

IN THE SPIRIT

A Newsletter For Members Of American Spirit Federal Credit Union

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American Spirit Federal Credit Union Partners with InfiCorp For Credit Card Services

Meeting the needs of our members is paramount to the success of our Credit Union. And, because our members' needs are so important to us, we have chosen to partner with one of the leaders in the credit card industry, InfiCorp, to bring you more credit card benefits.

Why make the change? Our members have been requesting more credit card options that in the past we have not been able to provide. But together with InfiCorp, we will offer the same benefits of credit card membership and more! Some of the added enhancements include:

- Platinum Credit Cards for our members;
- Credit card programs that offer low rates, cash-back rebates or rewards bonus points for purchases;
- Flexible payment due dates that our members can choose from as well as on-line credit card payment capability;
- 24-hour phone and on-line member service representatives available to answer any questions;
- A Business Credit Card that our self-employed members can apply for.

Information on these enhancements and the upcoming partnership will be mailed to our current credit card members in the first quarter of 2006.

Want to apply for a credit card? Simply go to www.americanspirit.org, click on "Apply for Loans" and follow the instructions or stop by our branch and complete the brief application.

Up to 1% off Current Rates on 2nd Mortgages

- Borrow up to 80% of the equity of your home
- Terms up to 10 years
- Tax deductible interest to those who qualify (consult with your tax advisor)
- Standard underwriting guidelines will apply.
- Offer ends 3/31/06



Holiday Closings

Your Credit Union will be closed in observance of the following 2006 holidays.

Monday, January 16
Martin Luther King Birthday

Monday, February 20
Presidents' Day

Friday, April 14
Good Friday

Put Your House on the Line

Line of Credit, that is! American Spirit FCU delivers you the convenience of accessing your Home Equity Line of Credit as you need it. Plan your next home improvement project, make a major purchase, pay tuition or consolidate debt and start saving today!

- Prime Rate minus 1% for the first 6 months, prime rate thereafter for the life of the loan
- Borrow up to 80% of the equity of your home
- Tax deductible interest to those who qualify (*consult with your tax advisor*)
- Terms up to 10 years
- Standard Underwriting guidelines apply
- Offer ends 3/31/06



Contact the Credit Union today to apply.

After Holiday Loan Sale

Are you experiencing post-holiday credit card melt-down? Pay off your balances and kick back. Make one low payment and have them paid by next year!

- 7.5% APR*
- 12 months to repay
- Maximum loan \$3500
- Offer ends 4/15/06

Call us today to apply.

*Annual Percentage Rate to qualified borrowers.



Direct Deposit Your 2005 Tax Refund

It's almost tax season! That means that you can have your tax refund directly deposited into your Credit Union account quickly, easily, and FOR FREE!

According to the IRS, a refund check is issued within 6 to 8 weeks of filing a paper return. If you file a paper return, and choose to deposit your refund directly into your account, you will receive your refund in 5 to 6 weeks. If you electronically file (E-file), your refund will be issued within 3 weeks of filing. However, if you choose to E-file and choose direct deposit for your refund, the IRS says you should receive it within 14 days.

To elect direct deposit of your tax refund into your Credit Union account, simply provide your tax preparer with your Credit Union account number and our ABA routing number. Contact the Credit Union for further information. If you choose to E-file, you can always check the status of your refund online at www.irs.gov. To check your refund status, you will need your Social Security number, your filing status, and your refund amount. Also, remember to keep your 2005 year-end statement for tax reporting purposes!

2006 Education Exchange College Grant Program

The ACCEL/Exchange Network presents the 13th annual Education Exchange college grant program, providing \$50,000 in grants to high school seniors. This program is open to all college-bound high school seniors graduating in 2006. To enter, students simply mail a completed application to the ACCEL/Exchange Network for judging. The entry deadline is March 15, 2006. Stop by the Credit Union for more details.

Get Your Free Credit Report

Since September 1, Delaware residents are now able to request a free credit reporting agencies. Reports will not be automatically mailed out – you must make the request. The new ruling does not replace the other ways in which you currently receive a free credit report. If a company denies you credit, insurance or a job because of something in your credit report, the company has to tell you which credit bureau provided the information. You are entitled to a free credit report from that credit bureau within 60 days of being turned down. You just have to contact the credit reporting agency directly and provide them with the company that denied you.

To receive your free annual credit report, you may use any one of the three following methods:

On the Web: www.annualcreditreport.com

Toll Free: 1-877-322-8228

By Mail:

Annual Credit Report Request Service

P.O. Box 105281 • Atlanta, GA 30348-5281

The website above is the only authorized source to access your free credit reports online. Beware of sites that want to charge you for the report.

Members Make it Happen!
Attend the Annual Meeting & Board Election

As a member of the Credit Union, you may already know the many benefits of managing your finances with us instead of another financial institution. But did you know another BIG difference between credit unions and banks? Here at the Credit Union, you are part owner and may participate in the election of the Board of Directors.

Join us as we celebrate the credit union difference at this year's Annual Meeting!

DATE: March 25, 2006
TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: John M. Clayton Hall
Door Prizes, Mini Buffet, Guest Speaker

The agenda includes a review of the previous year's financial information, election to fill open Board positions, and an opportunity to visit with Credit Union family and friends.

The Nominating Committee has placed the following names in nomination to fill the 3-year positions: George L. Bush, Jr. and Lewis Reisinger. For members interested in running for Board election, nomination by petition is due February 13, 2006.

Hope to see you there!



Allpoint ATM network gives access to more than 32,000 surcharge-free ATMs. ATMs are located in well-known retailers and are closer than you think.
Visit www.americanspirit.org to find your nearest ATM.

Account Service Fees
 (Effective January 1, 2004)

Item	Fee
Checking Account:	
Freedom Checking	\$5.00/month
Return Check Charge/NSF	\$20.00/check
Checks Manually Paid	\$ 5.00/check
Copy of Paid Check	\$2.00/check
Copy of Statement	\$2.00/month
Stop Payment of Checks	\$15.00/check or series
Check Book Balancing (Research)	\$15.00/hr
Personal Check Orders:	
Freedom Checking (Check Order-Basic Style)	50% of cost <i>(Listed price on all others)</i>
Standard Checking (Check Order)	Listed Price
Last Chance Checking (Check Order)	Listed Price
VISA Check Card (Debit Card):	
Debit Card Fee	\$1.00/month <i>(No fee with direct deposit into primary account)</i>
Freedom Checking	.75/withdrawal after 10
Standard Checking	.75/withdrawal after 6
Lost Card Fee	\$25.00/card
Transfer Fee	\$5.00/transfer
Overdraw Fee	\$20.00
VISA Credit Card:	
Late Fee	\$25.00
Over Limit Fee	\$20.00
Lost Card Fee	\$25.00
Automated Clearing House (ACH) Fees:	
Return Charge	\$20.00/return
Stop payment	\$15.00/return
Transfer Fee	\$5.00/transfer
Other Service Fees:	
Travelers Checks (per \$100)	\$1.00
Western Union	\$15.00
International Wire Transfers	\$30.00/wire
U.S. Wire Transfers	\$15.00/wire
Inactive Fee (Dormant) (NO activity for 6 months or more)	\$5.00/month
IRA Annual Account Fee	\$10.00
I.R.S. Levy	\$25.00
Internet Access/Bill Payer Service	\$4.95/month
Money Orders	\$2.00/each
Skip Payment Fee	\$25.00
Loan Payment Late Fee	\$5.00 minimum or 5% of delinquent amount
Second Mortgage/Home Equity Application Fee	\$350.00
Mortgage Lien Release (fee varies by state)	
Subordination of Mortgage Agreement	\$50.00
Refinance Vehicle Title Fee (fee varies by state)	
Deposited Check Returned (On own account)	\$25.00/check
Returned Mail Fee	\$2.00/item
Check Cashing Fee (with share balances below \$250)	\$1.00/each
Bulk Checks, Cashing Fee (10 and up)	\$10.00
Cashier Check	\$5.00/check
Excessive W/D Fee (7 or more per month)	\$2.00/check
Copies	.25¢ each
Fax	\$1.00 first three pages
Safe Deposit Box:	
One Time Set-up Charge	\$10.00
Annual Rent Fee Depending on Box Size	\$15 - \$100 (Box sizes available 3x5, 5x5, 3x10, 5x10, and 10x10)

Choosing an Investment

Win/Win When you Save at the Credit Union



After years of saving a bit here and there, you can finally see the cash reserve building up! Now the question is, where should you put that money to get the best yield with the least amount of risk? A Money Market Account or Term Share Certificate at the Credit Union can certainly offer a higher yield than most savings accounts at other financial institutions, but which one is best for you?

The main difference between a Credit Union Money Market Account and Term Share Certificate is in the liquidity of the investments. Money Market Accounts are set up so you can readily access your funds without penalty. The price for this convenience is usually a

slightly lower yield on your investment. You will have a minimum balance requirement, but you may withdraw from the account at any time (up to three times per month) without penalty. A Term Share Certificate, commonly referred to as a CD, is meant to be a buy-and-hold investment. Your investment is intended to stay on deposit for a specified period of time and therefore, generally earns a bit higher yield. Usually, the longer the term, the higher the yield. However, if you need your money prior to the scheduled maturity date, you may be subject to paying a penalty for early withdrawal. That penalty is typically the loss of three to six months' worth of dividend income.

Whatever investment you choose with the Credit Union, you can rest assured that your funds are safe. Money on deposit with the Credit Union is insured up to \$100,000 per member by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a US Government agency.

**Some restrictions may apply.*



Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) are more flexible than they've ever been. No longer considered strictly retirement savings tools, IRAs can also help you pay for college, medical insurance, health insurance premiums and more. And now you're eligible to contribute more to IRAs than ever before.

The Credit Union offers all three types of IRAs: the traditional IRA, the Roth IRA, and the Coverdell Education Savings Account (formerly known as the Education IRA).

Traditional IRA

The traditional IRA is a type of retirement plan that has been in existence since 1975. Traditional IRAs offer tax-deferred earnings and the possibility of tax-deductible contributions. The ability to defer taxes on the earnings and to make withdrawals in a year when you may be in a lower tax bracket can mean more after-tax dollars for your retirement.

Roth IRA

Created in 1997 by the Taxpayer Relief Act, the Roth IRA offers more incentives for retirement savings. Unlike traditional IRAs, your contributions to a Roth IRA are never tax-deductible. However, the money in your Roth IRA, including earnings, can be withdrawn tax-free assuming you meet the plan's requirements.

Coverdell Education Savings Accounts

If you're wondering how you'll pay for your child's education, a Coverdell ESA (formerly known as the Education IRA) can be a smart way to save. Although contributions to a Coverdell ESA are not tax-deductible, withdrawals, including earnings, are tax-free if used for tuition, books and other qualified education expenses.

Since IRA investments with the Credit Union are insured,* you can invest with confidence in any of the IRA options available. Call us today for more information about eligibility, contribution limits, rates and IRA types.

** IRA investments with the Credit Union are insured up to a separate limit of \$100,000 per member.*

Make Your Life Easier with ezTaxReturn.com

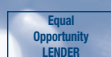
CU24 has partnered with ezTaxReturn.com to offer CU24 members a fast, easy and inexpensive way to prepare and file their tax returns. CU24 members who have no previous tax experience can prepare and e-file their tax returns in just 30 minutes, and get their tax refunds in just 10 days.

For more information, visit www.ezTaxReturn.com/CU24.

Our Mission

Make a positive difference in the lives of our members, employees and the community!

American Spirit Federal Credit Union
1110 Elkton Road
Newark, DE 19711
Phone: (302) 738-4515
(800) 941-7789 (out of New Castle County, DE)
Fax: (302) 738-4562
Website: www.americanspirit.org



Lobby Hours:

Mon., Tue, Thu, Fri. – 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wed. – 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sat. – 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Drive-Up Hours:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

ASAP - American Spirit Automated Phone
24 Hour Access:
(302) 738-2727

(800) 941-7790 (out of New Castle County, DE)