

CITIES CHAT



Do you like Cities Credit Union? Tell someone!

If you like what you have at Cities Credit Union, pass it on!

Cities Credit Union is dependent on its loyal members to keep the credit union strong. We believe we offer an excellent and broad menu of products, highly-competitive loan and savings rates and superior member service.



If you like what we offer you, why not encourage a family member (see the membership requirement section), neighbor or co-worker to take advantage of the Cities difference?

Cities Credit Union membership requirements:

- Anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in our community is eligible to join Cities. The Cities Credit Union community includes White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, Gem Lake and Vadnais Heights.
- Eligible family members include: spouse, children (step children), parents (step parents), grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and household relationships (domestic partners, roommates).
- Several employee groups are eligible for membership. Visit our website: www.citiescu.org/ASP/membership.asp.

Cities auto loan rates beat the competition

Current economic indicators point toward a slow recovery, and most experts agree that the economy has bottomed-out. Even so, many American consumers are still gun-shy about making big purchases such as a new home or vehicle. But, there are still some great deals available on vehicles as the 2009 model year comes to a close.

If you've been considering a new or used vehicle purchase, look to Cities Credit Union for your financing. Our auto loan rates beat the big banks and most local credit unions. Recent rate comparisons with major players such as Wells Fargo and several large Minnesota credit unions show that Cities Credit Union's vehicle loan rates can save members hundreds, even thousands, of dollars over the life of the loan.



Have a higher-rate car loan from another institution? Looking to finance a new auto purchase?

If you purchase or refinance your vehicle with us, you could receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card and an additional

\$50 gas card. Simply bring in this newsletter and reap the savings and benefits! (Please note: you must finance a minimum of \$5,000 to be eligible for this added bonus.)

For more information or to apply for a vehicle loan (new or used) from Cities Credit Union, call 651-426-3773 to speak with a loan officer. Or, apply online at www.citiescu.org.

Compare & save with Cities

Example: \$22,000 new vehicle, 60 month term assumes no downpayment

Institution name	APR*	Monthly payment	Savings per month	Savings over life of loan
Cities Credit Union	3.99%	\$405.06	-----	-----
City & County CU	4.99%	\$415.07	\$10.01	\$600.60
Postal Credit Union	5.29%	\$418.10	\$13.04	\$782.40
Wells Fargo Bank NA	6.64%	\$431.90	\$26.84	\$1,610.40

* Annual percentage rate. Lowest rate given on approved credit. All rates effective as of 12-8-09 and are subject to change without notice.

Meet Maxx, 2009 Dog of the Year

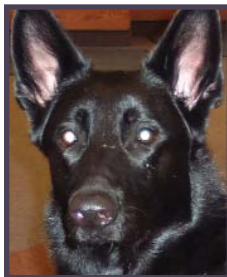
Congratulations to Don and Jeanne Nauer of Maplewood. Cities Credit Union has named their pooch, Maxx the Dog of the Year for 2009!

Maxx is a 6-year-old, 112-lb. German Shepherd who loves walks, playing with tennis balls and riding in the truck.

Maxx and Jeanne visit the credit union at least once a week to conduct business. The Cities staff enjoys his frequent visits, spoiling him rotten with attention and treats.

"I have to remind Maxx that we stop at the credit union to conduct business," explains Jeanne. "He gets so excited when approaching Cities. . .crying and whining all the way!"

For being chosen Dog of the Year, Maxx received a complimentary portrait sitting with Zahler Photography and a gift bag. All dogs on our "Cities Canine Union" wall are eligible to win.



Members create lasting memories

Cities members kindled their holiday spirit on Dec. 5th by participating in our first holiday family photo day.

For a \$5 sitting fee, members received a 4" x 6" holiday photo of their family and dog(s). All proceeds from the event went to Second Chance Animal Rescue, a White Bear Lake-based nonprofit. Cities raised approximately \$350 in cash and merchandise for the rescue. Cities treated our guests to festive music, assorted pastries, coffee and hot cocoa.



Members Tom Cropsey and Laura Bates pose with CJ and Sydney

Member Renee Strand raved, "We appreciated the wonderful party, and we're especially thankful that Cities is so good to the animals in our community."





Government extends, expands homebuyer tax credit program

Great news for prospective homebuyers! The federal government has extended the first-time homebuyer tax credit and expanded the program to include some existing homeowners into mid-2010.

Members looking to purchase their first home can receive up to an \$8,000, and repeat homebuyers may be eligible for up to \$6,500 (must live in their current residence for at least five of the last eight years). A purchase agreement must be signed by 4-30-10 and close on/before 6-30-10.



The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of the home's purchase price up to a maximum of \$8,000 for first-timers and \$6,500 for repeat buyers. Some income and purchase price restrictions apply. For more information on the program, visit the government's website: www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com.

For mortgage financing information, contact the credit union at 651-426-3773.

Save when you refinance your home equity with Cities

Paying a high rate on your current home equity loan at another institution? Cut your payments by refinancing with a low-rate Cities home equity loan. Plus, you'll receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card when you refinance your higher-rate loan with us.

Our home equity loan rates start as low as 4.50% APR with several payment terms available (fixed rate loans up to 10 years and five-year balloons with 15-year amortization).

Members can finance up to 100% of their home's value on approved credit. Cities also offers home improvement loans.



Ready to save? Call a credit union loan officer at 651-426-3773 to start your home equity loan today.

What I like best about Cities Credit Union
"Staff is very courteous and friendly. Sure helps during tough times for all. Thank you!"

- Mary C. Vidas

Mark your calendars

Martin Luther King Day
Monday, Jan. 18, 2010
Office **OPEN**

Presidents' Day
Monday, Feb. 15, 2010
Office closed

Cities Credit Union

3625 Talmage Circle
Suite 102
Vadnais Heights, MN 55110
651-426-3773
1-800-543-0935
651-426-0832 (fax)
www.citiescu.org

Lobby hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Friday
7:30 am - 5:00 pm

Drive-Up hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 6:00 pm
Friday
7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday
8:30 am - 12:00 pm

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Dan Pederson, Chair
Jimmy Walker, Vice Chair
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Secretary
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Marty Fleischhacker,
Director

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Bob Bieniek
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Integrity Autosource + Cities = one stop shopping



Right now is one of the best times of the year to buy a new or used vehicle and get a great deal! Many of you have told us you avoid buying a new car because it can be so stressful dealing with car salespeople, who don't always have your best interest at heart. That's why Cities Credit Union offers the convenience of a "Personal Shopper" to all of our members and their families.

Cities Credit Union's fleet department is your one stop source for new or used cars and great financing. Just call 651-426-6411 or stop into the Vadnais Heights office to talk things over with Brett Broghammer of Integrity Autosource, Inc. You can count on getting honest answers to your questions and all of the infor-

mation you need to make a decision you are comfortable with. And, we will not pressure you to buy anything--we are simply here to help.

While we're at it we can talk about payment plans that will fit your budget and if you have a trade-in we'll talk about that too. Most members are able to pick up their new cars right here in the credit union parking lot! Drive your old car in, sign your loan papers and drive your new car home. It doesn't get much easier than that!

Any make, any model, any budget. New or used. Your trade-in is welcome.

Call Brett at 651-426-6411 today!

Scholarship money available to credit union members

The Minnesota Family Involvement Council (FIC) has \$11,000 available in scholarship money for Minnesota credit union members who are continuing their education.

The FIC is offering two \$1,000 scholarships and eighteen \$500 scholarships to 20 credit union members throughout the state. Any individual attending a college, university, graduate or law school, 2- or 4-year program, community or technical college in the fall of 2010 is eligible.

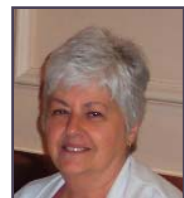
The process involves an application, a brief questionnaire and 500-word essay. All applications must be post-marked by Feb. 1, 2010.

For additional information, please stop into the credit union for an application or visit our website at www.citiescu.org.



JoAnn Lang retires

After 17 years of service to Cities Credit Union, senior teller, JoAnn Lang retired Dec. 18, 2009.



JoAnn has been active in the credit union industry most of her life, both as a member and as an employee. She started as a teller at BN Credit Union and worked at VIP Credit Union before joining St. Paul Telco Credit Union in December 1992.

Over the years, JoAnn has enjoyed working as a teller developing strong bonds with the members and staff. She's enjoyed her tenure at the credit union. "Fellow employees and, of course, all of the wonderful members have made it a fun place to work," she says.

JoAnn will join her husband, Jack in retirement and is looking forward "to taking on the kitchen duties again," including her favorite hobby, baking. She also anticipates spending time with her eight grandchildren.

We thank JoAnn for her years of service and wish her the all the best. We will miss her sense of humor (and her yummy cookies).

