

REEL news



1st Quarter 2016

The entire credit union staff
wishes you a healthy and
happy new year. We hope to
see you in person during 2016!

New Year's Wishes!

Thomas Ott, CEO



Tips for ATM Safety

ATMs and debit cards offer quick access to your money when you're on the go. Most of us have come to rely on the convenience they provide, but it's important to use caution to keep ourselves and our finances safe. Follow these tips to help keep you and your money safe!

- Try to use ATMs with which you are familiar. Choose well-lit, well-placed ATMs where you feel comfortable. If you need to use an ATM late at night, ask a friend to accompany you.
- Before approaching the ATM, scan the surrounding area. Avoid the ATM altogether if it is too dark to see, isolated or looks unsafe. If there are bystanders loitering in the area, go to another machine or come back later.
- Be prepared to conduct your business as soon as you reach the machine. Have your ATM card ready

in your hand. Do not dig through a purse, bag or wallet in front of an ATM or while you are in line.

- Use your body to shield the screen and keypad before entering your PIN. Make sure other individuals in line stay a reasonable distance from you while you're performing your transaction.
- Do not allow anyone to distract you while you are at the ATM. Be cautious if strangers approach you or try talking to you – even if your card is stuck or you're having trouble with your transaction. If someone takes interest in your transaction, leave the area and report the suspicious behavior to the police.

Remember, if your ATM card is lost or stolen, contact us immediately. We will take the proper steps to ensure your finances are safe and assist you in getting a new card.

Understanding Your FICO Score

You've probably heard lots of talk about FICO® scores and how they can impact your future. But what is a FICO score and how is it determined?

FICO scores are named for the Fair Isaac Corporation, the company that developed them. These scores are an assessment of your credit risk, and they can determine how much you pay for car insurance, vehicle loans, mortgages, credit cards and more.

FICO scores are calculated by compiling different credit data, including payment history, amount owed, length of credit history, new credit and types of credit. Each of these components is given a percentage, which is used to calculate the total score.

Credit Data	Percentage of Importance When Calculating Score
Length of credit history	15%
New credit	10%
Types of credit in use	10%
Payment history	35%
Amounts owed	30%

Your calculated credit score is a number between 300 and 800 (or more), and creditors use it to assess your credit risk. The higher the number, the less of a risk you are – and the less you'll pay for credit. In America, 85% of scores range from 600 to 800 or more, with a median score of 723.

Your credit score affects you just about every time you apply for credit – whether it is for a new credit card or a home loan. Take the example of a \$216,000 home purchase with a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage. With a credit score in the 760-850 range, the monthly payment would be \$1,313 per month. But if your credit score falls in the 620-639 range, you'll pay \$1,542 every month – that's a difference of \$2,748 every year!

Clearly your FICO score matters, and keeping it in good health is important. How can you improve your credit score? The number one thing you can do is to pay all of your existing loans and accounts on time, every time.



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 18th – CLOSED

Presidents Day
Monday, February 15th – CLOSED



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 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 February 28, 2016, 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.

Clean Up Your Finances for the New Year

After a year of spending, saving, paying off bills and racking up rewards points, your financial life can get a little messy. And now that the holiday season is over, it is a great time to regain control of your finances. When you declutter your accounts, paperwork and budget, you'll find it's a lot easier to make the most of your money.

Resolve to roll up your sleeves, dust off your statements and follow these tips for finances that sparkle:

- **Streamline your banking.** Close up old accounts, switch to online bill pay and sign up for e-statements to reduce paper waste. Shred year-old bank statements, expired warranties, old Social Security statements and tax documents that are over seven years old.
- **Consolidate your debt.** Consider rolling all of your high-interest payments into one low-rate personal loan. Close credit cards you don't need and create a payment strategy to lower your debt. Plan to pay off credit cards with the highest interest rates first.

- **Organize your savings.** Many households have multiple savings accounts, including IRAs, CDs and 401(k)s. Consider moving all of your savings plans to one financial institution and consolidating all IRAs to one account. Talk to your employer about moving old 401(k) accounts into the one at your current job, or rolling them to a self-directed IRA. Finally, increase your 401(k) savings so that at a minimum you are saving enough to earn a full match from your employer.
- **Plan your estate.** Update or create your will. It's a fairly easy and inexpensive process that people often put off for obvious reasons. If you have any property (car, house, land, flat-screen TV, etc.), a will prevents lengthy legal battles and guarantees the right people receive your belongings upon your passing.

Need help tidying up? Stop by or give us a call. We'd be more than happy to help you clean up your finances for 2016!

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.

