, never respond to a text asking for personal financial information, even if it appears legitimate. Don't click on links or call unfamiliar phone numbers listed in text messages. And monitor your financial accounts regularly for signs of fraudulent activity.



BY PHONE

614.239.0210
800.986.3876

BY FAX

614.239.0988

BY EMAIL

cmfcu@columbusmetro.org

BY MAIL

P.O. Box 13240
Columbus, OH 43213-0240

VISIT US

4000 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43213

6623 E. Main St.
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

DSCC Building 20
Room B110S

DFAS Building 21
Room A132

24-HOUR SERVICES

MetroWeb
www.columbusmetro.org

MetroTeller
614.237.8777 or 800.529.4619

Visa Balance & Payment
Inquiries
800.600.5173
www.ezcardinfo.com

Lost or Stolen Visa
During regular business hours
614.239.0210 or 800.986.3876
After hours 800.991.4961

Lost or Stolen MasterMoney
800.528.2273

DIRECTORS HONORED FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT

Beverly Wilson and Mark Wilkerson, members of Columbus Metro's Board of Directors, have been honored as graduates of the Credit Union Executives Society's Director Education Center.

The Director Education Center is a series of 12 in-depth courses that provides credit union volunteers with a deeper understanding of financial services fundamentals, legislation, compliance and governance.

"We are proud of Beverly and Mark's hard work and commitment to furthering their service to our credit union and the movement," said Tim Richey, president. "By expanding their knowledge, Beverly and Mark have contributed to creating a stronger board and credit union."

CUES® is an independent membership association for credit union executives. Its mission is to advance the professional development of credit union CEOs, senior management and directors.



ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Our 2008 annual report is now available! You can pick up a copy at any of our offices, or view it online at www.columbusmetro.org/archive.html.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Saturday, July 4

MEMORIAL DAY
Monday, May 25



Views CREDIT

P.O. Box 13240
Columbus, OH
43213-0240



Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
PSB
92799