

REEL news



3rd Quarter 2015

CEO Article



Our credit union was started in 1927, before talking pictures. Over the last 88 years, we have had many loyal members who have been the backbone of our organization and have kept the doors open through good times and lean times. As we come out of the Great Recession, we think the best thing we can do is obtain input from our members on how we are doing and where we should be heading. We are hosting a short, web-based survey so that our members can tell us what they like about our current operations and give us their thoughts about the future direction of the credit union. As a thank you, we will give you \$5 for filling out the survey and a chance to win another \$100. Just go to our website at www.ucscu.org and take the short survey. We'll put the \$5 directly into your account. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Buying Your First Home?

Here's some information no one else will tell you!



Buying your first home can be stressful, but we've got some tips to make buying your first home easier. And best of all, you've got Universal City Studios Credit Union behind you when you decide to make that big purchase!

- **Get pre-qualified for your mortgage through UCSCU.** Then spend only 75% of what you're qualified for. We can pre-approve you for a home loan at any stage of the house-hunting process, enabling you to have better success when you're shopping for your new home!
- **Don't go into debt to furnish your home.** Kids don't care if you spent \$20 or \$500 on that end table when they are coloring on it.
- **Make as low of an offer as you can stomach.** You can never negotiate downwards.
- **Buy less house than you can afford.** You won't miss the little bit of extra square footage the first time around, but you'll appreciate being able to save more money toward your next home.
- **Budget for the post-move expenses.** You might be amazed to discover how many items you'll need to buy right after you move – so no matter how carefully you've outlined the purchase agreement, keep in mind that you'll probably have to make some extra purchases. Having the money set aside will help you deal with the unexpected. And on the off-chance you don't spend the money, you've got a good start on an emergency fund.
- **Put down as much as possible.** Twenty percent is ideal, but the more you can afford to put down, the more you'll save yourself in the long run.
- **Pay for a high-quality inspector.** He or she will be worth the extra money in the long run for what you can save in extra expenses.

UCSCU can get you the perfect home loan for your first home – or your second or third!



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

Independence Day
Saturday, July 4th – CLOSED

Labor Day
Monday, September 7th – CLOSED



Reduce Energy Use & Stop Draining Your Wallet

\$160 billion is a huge amount of money. But that's how much Americans spend annually on heat, air conditioning and electricity.

For the majority of homeowners, high energy bills are the result of insufficient energy conservation. If you make your home more energy efficient, you'll be able to take up to 20% or 30% off your total bills. And it isn't as hard to do as you might think.

The first step in making your home more energy efficient is to locate the problem areas. If you're unsure of what to look for, hire a professional to assess your home and energy use. A home energy audit can spot wasted energy – which is wasted money for you.

A professional will look to see if your windows and doors have leaks around them and if the air ducts in your home are sealed properly. Just a couple of leaks in the attic can take up 30% to 50% of your home's heat, and unsealed air ducts can reduce the efficiency in your home by up to 40%.

Here are some other bright ideas that can make a big difference in your energy bills:

- **Use energy-efficient light bulbs** – Not only do they last up to 15 times longer than ordinary bulbs, but they also use 80% less electricity.

- **Turn off those lights** – When you leave a room, always turn off any lights you used.
- **Buy energy-efficient appliances** – They cost less to run and over time will give you considerable savings on your electricity bill.
- **Save on hot water** – Use “economy” programs on your washing machine. And also consider washing your laundry with cold water.
- **Install a low-flow showerhead** – And also reduce your shower time by just a few minutes.
- **Turn off your computer monitor if you walk away from the PC for more than 20 minutes.** Turn off the entire system if you leave it for more than two hours.
- **Turn your heat down** – Reducing your thermostat by just 1° F will take 10% off your heating bill.
- **Insulate your attic** – Attic insulation will keep the heat in your home for longer and pay for itself in two to three years.

There you have it! In just a few easy steps, you can reduce your energy consumption and your electric bills.

A Traveler's Financial Checklist

You've double-checked your suitcase to make sure you remembered everything you need, but did you remember to double-check your wallet?

When traveling, what you carry in your wallet may be the most important thing you pack. Everyone has different spending styles, and depending on your destination, you should think about the best way to carry money. For instance, most big cities in the United States will accept debit/credit cards at just about all locations, and ATMs will be available all over. However, head to a foreign country, and you have to be a little more careful.

Universal City Studios Credit Union recommends that you spend some time researching your travel destination before deciding which option is the best for you. Usually, a combination of two or more spending methods works best.

1. **Cash.** Believe it or not—it still works! And if you're in a rural part of the United States or in many areas of foreign countries, it's still your best bet. Looking to get different currency for your destination country? We can help you out before you leave so that you don't get there without any local currency.
2. **Debit/ATM cards.** Most major debit/ATM cards are accepted worldwide, but it's best to check ahead. Don't plan to have only a debit/ATM

card and then not be able to get cash or buy anything. If you're planning to travel out of the United States, speak with a customer service representative before going.

3. **Credit cards.** Plastic is obviously known worldwide, and Visa® and MasterCard® are the most widely accepted. Don't carry just one type of card. If your debit/ATM card is a Visa, plan for your credit card to be something else.
4. **Traveler's checks.** One of the safest ways to carry money, traveler's checks spend just like cash but can be replaced if something happens to them. They are available for nominal fees through Universal City Studios Credit Union. Talk to a member service representative today to find out more.

