

REEL news

2nd Quarter 2015

CEO Article



Two years ago, I decided I needed one of those vehicles designed to carry more than four passengers. My reasoning was based on the fact that my daughter now has five kids, and when they are all headed to the same destination, any vehicle can get really crowded. So, I bought a Toyota Sienna (used) and financed it through the credit union. The lending staff suggested that I also purchase an extended warranty plan, which I did. The cost was very reasonable, considering that the "platinum" plan I bought covered just about anything. Recently, there was some fluid leaking from under the car and the Toyota dealer told us that a very unusual situation had occurred that required the front wheel rack and pinion system to be replaced. When they told me the cost would be about \$1,200, I got out my platinum warranty. The dealer took care of contacting the insurer and arranging for direct payment for the work. My cost: the \$50 deductible. My suggestion to you is that you should not only finance your vehicle through the credit union, but also look into buying an extended warranty or mechanical breakdown plan as well. You will be glad you did.

Protect Yourself on the Road!

Guaranteed Asset Protection and Mechanical Repair Coverage

If you drive, you know how crazy it can get on the road. Accidents happen, breakdowns occur and people can get hurt. If your car requires extensive repairs or is totaled in an accident, it's likely that your pocketbook will get hit hard, too.

To help you through these stressful times, you may want to check into the following services that will provide extra protection and peace of mind.

- **Guaranteed Asset Protection (GAP)** – protects you against financial loss in the event your vehicle is damaged beyond repair (totaled) or stolen and never recovered.
- **Mechanical Repair Coverage (MRC)** – provides valuable protection against the cost associated with most unexpected mechanical breakdowns (beyond the normal terms and conditions of the manufacturer's standard warranty and after the warranty has expired).

These services are available to members who apply for an auto loan and members who already have an existing auto loan with Universal City Studios Credit Union. Contact us to learn more or to apply!

Auto Safety Tips

To prevent bad weather or an unexpected breakdown from putting the brakes on your road trips, here are some suggestions for a smooth ride.

- Try to travel with a full tank of gas
- Schedule regular tune-ups for your vehicle
- During the winter, always have fresh antifreeze
- Keep a mini cooler in your car with non-perishable snacks and bottled water
- Always carry in your trunk:
 - A properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and tripod-type jack
 - Shovel
 - Boots
 - Jumper cables
 - Tow and tire chains
 - Bag of rock salt or cat litter
 - Tool kit
 - Working flashlight and extra batteries
 - Flares, reflective triangles and brightly colored cloth

IRAs – They're Not Just for Tax Time

Contrary to what many people think, an IRA (Individual Retirement Account) can be opened or contributed to at any time during the year – not just at tax time. A traditional or Roth IRA can be funded anytime during the year and up until April 15 of the following year, and the traditional IRA can still be deducted from the income taxes of eligible investors. However, the earlier in the year an IRA is opened, the greater the long-term accumulation potential.

Changing jobs or retiring?

Get the peace of mind you're looking for and consider rolling over your 401(k) to a Universal City Studios Credit Union IRA where it's safe and secure. Rolling over your 401(k) or other qualified retirement plan from your previous employer gives you more flexibility and control while keeping all the great tax advantages.

Your Universal City Studios Credit Union Individual Retirement Account is federally insured up to \$250,000, so you know your hard-earned money will be there when you need it, regardless of where the stock market is headed.

To decide whether a traditional or Roth IRA is right for you, please contact us today!

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

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th – CLOSED

Independence Day

Saturday, July 4th – CLOSED



Tax Credits for Energy-Efficient Improvements

Making energy-efficient home improvements might be well worth your time – and dime! If you can come up with the money to make a few changes in your home, you could reap substantial savings from lower energy bills.

Plus, you might be eligible for tax credits, which usually are more valuable than tax deductions. How so? A **deduction** reduces taxable income based on your tax bracket; a **credit** gives you 100% of the credit back and is not income based.

For example: If you're in the 35% tax bracket, a \$1,000 **deduction** reduces your tax bill by \$350. But a \$1,000 tax **credit** reduces your tax bill by the full \$1,000. So to get the most bang for your buck, you claim the credit when filing your federal income tax return.

Tax credits are available for up to 30% of the cost of the following energy-efficient improvements, with no maximum dollar amount, through 2016 for existing primary homes, new home construction, rentals and secondary homes:

- Geo-thermal (ground source) heat pump
- Solar panels
- Solar water heater
- Small wind energy system

For complete information on energy-efficient improvements, tax credits and qualifications, visit either of the following websites:

- Energy Star at www.energystar.gov
- Alliance to Save Energy at www.ase.org



Wanted: Credit Union Volunteers!

As a member of Universal City Studios Credit Union, you may know that the credit union is run not only by paid staff, but also by volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Committee.

If you would like to be considered as a candidate for either the credit union's Board of Directors or Supervisory Committee, please submit your name, telephone number and a written statement of qualifications (not to exceed 500 words) to:

Nominating Committee

c/o Ann Babich
Universal City Studios Credit Union
175 E. Olive Avenue, #100
Burbank, CA 91502

Only self-nominations may be submitted. Please specify whether you wish to be considered as a candidate for the Board of Directors or the Supervisory Committee. Failure to clearly designate may cause your application to be rejected.

This information must be received by the credit union no later than April 30, 2015, to be considered by the Nominating Committee. You will then be contacted to arrange an interview with the Nominating Committee. In accordance with credit union bylaws, only candidates certified by the Nominating Committee are eligible to be elected and will appear on the Annual Meeting Ballot.

