

REEL news

1st Quarter 2015



NEW YEAR Wishes!

Thomas Ott, CEO

*The entire credit union staff wishes you a
healthy and happy New Year.
We hope to see you in person during 2015!*



Attention IRA Participants – Withholding Notice Please Read!

Payments from your IRA are subject to federal income tax withholding, unless you elect no withholding. You may change your withholding election at any time prior to your receipt of a payment. To change your withholding election, complete the appropriate form provided by your credit union.

Withholding from IRA payments, when combined with other withholding, may relieve you from payment of estimated income taxes. However, your withholding election does not affect the amount of income tax you pay.

You may incur penalties under the estimated tax rules if your withholding and estimated tax payments are insufficient.

Don't Blow that Holiday Bonus!

If you're like most people, you've probably decided how you want to spend your holiday bonus before you even have the check in hand. Maybe you're planning to take off on a shopping spree, host an unforgettable holiday party or even jet away to a luxury vacation resort in the Bahamas. Certainly these all sound like fun ways to spend your bonus – but don't kid yourself into thinking they're the smartest ways to use your extra cash.

This year, consider saving or investing your holiday bonus rather than using it to fund a few fleeting moments of fun. You'll be much better off in the long run when you handle your holiday bonus responsibly, and – trust us – your future self will thank you for it later. Read below to learn more about how you can get the biggest bang for your buck when it comes to your holiday bonus.

Pay off high-rate debts.

If you have high-rate credit card debts to pay off, don't even think about spending your holiday bonus on a frivolous item or vacation getaway. Instead, put the money toward your bills to start digging yourself out of debt. A good strategy is to tackle the credit card with the highest interest rate first, and then work your way down to the cards with lower rates.

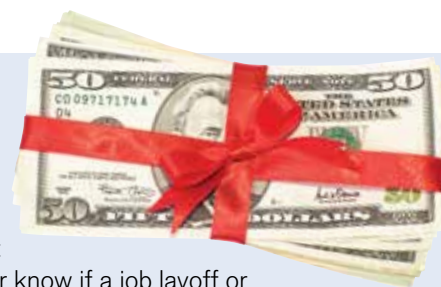
Build an emergency fund.

No matter how secure you may feel about your current financial situation, you never know if a job layoff or surprise expense is heading your way. Be prepared for the worst by using your holiday bonus to build up an emergency fund. Experts typically advise having enough savings on hand to cover three to six months' worth of living expenses, but families depending on one income should consider saving even more.

Contribute to a Roth IRA

If you plan to rely on Social Security or pensions during your retirement years, you're in for a rough ride. These days, it's up to you to build your own retirement fund. And if you haven't already started saving up, now is the time to start. Use your holiday bonus to contribute to a Roth IRA, and you'll be on your way to securing a stress-free retirement.

So there you have it – the three best uses for your end-of-year bonus. Though you may be tempted to use your holiday money for treats or frivolous items, do everything you can to resist the urge. After all, your future may depend on it.



Contact Information

Management

Thomas Ott.....CEO
Jesse Lopez.....Executive Vice President
Brian Hollister.....Director of Finance
Ann Babich.....VP of Operations

Loans

Norma Rubio, Loan Officer.....(818) 777-1297

New Accounts.....(818) 777-1295

Mortgages

Real Estate Department.....(888) FOR-MYCU
Fax.....(818) 333-3979

Other

Collection Management.....(877) 311-7606
ATM Locations.....(888) SITE-COOP

Auto Buying Referral

Auto Alliance.....(800) 568-9550
www.autoalliance.net

Credit Agencies Information

www.Experian.com.....(888) 397-3742
www.Transunion.com.....(800) 916-8800
www.Equifax.com.....(800) 997-2493

Branches

Universal City
100 Universal City Plaza
Bldg. 1320
Universal City, CA 91608
Hours:
M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Downtown Burbank
175 E. Olive Ave., Suite 100
Burbank, CA 91502
Hours:
M-F 9:00 am-4:30 pm

Contact Numbers

Phone.....(888) FOR-MYCU
(888) 367-6928
Fax.....(818) 866-1548

Website.....www.ucscu.org

Holiday Hours

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 19th – CLOSED

Presidents Day
Monday, February 16th – CLOSED

Create a Hacker-proof Password

Online passwords may seem more like a nuisance than a security device, but creating hacker-proof codes is extremely important. It is tempting to create passwords that are easy to remember, like using your address, birth date or first name, but doing so only aids the hackers. The challenge lies in making a password that is difficult to guess, but still easy enough for you to remember. Let us help! Follow this hacker-proof guide to protect all of your accounts, and ultimately your identity!

1. Use a combination of numbers, as well as upper and lower case letters.
2. Use a different password for each account.
3. Create passwords that are at least six characters long.
4. Change your password on a regular basis – and make it easier to remember by associating the code with a regular event such as your payday.
5. Never use numbers or names publicly associated with you such as an address, birth date or pet's name.
6. Don't use any form of your login name as your password.
7. If you are struggling to remember your passwords, invest in a secure password storage program; some even give you access to your codes when using a different computer than your own.
8. Remember to never give out your passwords to anyone, especially through email or over the phone.

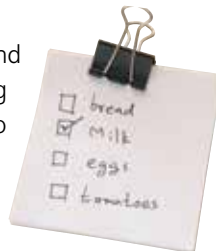


Eight Smart Ways to Lower Your Food Costs

Groceries take up a huge portion of people's monthly budgets, especially when there are children involved. Since food prices will more than likely continue to climb, wouldn't it be nice if you could find ways to cook for less? With a few small changes, you can easily create affordable meals that are still tasty and nutritious.

Plan ahead.

Think about what you and your family will be eating for the next week or two and make a grocery list of the ingredients you'll need. Before hitting the store, check your cupboards and plan a few meals around food items you already have.



Stick to your list.

Once you hit the store, resist the temptation to buy items not found on your list. Impulse purchases can really stack up, and if you plan your meals ahead of time, you'll know the food on your list is enough to get you through the week.

Forget brand loyalty.

Try out generic brands of your favorite products. You'll often find equal quality, but at a lower price.

Buy seasonal.

The best-priced fruits and vegetables are those that are in season. Consider

buying locally-grown produce, as well. It is often cheaper than items shipped from far-off places.

Look up and down.

Stores often stock their most expensive items at eye-level. Look at the top and bottom rows for similar food items, often at a cheaper price.

Do it yourself.

Pre-cut fruit and grated cheese are convenient, but more expensive to buy. Purchase items whole and do the prep-work yourself.

Go vegetarian.

Cooking a few meatless meals every week is a good way to save money. Keep protein in your diet by adding beans, nuts and dairy to your meals.

Love your leftovers.

Find ways to create new meals out of your leftovers. Use brown rice from a stir fry for a casserole later in the week. Also, consider freezing portions of large dishes, such as chili, for re-heating at a later time.