

Make the Season Bright **When Things Are Tight!**

It seems that everything costs more these days, which is not good news for holiday shoppers. Don't let rising costs dim your holiday celebration. As a member of Okaloosa County Teachers Federal Credit Union, YOU HAVE OPTIONS that can help you keep your holidays bright!

Low Interest Loan

From now through December 31, 2008 you can:

- borrow up to \$1200
- for up to 12 months
- at 12% APR

The application process is simple. You can finish your holiday shopping without dreading high credit card balances in the new year.

OCTFCU MasterCard

High-interest credit cards can turn a Merry Christmas into a stressful New Year. This year, make your New Year as happy as your holiday season with a low-interest Okaloosa County Teachers Federal Credit Union MasterCard.

- **14.64%** APR*
- No Annual Fee
- 25-Day Grace Period
- No Transaction Fees for Cash Advances**

*Annual Percentage Rate.

** Interest accrues from the date of the advance.

Or...NEW OCTFCU Platinum MasterCard

- Low variable rate of **7.9%** APR*
- No annual fee and no transaction fee for cash advances**
- Maximum of \$15,000 credit limit

*Variable rate is tied to prime with a floor rate of 7.9% APR. Rate subject to credit approval.

** Interest accrues from the date of the advance.

Our low interest rate will keep your holiday debt to a minimum. Be smart while you shop: Shop with your OCTFCU MasterCard and Platinum MasterCard!

MasterCard Debit/Check Card

Wipe out Your List With a Swipe of Your Card

Pay for your purchases quickly and easily with one swipe of your card. It's safer to carry than cash and faster than writing a check. There are no transaction charges for purchases and you can use your OCTFCU Debit Card to withdraw cash at any ATM where you see the MasterCard, Maestro, Cirrus and co-op logos. OCTFCU Debit Card = Convenient shopping!



Holiday Closings

Columbus Day
October 13

Veteran's Day
November 11

Thanksgiving Day
November 27

Christmas Eve
December 24
(Close at Noon)

Christmas Day
December 25

New Year's Day
January 1

Okaloosa County Teachers Federal Credit Union

www.okaloosafcu.org

24-Hour Audio Response

1-800-828-5831

Home Banking

www.okaloosafcu.org

Main Office

1126 North Ferdon Boulevard
Crestview, Florida 32536
(850) 682-2225

FAX: (850) 682-7722

Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Drive-up Only

Fort Walton Beach Branch

11 N.E. Racetrack Road, Building I
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547

(850) 863-7041 or

(850) 863-7054

FAX: (850) 862-2933

Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Drive-up Only

Baker Branch

1307-A Georgia Avenue
Baker, Florida 32531

Phone and Fax: (850) 537-9815

Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed for lunch daily: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Niceville Branch

202 Highway 85N, Suite 100
Niceville, FL 32578

(850) 729-3934

Fax: (850) 729-3936

Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

Gail Kaltz, Chairman

J.C. Connor, Vice Chairman

Jeanneane Grandstaff, Secretary

Martha Jordan, Treasurer

Eric Garcia

Susan Lowrey Sexton

Morris Rogers

Jerry Maughon, President/CEO

**ATM AVAILABLE AT
THE CRESTVIEW, FORT
WALTON BEACH AND
NICEVILLE LOCATIONS.**



Okaloosa County Teachers Federal Credit Union Smart MONEY

October 2008

The Credit Union Difference **Education is the Key**

How many banks have you found that offer consumer education just to help their customers achieve personal financial success? Probably not many. That's because banks have a profit goal, not a goal of serving customers' needs. In contrast, credit unions exist to help their members.

Since helping members achieve their financial goals is a foundational principle for credit unions, member education is a vital part of what we do. Credit unions place particular importance on financial education for the nation's youth. Financial literacy is the first step for building prosperous futures. Okaloosa County Teachers Federal Credit Union is committed to helping equip our members with the knowledge they need to reach their financial goals.

Our educational services include, but are not limited to:

- Kirby Kangaroo Club – It's never too early to start saving! The Kirby Kangaroo Club is a savings program designed especially for kids up to 12 years old. Learn more by logging onto www.okaloosafcu.org and clicking Kirby.
- CU Succeed: Teens Financial Network – A fantastic savings and financial education program designed specifically for our teen members! Learn more by logging onto www.okaloosafcu.org and clicking on the CU Succeed Logo.
- We provide all Okaloosa County high schools with financial planning packages for juniors and seniors, including materials for our teachers.



Save Now **Shop Next Christmas**

The best way to make your holiday shopping easier is to have the money ready before it's time to shop. A Christmas Club account from Okaloosa County Teachers FCU can help you make that possible. Open a Christmas Club account now, and next year you'll be ready to shop without the worry.

A Christmas Club account keeps your funds separate from your other savings. You can make deposits regularly with payroll deduction or at your convenience. And having the account can motivate you to save a little at a time. Open a Christmas Club account now and get a head start on next Christmas. For more information, call your local credit union office, or log on to www.okaloosafcu.org.

Believe it or not...the holiday shopping season is upon us and your year-long savings are about to pay off! The Christmas Club savings balance displayed on your third quarter-end statement will be transferred to your share/savings account by mid-October... just in time to begin your holiday shopping!



New

EMPLOYEES



Please join us in welcoming Kim Mobley to our credit union staff as Vice President of Marketing and Business Development. Kim attended the University of West Florida and joins our team with knowledge gained from past occupations in advertising sales and marketing/public relations firms. She feels fortunate to be given the opportunity to lead in the expansion and marketing of the credit union's services in the years to come.



Kim Mobley

Looking for the perfect holiday gift idea? We've got you covered!

Gift Cards from Okaloosa County Teachers FCU.

Feeling overwhelmed at the thought of fighting crowds and traffic this holiday season? Here's an alternative. As part of our mission to offer you the best financial products and services available, we're excited to make gift cards available to our members — just in time for the holidays. Most people are familiar with traditional shop-specific gift cards (e.g., Target and Wal-Mart). **But now there's something even better...** a new breed of gift cards that can be used wherever VISA® debit cards are accepted.

In other words, instead of giving your daughter a Gap gift card, you can give her a flexible option she can use at The Gap or hundreds of other places — for clothes, events, entertainment, you name it. They can even be used online. Gift cards are a flexible gift option that's sure to please both the buyer and the recipient. And with our special member program, we make it extra easy for you to purchase them in one of two ways:

- Order gift cards in person by visiting your nearest Okaloosa County Teachers Federal Credit Union branch office. There are no lengthy processes or forms to fill out. Buy one or several cards — for virtually any amount you choose — in a matter of minutes.
- Order online at www.libertygiftcard.com.

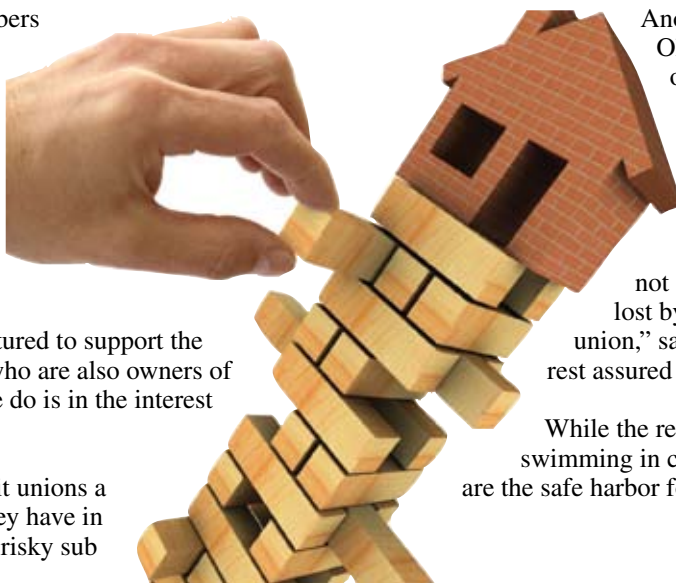
Okaloosa County Teachers FCU Offers a Safe Option For Consumers Despite Bumpy Road for Banking Industry

Many Floridians are searching for a light at the end of the tunnel after the recent collapse of mortgage monster IndyMac Bancorp, Inc., and the federal government's announcement that it will assist mortgage giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae if needed. It seems consumer confidence in the financial services industry is becoming a bit shaky, but many have found a safe haven for their deposits in a longtime friend—credit unions.

Today, approximately 7,000 members belong to Okaloosa County Teachers FCU, but many more who are eligible to join have not discovered the benefits of belonging. "Credit unions might be one of the best kept secrets in financial services," says Jerry Maughon, President of Okaloosa County Teachers FCU, which has served Okaloosa County since 1960. "We are structured to support the financial needs of our members, who are also owners of the credit union. So everything we do is in the interest of the members."

One of the things that makes credit unions a safe bet in this economy is that they have in large part steered clear of making risky sub

prime loans. Credit unions operate more conservatively and tend to hold more of their mortgage loans in a mortgage loan portfolio rather than sell them to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on the secondary market. At Okaloosa County Teachers FCU, the mortgage loan portfolio has remained healthy, with an average below 1% percent delinquency rate. "We manage our loan portfolio very conservatively because it's our members' money," says Maughon.



Another feather in the cap of credit unions like Okaloosa County Teachers FCU is that funds on deposit are insured by the full faith and credit of the federal government. The National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) insures shares on deposit at credit unions up to \$100,000 per member and insures retirement funds up to \$250,000. "In the history of the NCUSIF, not one penny of insured savings has ever been lost by a member of a federally insured credit union," says Maughon. "So credit union members can rest assured that their deposits are safe and sound."

While the rest of the financial services industry is swimming in controversy, it seems that credit unions really are the safe harbor for consumers.

Tips for Selling Your Home

In today's tough real estate market, many homeowners are searching for ways to make selling a house an easier process. Sellers face fierce competition to attract buyers. According to Census Bureau figures, 2.8% of homes, excluding rental properties, were empty and on the market from April through June 2008. That translates to just under 2.2 million homes vacant and on the market nationwide. (The record high of 2.9% was reached in the first quarter of 2008.)

In this climate, potential sellers need every advantage to attract buyers. The following tips can help:

Pick the Right Price. Realistic pricing is more important than ever.

Don't compare what a house in your neighborhood sold for six months or a year ago. Use current pricing as a benchmark. If your home does not offer significant upgrades or added value, don't price it above the other houses in the neighborhood.

Don't Sell a Fixer-Upper. Many people choose not to repaint or replace carpet, assuming a buyer would want to make their own choices. In today's market, it's better to make the changes first. More people are searching for a home they can move into right away. Make the changes the house needs to show to the best advantage before putting it on the market.



Offer an incentive. These days, buyers need a little extra motivation. Consider offering to pay the buyer's closing costs or providing a one-year home warranty. A home warranty is basically insurance that covers home repairs for things like the heating and cooling system. Such warranties typically cost between \$500 and \$750 for one year.

Market well. If you choose to sell your house without a real estate agent, be aggressive with your marketing efforts. List your home on sites such as foresalebyowner.com, but don't forego ads in local newspapers. Try to make them as creative as possible.

Little things can go a long way to make your home marketable. Don't overlook the small details when you are out to beat the housing market.

Take a Bite Out of Your Grocery Bill

It's no secret that grocery prices have been on the rise. According to most experts, grocery prices will most likely remain higher for at least another two years. The Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture reports that a 4.5% increase in overall food prices is expected, which will mean an extra \$87 in food costs per person this year. If your grocery bill is beginning to take a bite out of your budget, try the following money-saving tips.

- **Plan meals in advance.** If you don't know what you need, you're more likely to fall for impulse items. You're also more likely to forget something. The more trips you make to the grocery store, the more likely you are to buy something extra.
- **Don't shop while you're hungry.** You're sure to buy more than you need when everything you see looks good.
- **Don't get convenience items.** It's tempting to buy that Caesar Salad in a bag or the already prepared skillet dinners, but you pay for convenience. Try doing things the old fashioned way. You'll be surprised how much you save when you opt for the whole chicken instead of the boneless chicken breasts.
- **Stay away from candy and soft drinks.** These items are always pricey. Homemade sweets cost a good bit less than candy bars and store-bought cookies. When you cut these items from your list you'll be healthy and save money as well.
- **Use those coupons.** It takes time to sort out and use coupons, but it's worth it. Fifty cents here and there adds up in a year's time. *But be careful not to buy something you normally wouldn't just to use the coupon.*

Just In Case You Forgot... We Offer:

- Drive-Up ATM at the Niceville Branch Now Accepts Deposits
- Platinum MasterCard®
- Construction and Land Loans
- Free Online Banking and Free Bill Pay
- Small Business Checking
- Kirby Kangaroo Kids Club
- CU Succeed Teens Financial Network
- Payroll Deduction & Direct Deposit
- MasterCard™ Credit Card
- Free Debit Card
- Beginning October 6, 2008, our drive up hours in Crestview will be expanded to serve you better. Our drive-up will be opened 30 minutes later during the week and until 1:00 p.m. (an extra hour) on Saturdays.
- Fort Walton Beach hours will change to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- And Much More!

Dividends

Dividends were posted to accounts on 6/30/08.

	Annual Percentage Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
Share Accounts	1.25%	1.26%
IRA Share Accounts	1.25%	1.26%
Club Accounts	1.25%	1.26%