



FALL 2011

CREDIT UNION CHATTER

GREATER PITTSBURGH
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
www.greaterpittsburghfcu.org

OAKLAND (MAIN) OFFICE:
Monday thru Friday
9:30 AM-4:00 PM
412-621-6800
FAX 412-681-7421
TOLL FREE 1-888-673-7224

UPMC PASSAVANT OFFICE:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 AM-5:00 PM
412-367-6338
FAX 412-367-6658

UPMC PRESBY OFFICE:
Monday and Wednesday
7:30 AM-3:30 PM
Friday
7:30 AM-3:00 PM
412-647-6337

UPMC CHILDREN'S OFFICE:
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
7:30 AM-3:30 PM
412-688-0442

UPMC MERCY OFFICE:
Tuesday
8:30 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday
12:00 PM-4:00 PM
412-232-7717



NAUGHTY



NICE



Need Cash for the Holiday Season?

The "Most Wonderful Time of Year" can also be the *most expensive* time of the year. Get the cash you need for presents, home improvements, or debt consolidation with our Holiday Loan Special.

36 Month Holiday Loan - 5.50%

November 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012
New Money Only

Applications are available online or at any of our locations. For a complete list of loan guidelines or to calculate a monthly payment, please visit our website at www.greaterpittsburghfcu.org.



Christmas Club Checks will be going out November 7th.
Please see page 3 for important information regarding your Club Account.

We appreciate your membership!

Thank You to all of our wonderful members who look to us for their financial needs. We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and a prosperous new year.

To show our appreciation, please stop at any of our locations to receive your FREE 2012 wall and pocket calendar. They will be available starting November 1st.

**We are sorry, but calendars cannot be mailed and are limited to one per member while supplies last.*



Greater Pittsburgh
Federal Credit Union

**The Preferred
Credit Union**
serving employees of the
University of Pittsburgh,
UPMC and many more!

All rates shown are subject to change without notice. For current rates please see our website.

HOME EQUITY LOAN RATES

Fixed Rate Loans - Over \$25k
 New money only
 3.99%.....5 year repayment
 4.49%.....10 year repayment
 4.75%.....15 year repayment

Fixed Rate Loans - Under \$25k
 4.75%.....5 year repayment
 5.10%.....10 year repayment
 5.25%.....15 year repayment

Call the Main Office to apply.

All Home Equity Loans have a minimum of \$5000.00 and a maximum of 80% of the appraised value minus any mortgage balance.

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

4.25%.....variable rate

PERSONAL LOAN RATES

Minimum – \$500.00
 Maximum - 1 month gross salary if employed 3 to 12 months. 2 month gross salary if employed 1 year or more with current employer.
 7.50%.....3 year repayment
 8.50%.....4 year repayment

AUTO LOAN RATES

New Car Loan.....4.25%
 100% financing for up to 5 years.
 \$25,000.00 or more up to 6 years financing.

Used Car Loan.....5.25%
 2008 - 3 year repayment
 2009 and newer - 4 year maximum repayment.

Financing 80% of the NADA Blue Book Value.

The personal loan rates listed here are effective before the Holiday Loan Special which starts November 1, 2011.



“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.”

Cicero
 (106 BC - 43 BC)

The following dividends were posted 10/01/2011

REGULAR SHARES

\$0.00 TO 149.99.....0.00%
 \$150.00 TO 4999.99.....0.15%
 \$5,000.00 TO 9999.99....0.35%
 \$10,000 AND OVER.....0.70%

CLUB ACCOUNTS

\$0.00 TO 149.99.....0.00%
 \$150.00 TO 4999.99.....0.10%
 \$5,000.00 AND OVER.....0.18%

IRA'S

Passbook Accounts.....0.45%

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT & IRA CERTIFICATES

Six Month.....0.40%
 One Year.....0.50%
 Two Year.....0.70%
 Three Year.....1.00%
 Four Year.....1.20%
 Five Year.....1.40%

Minimum \$1,000.00 for Certificates of Deposit

VISA CREDIT CARDS

Balance Transfers.....6.9%
 Cash Advances.....6.9%
 New purchases.....9.9%

Please call our North Hills Office for more information on our VISA credit card including how to obtain an account, cash advances, limit increases, and/or balance transfer information.

We also have a link on our home page which allows you to view your statement, payment activity, and balances of your credit card.



To help better serve you, please make note of when the credit union will be closed for business during the Holiday Season. Refer to the calendar of events on page four.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With the holiday season just around the corner I want to invite all of our members to consider our "Holiday loan Special" as an alternative to using those high interest rate credit cards during this busy time of year. The special rate will be 5.50% for 36 months repayment. It is better to have the cash available than to get a bill in the mail and not be able to pay the balance in full, thus incurring interest charges.

If you like the convenience of a credit card, then apply for a loan and consolidate your debts after you get your bills. Our special runs from November 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012. Contact our office for further details. All current loan guidelines apply.

With the recent announcement of some banks increasing their fees and eliminating free checking and other customer services, we invite our members to consider your credit union when looking for an alternative. Many of our services are FREE or have low, minimum fees attached. Our members and their financial needs are the purpose of our existence. We are in business for and because of our members and sometimes minimal fees are a part of doing business, but we try to keep the charges within a range of being affordable. Check our website to view our products and services any time, night or day, or call us at 412-621-6800.

Happy Holidays to You and Yours.

Sincerely,

Patricia J. Juliano
 President & CEO

P.S. Visit us at the UPMC Benefit Fairs running in October and November. Please visit the "What's New" section of our website for dates and times at www.greaterpittsburghfcu.org. We hope to see you there!

FALL 2011

Important Information for Christmas Club Account Holders

Christmas Club Account Checks will be disbursed and mailed the week of November 7th. Checks will automatically be disbursed on accounts with a balance of \$100.00 or more.

Checks are VOID after 60 days, so please cash them as soon as possible!

Please note that if you asked us to flag your account "NO MAIL" in any previous year or to transfer the funds to a checking or savings account, the flag will carry over until you ask us to remove or change the flag. This means that your check will not be mailed to you and your funds will remain in your account. If you wish to change the flag on your account, please contact the credit union by October 31, 2011. We also need you to contact us by that date if you have a change of address. **Checks will not forward to your new address!**

Christmas Club Accounts will remain open and ready for contributions for the 2012 Holiday Season. As with any of our accounts, you are able to make additional deposits to your account outside of payroll deductions. We accept cash, money orders, or checks made payable to Greater Pittsburgh FCU.

For those who do not have a Christmas Club Account, you may open one at any time of the year. A convenient payroll deduction can help you prepare for next year. Stop by or give us a call. See page four for a list of our locations.

JRJ. Junior Memorial Fund Raiser and AHA Heart Walk

This past August, we hosted our final semi-annual bake sale in the main office. We would like to thank everyone who participated from baking goods to purchasing a "heart-y meal" for lunch. With your help another \$2,100.00 was raised to benefit the American Heart Association and St. Jude Research Hospital. Although we will no longer host the bake sale, we plan on having other fund raising opportunities throughout the year.

The American Heart Association Heart Walk will be held at Heinz Field on October 22nd. If you would like to join our team, please contact Mrs. Patricia Juliano at the main office.

Tax Tips from The Internal Revenue Service (IRS):

Whether you are a recent graduate going to college for the first time or a returning student, it will soon be time to get on campus - and payment deadlines for tuition and other fees are not far behind. The Internal Revenue Service reminds students or parents paying such expenses to keep receipts and to be aware of some tax benefits that can help offset the college costs. Typically, these benefits apply to you, your spouse or a dependent for whom you claim an exemption on your tax return.

1. American Opportunity Credit - This credit, originally created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, has been extended for an additional two years - 2011 and 2012. The credit can be up to \$2,500 per eligible student and is available for the first four years of post secondary education. Forty percent of this credit is refundable, which means that you may be able to receive up to \$1,000, even if you owe no taxes. Qualified expenses include tuition and fees, course related books, supplies and equipment. The full credit is generally available to eligible taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is below \$80,000 (\$160,000 for married couples filing a joint return).

2. Lifetime Learning Credit - On 2011, you may be able to claim a Lifetime Learning Credit of up to \$2,000 for qualified education expenses paid for a student enrolled in eligible educational institutions. There is no limit on the number of years you can claim the Lifetime Learning Credit for an eligible student, but to claim the credit, your modified adjusted gross income must be below \$60,000 (\$120,000 if married filing jointly).

3. Tuition and Fees Deduction - This deduction can reduce the amount of your income subject to tax by up to \$4,000 for 2011 even if you do not itemize your deductions. Generally you can claim the tuition and fees deduction for qualified higher education expenses for an eligible student if your modified adjusted gross income is below \$80,000 (\$160,000 if married filing jointly).

4. Student Loan Interest Deduction - Generally, personal interest you pay, other than certain mortgage interest, is not deductible. However, if your modified adjusted gross income is less than \$75,000 (\$150,000 if filing a joint return), you may be able to deduct interest paid on a student loan used for higher education during the year. It can reduce the amount of your income subject to tax by up to \$2,500, even if you don't itemize deductions.

For each student you can choose to claim only one of the credits in single tax year. However, if you pay college expenses for two or more students in the same year, you can choose to take credits on a per-student, per-year basis. You can claim the American Opportunity Credit for your sophomore daughter and the Lifetime Learning Credit for your senior son.

You cannot claim the tuition and fees deduction for the same student in the same year that you claim American Opportunity Credit or the Lifetime Learning Credit. You must choose to either take the credit or the deduction and should consider which is more beneficial for you.

For more information, visit the Tax Benefits for Education Information Center at www.irs.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Important information from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC):

The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, collects complaints about companies, business practices, and identity theft under the FTC Act and other laws we enforce or administer.

Why: Your complaints help detect patterns of wrong-doing, and lead to investigations and prosecutions. The FTC enters all complaints it receives into a Consumer Sentinel, a secure online database that is used by thousands of civil and criminal law enforcement authorities worldwide. The FTC does not resolve individual consumer complaints.

Your Privacy: How much personal information you provide is up to you. However, if you do not provide your name and certain other information, it may be impossible for the FTC to refer, respond to, or investigate your complaint.

To learn more about this information collection and its purpose, authority and use, read the FTC's Privacy Act Statement on their website at www.FTC.gov. Click on the Consumer Complaint link.



Black Friday - November 25th

"The saying 'Getting there is half the fun' became obsolete with the advent of commercial airlines"

Henry J. Tillman

ALTERNATE OFFICE LOCATIONS

We have several locations available for your convenience to assist you with applications, deposits, payroll deductions, and any other questions you may have. **Checks can be printed from any of these locations with the exception of Shadyside.** Please also visit us at www.greaterpittsburghfcu.org.

UPMC SHADYSIDE SATELLITE: There is a credit union representative available on a rotating schedule at UPMC Shadyside Hospital. Please call our representative at the UPMC Children's location for more information. The phone number is 412-688-0442.

UPMC CHILDREN'S OFFICE: Located across from Children's Hospital at 4414 Penn Avenue in Lawrenceville. This location is open 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This office is closed for lunch from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Call us at 412-688-0442.

UPMC MERCY OFFICE: Located on the 1st floor of St. Ann Center in room 108. This office is open on Tuesday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and Thursday from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Call us at 412-232-7717.

UPMC PASSAVANT OFFICE: Located in the Professional Bldg beside Passavant Hospital. This location is open 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. VISA credit card questions should be directed to this office, and any check requests must be called in before 4:00 PM. Call us at 412-367-6338.

UPMC PRESBY OFFICE: Located in the hospital on the eleventh floor by the cafeteria. This location is open 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM Monday and Wednesday and 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM on Friday. This office is closed for lunch from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Call us at 412-647-6337.



Goodbye 2011 - HELLO 2012!!!

"While the fates permit, live happily; life speeds on with hurried step, and with winged days the wheel of the headlong year is turned."

Seneca
(5BC - 65AD)



LOOKING AHEAD

Holiday Personal Loan Special.

The Holiday Season!

Annual Credit Union Meeting in March.

ANSWER TO THE LAST CHATTER CHALLENGE

Q: Where can you find the fee schedule on our website?

A: The fee schedule can be found by clicking on the rates link.

Thanks for playing - and good luck with the next Chatter Challenge!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Patricia Rzotkiewicz
Winner of last quarter's
Chatter Challenge
&
Elaine Beleniz
Winner of last quarter's
New Member Raffle.

CHATTER CHALLENGE

For this Chatter Challenge, we would like to give our Junior Savers (members 17 and younger) a chance to win. We have holiday coloring pages and word search available at all of our locations and on our website (starting November 1st). Have your child complete and return one (or all) pages to the credit union. Names of participants will be entered in a drawing. The winner will receive a \$50.00 deposit to their share account. All entries must be received before December 20, 2011. *There is also an entry page which needs completed and returned with your entry.* Each page returned counts as an entry to the contest. All entries will be hung in our main office.

You may scan and e-mail your entry to us at info@greaterpittsburghfcu.org with "Chatter Challenge" in the subject line.

Remember to keep reading your Credit Union Chatter so that you stay informed, updated, and possibly rewarded!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GPFCU Main Office
4415 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

GPFCU at UPMC Passavant
Passavant Professional Bldg
1st Floor, Suite 1107 A
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

GPFCU at UPMC Children's
4414 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

GPFCU at UPMC Presbyterian
200 Lothrop Street 11th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

GPFCU at UPMC Mercy
St. Ann's Center Room 108
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

American Heart Association Heart Walk.....Saturday, October 22nd

Columbus Day.....Monday, October 10th - CLOSED

Veterans Day.....Friday, November 11th - CLOSED

Thanksgiving Holiday.....Thursday, November 24th - CLOSED
Friday, November 25th - CLOSED

Christmas Holiday.....Friday, December 23rd - Close at Noon
Monday, December 26th - CLOSED

New Year Holiday.....Friday, December 30th - Close at Noon
Monday, January 2nd - CLOSED

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.....Monday, January 16th - CLOSED

MEETING YOUR FINANCIAL NEEDS IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!

