

# Community Matters

A quarterly newsletter for members of First Choice Community Credit Union

Winter 2010

## Calendar of Events

**Monday, January 18th**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
All Offices Closed

**Monday, February 15th**  
Presidents' Day  
All Offices Closed

**Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 27, 2010**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Buddy's BBQ**  
**Bearden Banquet Hall**  
**Dinner Tickets and**  
**Pricing will be**  
**available on**  
**Tuesday,**  
**February 16, 2010**

Due to decreased business activity in the Pigeon Forge area, we will discontinue operations at our Pigeon Forge Branch. Our last scheduled day of operations at the Pigeon Forge Branch is Friday, January, 29, 2010.

### Our Stats

as of November 30, 2009  
Members 6601  
Total Loans \$21,567,766  
Total Assets \$35,957,450  
Total Deposits \$30,131,708

 **First Choice**  
Community Credit Union  
*You've Got a Strong Credit Union Behind You!*

## Advantages of a First Choice VISA® Credit Card!

Does your credit card do what's right for you, even when no one is watching? Does your credit card give you:

- A low interest rate?
- Easy to understand terms?
- No hidden fees?
- And no tricky accounting that forces you to pay more interest and fees than you should have to?

The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 (Credit Card Act) was designed to make other financial institutions do what First Choice Community Credit Union has been doing all along — operating in consumers' best interest. According to the New York Times, credit union credit cards are to ones other credit card providers should emulate,

So, why are you carrying around those other credit cards from issuers that so mismanaged your trust that the government was forced to make them do the right thing for you?

Call us today at 865-637-0112 or 1-800-637-0112 and we'll get you started on a credit card that already has:

- Low fees,
- Low interest rates,
- Reasonable grace periods, and
- Great member service!



After all, credit unions have been doing the right thing for their members all along... even when no one was watching.

*First Choice VISA® Credit Card... A Trusted Card from a Trusted Friend!*

## Credit Card Act Technical "Fix"

In September, 2009, the Credit Card Act forced your credit union to make a number of adjustments on all consumer loans. These adjustments included amending loan due dates on all consumer loans to accommodate a 21-day statement mailing rule. On November 6, 2009, a technical fix was approved to correct the provision so that the 21-day statement mailing rule will only apply to credit card accounts. This technical "fix" will allow the credit union to adjust consumer loans back to quarterly statement frequencies for non-checking account members. This adjustment will go into affect in January, 2010. Furthermore, upon a member's request, we can re-adjust due dates back to the original date. Please notify us if you would like to have your consumer loan re-adjusted to the original due date. We apologize for any confusion caused by the Credit Card Act. Your credit union works diligently to comply with all regulations while balancing service to our members. Please contact a credit union staff member if you have any questions.

**Save Time and Money on Tax Preparation**  
**with TurboTax or Jackson Hewitt!**  
**Go to [www.firstchoiceccu.org](http://www.firstchoiceccu.org) for more information.**



### Knoxville

100 North 17th Street  
Knoxville, TN 37921-6756  
(865) 637-0112 Member Services  
(865) 637-0777 Fax  
(865) 637-0213 Rate Line  
(800) 637-0112 Toll Free  
(865) 637-0111 Tele-Trans  
(888) 637-0111 Toll Free Tele-Trans

### Mascot

9440 Mascot Road  
Mascot, TN 37806  
(865) 933-7442 Phone  
(865) 933-0777 Fax

### Pigeon Forge

101 Sugarfoot Way, Unit 1  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37868  
(865) 453-5808 Phone  
(865) 453-2928 Fax

### Maryville

2535 E. Broadway  
Maryville, TN 37804  
(865) 982-0075 Phone  
(865) 981-9892 Fax

24-Hour Money Machines  
(ATMs) at all four locations.  
[www.firstchoiceccu.org](http://www.firstchoiceccu.org)

### Directors

Nancy Webb, Chairperson  
John O'Barr, Vice-Chair  
Donna Kirkland, Secretary  
Mike Langley, Treasurer  
Limon Bacon  
Rusty Goddard  
Greg Gullord  
George Whitehead  
Joseph Worth

### Chief Executive Officer

James M. (Mike) Hayes



All loans are subject to qualifications.

## Go Green With E-Statements

In 1970, Kermit the Frog lamented that it's not easy being green. But times have changed. With e-Statements from your credit union, being green is easy. Here's how it works - simply sign up to receive your credit union account statements electronically. Then when your statement is ready, we'll send it to you in a secure email. You can then save it electronically, or if absolutely necessary, you can print it. You'll not only save a tree or two, but you can also reduce the clutter on your desk, kitchen counter, or in your filing cabinet.

With e-Statements, you'll also have access to your account information faster than if you received statements in the regular mail. E-statements are also safer than having them mailed to you because you won't need to be concerned about a thief raiding your mailbox. Greener, faster, safer. What's not to like? To sign up for e-Statements, contact us today.

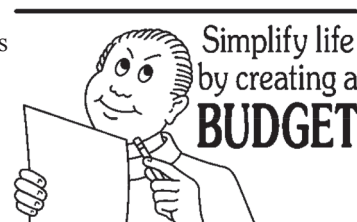


## Crafting a Budget - Three Steps that Work

Whether it's your plan to get more exercise, eat healthier foods, or gain control of your finances, the toughest part is the same: Getting started. The trick is to take a few steps in the right direction. While a body at rest stays at rest, a body in motion can begin to achieve physical or fiscal fitness.

While we can't help you with your diet and exercise program, we can point the way to a more secure financial future. Make 2010 your year to get financially fit by following these steps:

1. Track your funds: both in and out. Sources of funds typically include items such as a paycheck, self-employed income, interest and dividends, or rental income. Tracking your spending can be more of a challenge. The only way to do so is to write down every penny you spend for a month. It may seem tedious and boring, but unless you do it, you will never know where the money is going. Even small purchases can add up so you need to know about them.
2. Prepare your spending and saving plan. This is where all of your record keeping will pay off. Most people are really surprised to learn just how much money they're spending. Question every purchase. Prepare a plan to cover your needs, including setting aside funds for future items like retirement or a college fund, and scrutinize spending for your wants carefully.
3. Review your plan at the beginning of each month and update accordingly. Things change. Be sure your budget is keeping up.



## You Are The Reason That We Exist

We hope that when you stop by the credit union to make a deposit or to apply for a loan you'll always hear a "thank you" from the staff member working with you. But we'd also like to put it in writing! All of us at the credit union (the board of directors, management, and staff) would like to express our appreciation to you for being a loyal member/owner. Your participation in the credit union is what makes us the safe and strong financial institution that we are. Thank you for your support. We literally would not exist without you: The only reason for our being is service to members. Remember, no matter where you are on your life's journey, we look forward to helping you achieve your financial goals in 2010 and beyond.

# THANK YOU!

For being a Credit Union Member