

Your Money & You

SUMMER 2006*News & Information for ECU Members*

Loan Application Update

The LoanLink service at Everett Credit Union will no longer be available. LoanLink offered members the opportunity to apply for a loan by phone.

After reviewing member usage, we have decided to reallocate the funds used to provide this service. The funds will be redirected towards new products and services, such as online bill pay.

As always, you can apply for a loan by going online to www.everettcu.org or by visiting us in person. For questions or concerns about this change, please contact a member services representative.

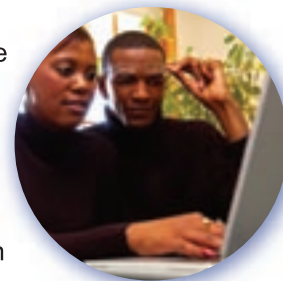
The Sooner You Start, The More You'll Save! Open An IRA Today!

If you haven't started saving for retirement, it's time to start. These days it's not enough to depend on social security or pensions. You have to take saving for retirement into your own hands. To help you save, Everett Credit Union now offers Traditional and Roth IRAs to all members.

With a Traditional IRA, all dividends are tax-deferred until they are withdrawn, whereas Roth IRAs are tax-free including dividends.

Even if you can contribute only \$50 or \$100 a month to your IRA, it's worth it. Thanks to compounded interest, even small monthly investments can grow to significant amounts over time. In the long run, what may seem like an insignificant monthly investment can turn into quite a bit of money.

For more information on IRA options available at Everett Credit Union, contact a member services representative or stop by our branch.



When The Unexpected Occurs, ECU Has You Covered.

If you have a checking account at Everett Credit Union, you already know the great benefits it provides like unlimited check writing, one free box of checks per year, free ATM transactions and more. But did you know that you can add Overdraft Protection to your checking account?

Everett Credit Union encourages you to manage your finances responsibly and we do not promote overdrafts. However, we realize that accidents happen to us all. Failing to record a check, an ATM withdrawal or a simple mathematical error can leave you with too little cash in your checking account.

If checks are received at Everett Credit Union that exceed the funds available, your Overdraft Protection will advance funds to pay checks totaling up to your approved limit. This service will help you avoid the problems of merchant charges for returned checks or inconveniences when unexpected expenses occur. The program is always here for you and costs nothing unless you use it.

To learn more about overdraft protection, 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

Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4th

Labor Day

Monday, September 4th

Columbus Day

Monday, October 9th

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We welcome your comments – e-mail the
editor at csmith@everettcu.org.*



Protecting Yourself Against Identity Theft

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. It occurs when someone steals your personal information to establish credit, purchase items, or borrow money in your name.

At Everett Credit Union, we are doing all we can to help protect you. Here are some suggestions to help keep your identity safe:

- Safeguard financial information such as your checking, credit card and Social Security number. Unless you know the person or organization you're dealing with, don't give these numbers out, even to someone claiming to be from your credit union.
- Report lost or stolen checks immediately. Review new deliveries of checks to make sure none have been stolen in transit.
- Notify your credit union of suspicious phone inquiries such as those asking for account information to "verify a statement" or "award a prize".
- Shred financial solicitations or financial statements before disposing of them.
- If regular bills fail to reach you, call the company to find out why. Someone may have filed a false change-of-address notice to divert your mail and steal your identity.
- If your bills include questionable items, investigate immediately. This is often the first sign of identity theft fraud.

Safeguard Your Money On The Net

Just as they do in the physical world, scam artists will continue to develop new and more sinister ways to trick you online. To ensure that your personal and financial information is safe on the Web, keep these tips in mind.



- Never reply directly or click on a link in response to an email that asks for personal or financial information. If you are concerned about your account contact the company or institution via a Web site you know to be genuine. Your Credit Union will never contact you "out of the blue" to ask for personal financial information.
- Make sure the sites you buy from have financial data protection (called "encryption") – and can deliver what they promise. Also, find out what kind of user support they give.
- Visit Web sites by typing the URL into your address bar.
- Your software has protections – so use them. Turn on secure site software warnings. Read site privacy and security statements. Never use a site that doesn't protect you.
- Update operating and browsing software on a regular basis, as these updates usually contain free, imperative security enhancements.

Once a member is initially set up for home banking services with Everett Credit Union, we will never send you an email requesting an update or confirmation of sensitive information. Home banking is completely private and confidential. Your unique ID and password are required before any information about your account can be obtained. In addition, all data is automatically encrypted. You can be confident your data is treated with the utmost security.