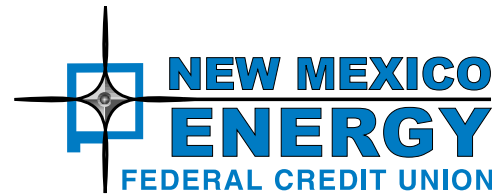


# Money Matters



Fall 2008

A Quarterly Publication of New Mexico Energy Federal Credit Union

Visit us on the Web at [www.nmenergyfcu.org](http://www.nmenergyfcu.org)

## WOW! Our December Loan Promotion

With the success of our last "100 Reasons" Loan Promotion, we have decided to offer this promotion again during the month of December. For any loan in the amount of \$3,000 or more we will, upon loan closing, credit \$100 to your account as a way of saying *Thank You* for your business.

Please stop by in December and visit with Pam Gaddy or Diane Aicher or call them at 505-845-6733 or 800-825-5256 (then dial 845-6733) for an application or for more information. (Prepayment penalties will apply.) ■



## Check Out 1st Mortgages

Are you in the market for a first mortgage with a great rate? We have a variety of mortgages to fit your needs. Our fixed-rate mortgages have terms of 10 years, 15 years, or 30 years. Fixed-rate home equity loans also have really great rates.

Call Pam 845-6733 or Diane at or 845-4608 for further information, or stop by the Credit Union during regular business hours for help with your mortgage needs. ■



## Looking for a Great Stocking Stuffer?

Did you know that we sell movie tickets? We sell tickets for use at any Regal Entertainment Group Theatres, which includes Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres. They are redeemable at over 550 theatres nationwide. Tickets are \$6.60 each.

Visit [www.regmovies.com](http://www.regmovies.com) for show times and locations. These tickets never expire! See a member service representative to purchase. ■



## Board of Directors Volunteers Needed

Your Credit Union nominating committee will soon be looking for a few good volunteers to run for election to the Credit Union's Board of Directors. Volunteers take home planning and management expertise and help in the oversight of their own financial cooperative.

By submitting your name to one of the members of the nominating committee you will open up a new dimension to your life and take home a sense of satisfaction that you are giving needed help to

your not-for-profit financial cooperative.

Volunteers must be a member in good standing of NM Energy FCU as of December 31 of this year and be willing and able to dedicate the time required to attend monthly and occasional special meetings.

Please contact one of the following nominating committee members before December 1: Steve Northrup at 845-5566, Don Garcia at 845-5878, or Charles Trujillo at 845-6128. ■

## Beat the Holiday Blues with a Holiday Loan

Is the cost of the upcoming holidays making you blue? Turn your holiday blues into green cash with a holiday loan. Our low rates and convenient repayment terms will put the "happy" back into your holidays.

To apply for a holiday loan, or for more information, call 845-6733 or 845-4608 today! ■



## What You Should Know About Retirement Risks

This was the topic for the NM Energy FCU member seminar presented by Bruce Hopper, Financial Advisor for Morgan Stanley. Bruce gave an informative, educational talk that encompassed such questions as: "Will I have enough to fund the retirement I envision?" "Will my income last, no matter how long I live?" Participants were introduced to the various types of accounts avail-

able in which to invest their retirement funds. We were pleased by the great response we had to this seminar.

Thank you to all of our wonderful Members for supporting this seminar. Future seminars will include topics such as organizing your financial records, identity theft, and how to use wealth-building tools. ■



## Happy International Credit Union Day 2008

We're celebrating a special day and you're part of it. Join us October 16 to celebrate International Credit Union Day with this year's theme "My Credit Union: It Belongs to Me."

International Credit Union Day celebrates the history, tradition, and spirit of the international credit union movement — and those who own it. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for being an important part of NM Energy FCU. It is members like you who help to make up this truly special organization — not shareholders. You own your Credit Union, and we are here to serve you.

Credit unions exist to provide a safe, convenient place for members to save money and to get loans at reasonable rates; credit union members save, on average, \$240\* a year per household. Take full advantage of your Credit Union membership. Meet your borrowing and savings needs with our member-friendly, low-priced services.

In honor of International Credit Union Day we will be accepting donations for the Children's Miracle Network. In return for your donation of a minimum of \$1, you will be served lemonade and a cookie as our way of saying thank you!

This International Credit Union Day, we are excited to be a part of your hopes and dreams. Thank you for being part of the credit union difference. Let us know how we're doing and what we can do to make your credit union membership even better. Call us today at 505.845.6939.

\*According to data from the Credit Union National Association. ■

it **my credit union** belongs to me™



We are pleased to announce that we had five winners in the Debit Anything Campaign.

The following Members each won either one or two \$10 Shell gas cards: Lillian Greenwald, Frederick Haynie, Erin Livermore, Benjamin Sexson, and Grace Strickland. Congratulations and thank you for participating!

*MORE Congratulations* to Jayson Lane, Ann Van Tassell, and Patricia Thompson as the winners of the DOE/NNSA EAC membership drive Visa gift card drawings.

NM Energy Federal CU was happy to support the membership drive and donate the Visa gift cards! ■

## Tough Times Series: When Times Are Tough We can Help

By Michelle M. Haas-Dosher

You've seen the headlines about the struggling economy: job losses, foreclosures, negative savings rate, and recession.

In tough times, it's more important than ever to develop and maintain good financial habits. "Having a household budget and shedding high-rate credit card debt are two obvious things that could benefit most consumers," says Mike Schenk, vice president of the Credit Union National Association's economics and statistics department, in Madison, Wis-

consin. "But figuring out where to start can be a daunting task — especially if you feel like you're already in trouble. The thing to remember is that it's never too late to ask for help — a trip to your credit union should be job number one."

Take a look at the following areas:

- Manage your mortgage
- Tap your home's equity
- Cut credit card costs
- Pass up payday loans
- Use direct deposit
- Steer clear of scams



Don't wait until you're in deep trouble to ask for a financial checkup at your credit union. In fact, the earlier you ask for a review, the better the outcome can be.

For further details visit our Web site, [www.nmenergyfcu.org](http://www.nmenergyfcu.org), and click the Home & Family Resources link on the right side of our Web site. Once there, type "Times are Tough" in the search field, click "go" and you will be routed to another page where you can select a video to watch or articles to read. ■

## Students Take Care of Credit on Campus This Fall

Here are a few tips for students before they leave for college and accept those credit card offers that are pushed on every campus these days.

**1. Don't be lured by the free stuff.** TrueCredit.com commissioned a survey and found that four out of ten consumers sign up for a credit card in order to receive a free gift or special offer. Many of these are logo wear featuring the school's logo. These credit cards more than likely will not serve a student's best interest. And many universities are paid by credit-card companies for allowing them to solicit on campus.

Before you decide on any card do your homework. Talk to parents, compare true costs at [CreditCards.com](http://CreditCards.com) and [LowerMyBills.com](http://LowerMyBills.com), and be sure to talk to your Credit Union lending staff. We have a no annual fee, low interest rate, and a no uni-

versal default clause Visa product available.

**2. Promotional rates are only temporary.** That 0% introductory rate is very alluring, but it won't last. Introductory annual percentage rates or APRs will expire. Upon expiration, they will be high, especially for college students. Be sure to find out the term of the introductory rate what your APR will be afterward.

**3. Share the credit of a parent's card.** As a signor on a parent's credit card, a student can take advantage of their established credit history and take advantage of their lower rate. For students who have a hard time controlling their finances, this is a big benefit. Better to take help from Mom and Dad now than wind up in credit crisis later. When parents are held responsible for purchases and payments, they will monitor spending. While to most college

students this might seem invasive to their privacy, it can prevent substantial debt accumulation.

Know your card's features. All credit cards have fees for various features not only for late payments but also for ATM usage and for exceeding limits. Knowing your credit card agreement allows you to avoid the fees and subsequent interest rate shock. Students are often granted fairly low limits, often as low as \$500 or \$1,000. Exceeding a card's limit can rack up fees. However, carrying a balance just under half of the available credit limits can show that a student can maintain solid credit.

Be sure to know about "universal default," a clause that allows a creditor to penalize a cardholder for making a late payment on another lender's card. And lastly if a credit card carries an activation or annual-membership fee, pass on it. ■

## 'National Do Not E-Mail Registry' a Hoax

A warning to Internet users: Do not submit e-mail addresses or any personal information to any site claiming to be a "National Do Not E-mail Registry."

Unsolicited commercial e-mail — commonly referred to as spam — is choking inboxes and frustrating computer users worldwide. In a desperate attempt to curb the deluge of spam, many consumers have fallen victim to a bogus site that mimics the language, look, and navigation of the Web site for the popular National Do Not Call Registry, which has more than 58 million subscribers.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is concerned that the "unsub.us" site

could be part of a high-tech scam that uses a deceptive Web site to trick consumers into disclosing sensitive personal information. The site may be a trick to collect valid e-mail addresses to sell to spammers. Worse, the information collected from unsuspecting subscribers may be used to commit identity theft.

If you get an e-mail claiming to represent the "Do Not E-mail Registry," an organization to stop spam, or even the FTC itself, report it to the FTC at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or call 877-FTC-HELP (382-4357). Although the FTC is studying the feasibility of a national registry, no legitimate e-mail registry exists at this time. ■

## Something to Think About: Debit Cards May be the Answer for Teens

Teenagers don't like having to ask for cash every time they head out the door and it's likely that you hate doing it out. If you want your child to have access to cash, but you're not sure if they are responsible enough to handle a credit card, a debit card could be the answer.



Unlike a credit card, which represents a loan to pay later, a debit card gives them access to your preset limit of cash, and deducts money from your share draft/checking account immediately. In this scenario you both win. Your teen learns to be a responsible money manager with a limited amount of cash and you won't have to empty your wallet as they are rushing out the door. ■

### Holiday Closings

#### Columbus Day

Friday, Oct 10 – closing at 3:00  
Monday, Oct 13 – closed

#### Veterans' Day

Monday, Nov 10 – closing at 2:30  
Tuesday, Nov 11 – closed

#### Thanksgiving

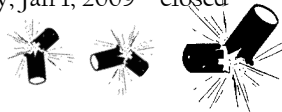
Thursday, Nov 27 – closed  
Friday, Nov 28 – closing at 2:30

#### Christmas

Wednesday, Dec 24 – closing 1:00  
Thursday, Dec 25 – closed  
Friday, Dec. 26 – closing at 2:00

#### New Year's

Wednesday, Dec 31 – closing 2:30  
Thursday, Jan 1, 2009 – closed



#### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, NM 87185  
E-Mail: [nmenergy@swcp.com](mailto:nmenergy@swcp.com)

#### Web Site:

[www.nmenergyfcu.org](http://www.nmenergyfcu.org)  
Main: (505) 845-6939 or  
(800) 825-5256, then dial  
845-6939  
Fax: (505) 845-4855  
Smartline: (505) 845-4122  
or (800) 837-6065

#### Lobby Hours

**Monday**  
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
**Tuesday through Thursday**  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
**Friday**  
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM  
*Closed on Federal Holidays*

#### Board of Director Listing

**Raymond Baca**  
*Chair of the Board*

**Alesia Bell**  
*First Vice Chair*

**Martha Thibeau**  
*Second Vice Chair*

**Chad Glines**  
*Secretary*

**Edwin Maestas**  
*Treasurer*

**Daniel O. Romero**  
*Policy Officer*

**Madge Gardiner-Clinkenbeard**  
*Marketing Officer*

#### Supervisory Committee

**Patricia Padilla, Chair**  
**Leonard Raab Jr.**  
**Jay Pape**



*All Individual Retirement Accounts are insured separately to an additional \$250,000.*