

# IN THE SPIRIT

A Newsletter For Members Of American Spirit Federal Credit Union

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## Holiday Closings

Your Credit Union will be closed in observance of the following 2005 holidays.

Monday, September 5  
**Labor Day**

# Sizzlin' Summer Specials



## Get up to 1% off Current Rates with Enterprise Car Sales

For a Limited time (May 9 – Aug 14), get a \$200 gas card when you get pre-approved and buy from Enterprise\*\*

Enterprise Car Sales is your BEST source for pre-owned vehicles in the area for the service, selection, and haggle-free prices offered. Enterprise offers a great package on all of their used cars.

## Take That Dream Vacation...

### Vacation Loans

**7.5% APR\***

**12 Months to Repay**

Maximum  
**\$3500**

Offer ends 08/31/05



## Existing Credit Card Holder Line Increases Up To \$10,000\*

- Offered qualified members
- Up to \$10,000
- Fixed rate of 10.90%

## Home Equity Line of Credit Special

Prime rate + 0% for the life of the credit line

- Borrow up to 80% of the equity in your home
- Terms up to 15 Years
- Tax deductible interest to those who qualify (consult with your tax advisor)
- Standard underwriting guidelines apply

## Drive Away Happy With 3 Great Ways to Save

Before You Make Your Purchase

1. Up to 1.0%\* OFF existing rates on all New/Used Vehicle loans! Check out [www.carsformembers.com](http://www.carsformembers.com). Offer ends 12/31/05
2. ASFCU will match whatever rate a dealer or mortgage company is offering (with a rate floor of 4.00% APR\*). All we need is written proof of the rate offered to begin the loan process.

After You've Made a Purchase

3. Refinance at American Spirit... And Save. Rates As Low As 2.5%\*+

\*APR. Annual Percentage Rate. The rates are available on approved credit. Rates will be determined by individual credit worthiness.

\*\* Loan approval is subject to ASFCU lending policy. + At least 1.5% below your current rate (floor is 4.0% APR). Must have at least 6 months of on-time payments on current auto loan. No payments for 45 days on refinance. Interest rate ceiling of 18%. Standard Underwriting guidelines apply. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate.

## Are You Prepared to Head Down the Road to Home Ownership?

### Mortgage Seminar

The seminar is designed to provide potential homebuyers with basic information to help them make informed choices when buying a home.

#### The seminar includes:

- The pros and cons of buying a home
- Maintenance costs involved with homeownership
- Tracking spending habits and analyzing personal finances
- Understanding the importance of a good credit history
- Overview of fair housing laws
- The do's and don'ts for new homeowners
- Answers to common questions

July 21, 2005, 7:00 pm

RSVP 302-738-4515 ext. 1027 or [vsackes@americanspirit.org](mailto:vsackes@americanspirit.org)

American Spirit Federal Credit Union  
1110 Elkton Road, Newark

Refreshments will be provided.



## What New Grads Need to Know About Money

The majority of high-school and college graduates are ill-prepared to handle the basics of financial management.

Everything from credit cards and loans to simple budgets puzzle young consumers, even educated ones. Some experts propose state legislation requiring students to take a personal finance course by the time they graduate from high school. Until then, it's parents' responsibility to teach their kids financial basics and help them make the right choices.

### These are key money skills young grads need to know:

**\$ Track spending.** Write down everything you buy for a month to see where and how much you're spending.

**\$ Budget.** Look at your income and spending habits. Allocate for weekly needs, wants, and impulses within your budget. Surprises happen, so let yourself break the budget. Just remember to make up for it in the coming weeks.

**\$ Use your checking account to help budget and track income and spending.** You need to know how to write a check, how to keep a check register, and when to balance your account. Remember there are consequences for overdrawing an account.

**\$ Develop good consumer skills to make money go further.** Buy necessities wisely and practice comparison shopping by looking / online.

**\$ Remember, credit cards are convenient but risky.** Credit means you're borrowing money to repay from future income. Credit is a cost, and making the minimum payments will cost you even more. Credit cards are accepted universally and are good to have in emergencies. They also help establish credit history, so make sure to set personal limits and stick to them.

**\$ Don't be afraid to ask for help.** Mom and Dad, your R.A. (resident advisor), or even a friend can help you sort through your bills and get on the right track.



## Motor Vehicle Certification Program

American Spirit FCU is pleased to announce a new NO Cost Benefit for you. Motor Vehicle Certification Program (MVCP) eliminates the frustrations when purchasing a new or used vehicle.

MVCF has a dealer network established that allows you to purchase a vehicle at a low re-negotiated price. MVCF's dealers will pass along ALL rebates and incentives to you. MVCF advisors provide an estimated trade-in-value. With MVCF you are Price Protected.

The process is simple. Contact MVCF 1-800-345-0990 or [www.mvcp.com](http://www.mvcp.com) ask for an advisor, they will explain the program to you, issue you a certificate. Call the dealer and make an appointment with the MVCF's contact.

Obtain a pre-approval by contacting the Credit Union at [www.americanspirit.org](http://www.americanspirit.org), or call (302) 738-4515. With the MVCF certificate and your approved loan all you need to do is pick out the color.

American Spirit FCU strives to offer you the best services; the addition of MVCF will make car buying enjoyable.



## Protecting Your Good Credit

Your credit history is one of the most valuable assets you possess. It's a direct reflection of your ability to repay money borrowed from a financial institution, including those who issue credit cards, mortgages, and vehicle or student loans. Good credit can be the difference between opportunity and denial.

Protecting your credit against fraud or identity theft and avoiding damaged credit is simple when you follow these helpful tips:

- Shred any paperwork containing personal information.
- Secure documents containing personal data in a locked file drawer, cabinet or box.
- Limit the number of credit cards you use and carry.
- Don't give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you initiate the contact.
- Take your name off mailing lists so that you are less vulnerable to identity theft.
- Memorize your Social Security number and passwords to avoid having them recorded in your wallet or purse.
- In the event of a lost or stolen credit card, call the credit card company immediately. File a police report and contact all three credit bureaus to request that a "fraud alert" be placed on your name and Social Security number.
- Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus on a yearly basis.



Look to the Credit Union as your financial partner with the resources to help you build and maintain your good credit rating.



## Surcharge Free ATMs!

ASFCU has joined the Allpoint Network. Allpoint is a national network of 32,000 surcharge-free ATM's. Now, you will be able to access funds and not pay a surcharge fee.

ATMs are located in well-known national and regional retailers and are closer than you think. For a listing of Allpoint ATMs, please visit our visit [www.americanspirit.org](http://www.americanspirit.org) and click on the Allpoint link. Enter the zip code where you will be traveling, visiting, etc.

1 out of 12 ATMs in America is an Allpoint surcharge-free ATM.

## Volunteers Wanted

Every credit union depends on volunteer input to operate. Every volunteer gains esteem for contributing their time and talents to the benefit of the membership and adding experience to their resume. Not sure what it takes to be a volunteer, or what kind of time commitment is involved? Contact the Credit Union for more information.

## Account Service Fees (Effective January 1, 2005)

Item	Fee
<b>Checking Account:</b>	
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
<b>Personal Check Orders:</b>	
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
<b>VISA Check Card (Debit Card):</b>	
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
<b>VISA Credit Card:</b>	
Late Fee	\$25.00
Over Limit Fee	\$20.00
Lost Card Fee	\$25.00
<b>Automated Clearing House (ACH) Fees:</b>	
Return Charge	\$20.00/return
Stop payment	\$15.00/return
Transfer Fee	\$5.00/transfer
<b>Other Service Fees:</b>	
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
<b>Safe Deposit Box:</b>	
One Time Set-up Charge	\$10.00
Annual Rent Fee Depending on Box Size (Box sizes available 3x5, 5x5, 3x10, 5x10, and 10x10)	\$15 - \$100

## CONSUMER ALERT: Dangers of Phishing to Internet Users

Gone are the days when you had only to fear your wallet being stolen. In this high-tech age when everything there is to know about you can be stored in the digital domain, protecting your identity means much more than carrying your wallet in an inside pocket.

"Phishing" is a real threat to today's consumers, and is a scam that uses Internet services to deceive you into disclosing your personal information.

"Phishers" use email, spam and pop-up messages to scare people into sending various types of account numbers, Social Security numbers, passwords and other secure information to a fraudulent address. These emails or pop-ups claim to originate from a business or organization you are familiar with - for example, your credit union, credit card company, or even a government agency, and threaten consequences for not providing this information. They may also tell you that your information is being up-dated and to confirm before a certain date. Another similar scam uses the phone to gather such information, and is called "pretexting."

The key to staying safe online and on the phone is to never disclose your personal information unless you yourself have initiated the contact. If you receive a call or email that you think might be legitimate, you can call that company or organization by using a phone number that you already have on file to confirm that the request came from them.

Your Credit Union will never attempt to collect your personal information through email. Please report any such requests for your personal information at once to the Credit Union. If you suspect that you have been a victim of identity theft, whether through phishing, pretexting, or by any another means, call the Federal Trade Commission immediately at 1-877-FTC-HELP. You can learn more about protecting yourself from identity theft at the FTC website at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft), or by calling the number above.



## Board Members Elected

At the 42nd annual meeting of the Credit Union, three Directors of the Board were re-elected to three year positions.

**Carol Hall** has 22+ years as a member and 5 years volunteer for the Credit Union.

**Jack Cable** has 24+ years as a member and volunteer for the Credit Union.

**Robert Watson, Sr.** has 40+ years as a member and volunteer for the Credit Union.

Board members are volunteers and are not compensated for their participation. Other Board Members include George L. Bush, Jr., Lewis Reisinger, Steve Keplinger and Jim Green.



## FREE Credit Counseling & Credit Repair - CONFIDENTIAL -

Tuesdays, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For an appointment, please call  
Shannon Marchman at 302-750-2095

### 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](http://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:

(866) 759-2727

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

## IMPORTANT Phone Numbers

Lost Visa Check Card: 1-800-543-5073

Visa Check Card Pin Change: 1-866-297-3411

Visa Check Card Activation: 1-800-543-5073

Disputes: 1-800-600-5249

Lost Visa Credit Card: 1-800-991-4961

Visa Credit Card Pin Change: 1-866-297-3408

Visa Credit Card Activation: 1-800-456-6870

Disputes: 1-800-600-5249