

# Your Money & You

**SPRING 2006***News & Information for ECU Members*

## ECU Partners with Portal to Hope

We're proud to announce that ECU has partnered with Portal to Hope in an effort to help end domestic violence. Portal to Hope is a nonprofit organization that provides support to those whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking crimes.

From now to June 30<sup>th</sup>, ECU will be collecting cell phones on behalf of Portal to Hope. The phones will be used to help victims of violence and assault get the help they need. Please support this worthwhile cause by bringing your old cell phone to the ECU lobby.



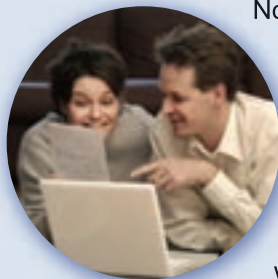
## Celebrating 80 Years!

This year, Everett Credit Union will proudly celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Although a lot has changed over the years, some things remain the same — like our dedication to you, our valued members, and our continued efforts to provide the best products and services to meet your needs. To show our appreciation for your continued support, we will be offering special products and promotions throughout the year. Watch for more details in the months ahead.

Thank you for being part of our credit union over the past 80 years. We look forward to working with you for many years to come!



## Home Banking Makes Life Easier!



Now the perfect place to kick back and relax is also the perfect place to transfer funds between accounts, check account activity and review your account history. With Home Banking from ECU, you can do all of this and more — right from the comfort of your home or office! Log on any time, day or night, for quick, easy access to your account information. And soon, you'll even be able to pay all your bills online. Stop by and visit with a Member Service Representative to sign up!

## Get Ahead on Retirement Savings

It's never too early to start saving for retirement, and ECU makes it easy to get ahead. An Individual Retirement Account (IRA) from ECU is a great way to save for retirement while earning competitive market interest rates. We offer both Traditional and Roth IRAs. With a Traditional IRA, all dividends are tax-deferred until they are withdrawn, while Roth IRAs are tax-free including dividends.

Jump start your retirement savings with an IRA from ECU. To open an IRA or learn more, contact a member services representative today.



**Early Birds Love  
Our Drive-Up Window**

To help you get a jump on your day, our drive-up window opens at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays.

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

**Lobby Hours**

Monday – Wednesday

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday

9 a.m. – 12 Noon

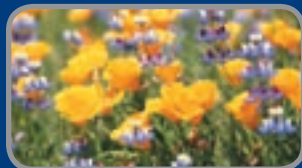
**Drive-Up Hours**

Monday – Friday

7:30 a.m. – Closing

Saturday

9 a.m. – 12 Noon



**Holiday Closings**

Memorial Day  
*Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>*

Patriots' Day  
*Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>*

Independence Day  
*Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>*

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*Your Money & You is published by  
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We welcome your comments – e-mail the  
editor at [csmith@everettcu.org](mailto:csmith@everettcu.org).*



**Checking to Meet Your Needs**

ECU offers a variety of checking account options to meet your needs. From free checking to interest bearing accounts, our checking accounts give you convenience and value for little or no monthly fee. Some of the benefits you'll receive with an ECU checking account include:

- Visa®/ATM debit card
- Free ATM transactions at ECU ATMs
- One FREE box of checks per year
- Unlimited check writing
- Direct Deposit available
- Home banking to access your account online 24 hours a day
- Call 24 to check your account by phone
- Convenient record keeping with easy-to-read images of all cleared checks
- Overdraft protection, subject to credit approval



To open your value-packed ECU checking account, stop by the credit union today!

**Borrower Beware!  
Watch for this Home Equity Scam**

Many homeowners face the monthly challenge of paying bills and still having enough money left over to live comfortably. Does this sound like you? If it does, do not fall victim to a home equity scam. If you own your home, it is likely to be your greatest asset. Unfortunately, if you agree to a bad home equity loan, you may be putting yourself and your home at risk.



For example, an unreliable lender may call, approach, or e-mail you telling you that you can afford a home equity loan even when you know that your monthly income isn't enough to keep up with the payments. How? The lender will tell you the solution is simple. Just "pad" your income on the loan application, making your finances appear better than they actually are.

Beware – this lender is not trying to help you. Most likely, he is helping himself. He may be out to steal the equity you have built up in your home. How is this possible? The lender doesn't care whether or not you can keep up with your monthly payments. He does not have your best interest at heart. As soon as you miss a payment, the lender can foreclose – taking your home and stealing the equity you have spent years building.

If you are approached by a suspicious lender who offers you this kind of "opportunity", it is a scam, and you are being set up. Instead of improving your financial situation, you will probably lose your greatest asset – your home.

If you find yourself in this scenario, contact Everett Credit Union and the FTC immediately. This is a fraudulent activity that can be reported to the FTC online at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or by calling 1-817-697-2329.