

# Tri-Cities Credit Union Column

Quarterly Newsletter - Fall 2011

TCFCU-0911-NL

## [Another] Credit Card Conversion Update

Our credit card processing company hasn't been moving as quickly as we planned, so now by **mid October** your credit cards will be housed in our own computer system. Using your existing credit card will be unchanged, but you will then be able to make payments or check balances on our own online banking website (not EZCardinfo.com), and our tellers will be able to access your credit card information instantly, just like any other account. If you had automatic payments (online bill pay?) you may need to redirect these payments directly to our Credit Union after this change. Let us know if you have any questions or problems, and thank you in advance for your patience, we will do our best to avoid any temporary service interruptions during this conversion!

## Let us Scan your I.D.

We do our best to know our members on sight – but this is sometimes challenging as we grow or hire new employees. Please let us scan your photo I.D. to your account. This improves accuracy because we can instantly verify we are posting transactions to the correct account– and it reduces the chance of identity theft. When we don't need to ask to see your ID we can be faster!



## Hello and Goodbye

After several excellent years we are sorry to say goodbye to Sandy, and we will all miss her. Sandy is pursuing an exciting new career path and we wish her the best! Related to her departure you may see a new face in our lobby – please help our new employee feel welcome!



## IBEW #112 Golf Tournament

Tri-Cities Credit Union was proud to sponsor and participate again, and we had lots of fun. Pictured are Board members Tony Edwards, Diane Turney and Dave Strote (Doug Wadsworth took the picture). So how did we do? Par – which is a heck of a lot better than last year (don't ask).



## Parking Lot Lunacy

Yes, our parking lot dynamics changed with our new neighbor (for better or for worse). So last month we **widened** our parking lot entrance by 5 feet to make it easier to get in.

We also re-painted several arrows to help keep traffic moving in the correct direction!



## Congratulations Marie!

Winner of our \$500 IBEW #112 Jens Olsen CU Founder Scholarship!



## AVOID FEES & SAVE MONEY

- **Don't let your account become dormant.** After 18-months of non-use there is a \$5 monthly fee which helps cover administration and fraud prevention on abandoned accounts. This fee could result in account closure, or there is a \$50 fee if remaining funds must be sent to Unclaimed Property after 3 years. Note: If your balance is under \$10 when it approaches dormancy you will not be contacted or warned prior to the fee being charged.
- **Don't make more than 6 monthly withdrawals from a savings account or money market.** Federal Regulation "D" restricts over 6 certain types of withdrawals each month from a savings account. We charge a fee of \$3 for each withdrawal exceeding this limit, which is charged at the end of each month. Move needed funds to the checking account to avoid this fee and save money!
- **Avoid overdraft fees with a Personal Credit-line.** Not having the funds available for items to clear your checking account will cost \$25 each, whether or not we pay the item for you. A personal credit-line can give you peace-of-mind overdraft protection!
- **Reprinting statements is \$3 per month.** Save money by signing up for e-Statements and you can get them anytime you want from our online banking (plus it saves trees).
- **Reprinting Check Images is \$3 each.** You can see these check images yourself, online for free, anytime!
- **Debit card overdraft fees can be prevented.** If you want your debit card to be denied when there aren't funds available (rather than paying a \$25 NSF fee for each transaction), let us know.

## From the President: Banks are Changing



Our current struggling economy is leading to historic increases in the number and complexity of financial regulations. Banks are changing strategies to compensate for lost revenue and increased compliance burdens. What does this look like? Here are some hints: Is your checking account still free – for real? Does your credit card now have a hefty annual fee, and has the rate become variable? Can you still use your debit or ATM card for free? Are other fees suddenly climbing, or new “strings” are being attached? Chances are it will only get worse, especially with the Big Banks.

As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, we are in business to help you save money (literally). Our checking is still FREE, our credit cards still have no annual fee and a low FIXED rate, and our fees continue to stay low. Why? Because we are a Credit Union, committed to being a less expensive alternative to Big Banks.

The financial sector will continue to adjust to meet the changing needs of people and to stay competitive. Perhaps in the future the only way to avoid many fees will be to “bundle and save,” by doing most of your business with a single financial institution. As this happens we hope you choose us. We are doing everything we can to offer the best loan rates, better service, and to stay convenient with mobile banking, free bill pay, etc. How else can we help you achieve financial success? Please let us know, you can even post your idea on our facebook page. Thank you for your membership!

Doug Wadsworth  
President

### Starting Loan Rates (Sep 2011)\*

	APR*
Credit Builder Loan	3.00%
Platinum Credit Card (with active checking)	8.90%
Classic Credit Card (with active checking)	12.90%
Signature Loan or Credit-Line	5.90%
New & Used Auto Rates	1.99%
Boats and RVs	6.25%
Bare Land Loans	5.49%
Home Equity Loans	5.25%
Home Equity Line of Credit	4.00%
10-year Home Loan	3.99%
15-year Home Loan	4.19%

\*Annual Percentage Rate. Some restrictions apply, subject to credit approval, rates may change at any time without notice. Rates quoted are for best credit and shortest term. Home Equity line of Credit is variable based on the WSJ Prime Rate and can change each quarter. Other rates and terms and restrictions apply. Equal Housing Lender. Credit card rates are 2% higher without active checking. Save money – it is smart.

## JOHNNY APPLESEED ACCOUNTS!

Come start your child on their path to saving and financial responsibility today. We encourage kids to save by giving prizes with their deposits, raffles and other kid contests. **Kids:** circle every time you see the word “SAVE” and return it to us with your name and member number at the top. It will be entered in a drawing a month later and one entry will win \$10– deposited into your account!



**Stay connected** – become our fan on facebook!

## Changed Wire Instructions

Are you planning on wiring funds into your account at this Credit Union? Please contact us to receive the new incoming wire instructions, as they have just changed.



## RIDICULOUS Rates

Have you brought us your car loan yet? We will finance used cars starting at **1.99% APR\*** (24-month, best credit, 2008 and newer, not for existing TCFCU loans). We are also refinancing mortgages starting at **3.99% APR\*** for a 10-year term. Cash out is OK, and there is **NO ORIGINATION FEE!**

\*annual percentage rate, oac, some restrictions apply.

## Contact Information

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Asset Size: \$21,854,668  
# of Members: 3,345  
# of Employees: 7

Founded in 1969 by IBEW Local #112  
Membership for anyone who lives, works or worships in Benton or Franklin County, Wa.



Your Family ~ Your Goals ~ Our Service

**We Belong to You!**