



## Our Holiday Gift to You **SATURDAY HOLIDAY HOURS**

The VA & Military Employees Federal Credit Union drive thru will be open on Saturdays for our members because we think you deserve it. Starting **SATURDAY**, November 26, 2005, and ending **SATURDAY**, December 17, 2005 the drive - thru will be open from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Please see the enclosed insert for the exact dates.

## Choosing Make, Model, and Financing



The big thing about a new vehicle typically is the price tag. The big thing about paying for it is how much you can save by financing it through VA & Military Employees Federal Credit Union. Interest rates on our conventional vehicle loans are attractive right now but there may be another option that could benefit you even more.

That's because with a home equity loan line of credit, you get a great rate and a tax break as well. If you itemize deductions on federal income taxes, your after-tax interest rate is lower because you can deduct home equity loan interest (confirm with your tax adviser).

So don't look at rate alone to determine which type of loan will save you more. To give a home equity loan a fighting chance, think in terms of the rate--after taxes.

Say the home equity loan or line carries a 7.75% interest rate. If you're in the 28% tax bracket, you can think of that 7.75% rate as being 28% lower--in other words, 5.58%. You'd be hard pressed to find an auto loan rate to match or beat that.

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[www.vamilitaryefcu.org](http://www.vamilitaryefcu.org)

Visit us on the World Wide Web. You can view your account balances. Transfer money. Get a check mailed to you, and download to *Quicken*, *Microsoft Money*, and *Microsoft Excel*. Log-on today.

## 4th Quarter Holiday Hours

The Credit Union will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

### COLUMBUS DAY

Monday, October 10, 2005

### VETERANS DAY

Friday, November 11, 2005

### THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, November 24, 2005

### IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 26, 2005

### IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEARS DAY

Monday, January 2, 2006

### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Monday, January 16, 2006

\*Remember you can bank 24 hours a day with your ATM card, Audio Line (Telephone Audio Response), and Home Banking at [www.vamilitaryefcu.org](http://www.vamilitaryefcu.org).

## VA & Military Employees Federal Credit Union

240 North Helmer Road  
Battle Creek, MI 49015  
269-968-8063

[www.vamilitaryefcu.org](http://www.vamilitaryefcu.org)

### HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

(excluding Federal Holidays)

### Vision Statement

*Our Official Family will be committed, dedicated, and progressive to ensure the future growth of our Credit Union. We will continually strive to be the primary financial institution for our valued present and future members by providing state-of-the-art technology, services, and facilities to meet their changing needs.*

### Mission Statement

*VA & Military Employees Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member owned, financial institution. Our goal is to provide friendly, competent, prompt, and competitive services to our members while strengthening the Credit Union's long term financial stability.*



AMERICA'S  
CREDIT UNIONS™

Where people are worth more than money.™



VA & Military  
Employees  
Federal Credit Union

# Member matters

A QUARTERLY  
PUBLICATION FOR  
OUR MEMBERS

FALL 2005

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## Celebrate The Credit Union Difference

Thursday, October 20, 2005 is International Credit Union Day.

Please join in the celebration! We will be serving refreshments all day.

## Our Theory of *Relativity*

It's not just theory, it's a fact: Your immediate family members can join your credit union. When your children have children, send them where they're already one of the family.

### Students Easy Targets for ID Thieves

College students are vulnerable to identity theft for a number of reasons, according to a recent survey by Impulse Research for Chubb Group, Warren, N.J. Some of those reasons include:

- Almost 49% of college students receive credit card applications on a daily or weekly basis and 30% of students throw them out without destroying them;
- Nearly 48% of college students have had grades posted by Social Security number; and
- Close to 30% of students rarely, if ever, reconcile their credit card and checking account balances.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S., with 700,000 new victims every year. The victim has to clean up the mess identity thieves leave behind--which the average consumer pays more than \$1,000 to clean up, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

The best way to minimize your chances of being a victim is to:

- Shred all credit card approval offers;
- Monitor your credit card bills and credit union and/or bank statements;
- Don't leave mail or personal financial records lying around your apartment or dorm room; and
- Keep your Social Security number as private as possible. Request a randomly generated student ID number instead.

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## A MONEY-MAKING IDEA: Sell Your Old Car Yourself

by Remar Sutton

How hard do you work to take home a thousand dollars? Well, that's how much you might throw away if you trade in your old car rather than sell it yourself. Follow these tips and if you're lucky, you'll keep that thousand, rather than hand it to the dealership.



1. **Clean your car top to bottom.** Fix minor things like blown fuses.
2. **Find out its "wholesale" value**--that's all a dealership will give you for it. Just take your car to a few used-car operations and ask what they would pay to buy your car outright. The highest figure is its true wholesale value. You also can get a fair idea from classified-ad asking prices for cars like yours, and on the Internet at sites like [www.edmunds.com](http://www.edmunds.com).
3. **Set an "asking price"** that's high enough to allow you to dicker: Add \$2,000 to the wholesale price.
4. **If you owe money on your car**, call your lender for instructions about paying it off before you advertise it for sale.
5. **Run a short ad** in your local daily paper and in any "traders." Study other ads for tips on wording.
6. **Use common sense** with any stranger who wants to drive your car before making an offer: Check the person's driver's license; write down the tag number of the person's car.
7. **Become a salesperson:** Talk up your car's good points. Has it been dependable? Have you kept careful maintenance records?
8. **Don't talk trade or finance.** And don't come down off your asking price too quickly. If you've marked up your car \$2,000, come down in increments of \$50 or \$75. And remember: Any amount you receive above your car's "wholesale" value is extra profit to you.
9. **Don't accept personal checks.** Insist upon a cashier's check or cash.

Selling a car yourself rather than trading it in takes work and patience. And your chances of success aren't 100%. But tens of thousands of people just as inexperienced as you do it every week, and do it successfully. And wouldn't that extra thousand or so come in handy?

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## MEMBER FOCUS

**We have the best members!** The VA & Military Employees Federal Credit Union would like to thank Dan Aaberg for providing the music at our Annual Hot Dog Roast. The music was great and we all enjoyed it. Thank you, Dan.

## For Your Information

**Holiday Club Accounts** Holiday club accounts will be transferred to your savings account on November 1, 2005. Your Holiday club account will automatically renew for 2006. If you would like to make changes to your account, stop in and see one of our member service representatives.

**Coat Drive** The Credit Union will be accepting new or gently used coats from October 1st through October 31st for the charitable union.

**Nominating Committee** It is that time of year again. The nominating committee is looking for members to run for the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please contact Denise at 269-968-8063.

**Home Mortgages** VA & Military Employees Federal Credit Union now offers Home Mortgages. If you are interested in applying please call the credit union at 269-968-8063 and advise one of our member service representatives. We will arrange for our mortgage specialist to contact you and get your mortgage application started.

**Coming Soon** We will be offering MasterCard check cards soon! You will be able to use your check card to make purchases wherever MasterCard is accepted. We are very excited to offer this to our members in the near future. Keep watching for more information.

## YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

If you would like to recognize a member in our newsletter, write a short article on the member and submit it to the VA & Military Employees Federal Credit Union. If your article is selected for publication in our newsletter, you and the outstanding member will each win a \$25.00 gift certificate at Meijer.



## Happy Holidays "GIVE YOURSELF A PRESENT"

The Credit Union will be offering you the option of skipping your loan payment(s) for the month of December. In order to qualify, your loan must be current when you sign up AND your November payment must be made on or before the due date. You must also sign an authorization form at the Credit Union.

The deadline to sign up for the skip payment will be Friday, December 16, 2005. There will be a \$15.00 administrative fee per loan that must be paid by Friday, December 16, 2005. We will be unable to accept any requests after this date. Skip payments will not be offered on Home Equity Loans, Line of Credit Loans or your Credit Union Visa.

If you take advantage of the skip payment, you will extend the length of your loan.