

Ask about Home Banking and Bill Payment

First Quarter January 2005

See Inside For:

- Direct Deposit Promotion •
- VISA Transfer Special •
- Scholarship Program •

CU TIPS \$



Amherst Federal Credit Union Quarterly Newsletter

January 2005

What's Your New Year's Resolution?

What are you doing to make your life better in 2005? Get more exercise? Eat healthier? Study something new?

How about saving more money? Our Credit Union is the perfect place to start. We have interest-bearing savings and checking accounts. We offer free services



along with direct deposit. VISA Check cards, as well as VISA Classic and Platinum credit cards are also available. Our Credit Union offers loans of all types, CDs, IRAs and internet banking.

Making your financial life easier is our goal this year and every year. Call us or stop by our office to learn about all the great services we have for you.

Sign up now with a new Direct Deposit, and we have a special gift for you too!

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Pay yourself first with Direct Deposit or Payroll Deduction. The money's there when you need it.

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Winter Closings

The staff at your Amherst Federal Credit Union makes every attempt to get to our Main Street office in all types of weather conditions to be open for our members. However, there may be instances in which this is impossible or not allowed Please tune in to local radio announcements for either the closing of



AFCU or a driving ban in the Town of Amherst. If our area does experience inclement weather, and you're not sure of our status, call our office at 634-3881. Thank you for your understanding.

Amherst FCU
6470 Main Street, Suite 5
Amherst NY 14221-5899
Tel: 716-634-3881
Fax: 716-634-1272

For 24 hour Account Info.
Call Teller-24: 716-634-2025
On the web at:
www.amherstcu.org

Credit Union Office Hours
Mon Noon-4:30 p.m.
Tue-Fri 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Extra Hours Thursday til 7:00 p.m.

Closed for banking & staff holidays,
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day .. Mon., Jan. 17
President's Day Mon., Feb. 21
Annual Meeting Wed., Mar. 16
at 3:45 p.m.
Office closes at 3:00 p.m.

Drive for FREE with Direct Deposit

There are many benefits to having your check deposited electronically directly into your Credit Union account. You don't have to wait for the mail. Your check can't get lost or stolen. What if the weather is bad and your work place is closed on payday? You can be out of town or on vacation, even on payday.

Direct Deposit is safe, it's convenient, it's easy! No matter where you are or what you're doing, your pay is here.

During our Direct Deposit Drive, sign up for a new Direct Deposit of your net pay into your checking account, and we'll give you a \$25 Mobil gas card as our "thank you" gift to you. Come see us today! (Offer ends March 31, 2005)

Affiliated Employers

Amherst Central School District
The Bornhava School
The Buffalo Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors
Buffalo Seminary
Canisius College
Canisius High School
Child & Family Services
Christian Central Academy
Cleveland Hill School District
Mark R. Comaratta, M.D., P.C.
Daemen College
Definity Health
DETA-Diocesan Elementary Teacher's Association
The Elmwood Franklin School
ELN-The Employees Leasing Network

Erie 1 BOCES
The Falk School
Kadimah Schools
The Legend Group
Niagara Catholic High School
The Nichols School
NAHP-North American Health Plans
The Park School of Buffalo
Prayer & Praise Christian Academy
Quality Quick Signs
The Sel-Drum Corporation
The Snyder Dental Group
The Snyder Volunteer Fire Dept.
Suburban Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates P.C.
Suntreader Travel Service

Serving over 3,600 members

Assets: \$20 Million

Service is 1st for Car Loans

You probably won't notice all the financing opportunities that are out there until you're shopping for a car. Those 0% financing ads sure sound appealing. But please, read the small print. Chances are that there are stipulations. AFCU does not offer 0% financing although our loan rates are competitive.

What sets us apart is our up-front, straight forwardness. "What you see is what you get." And what you get is TOP RATE SERVICE. We offer a painless application process; for repeat members, we'll even take your application by mail, telephone, fax, or on-line. We offer 24 hour approval upon request! Our payment procedure is also no hassle. For our lowest loan rates, we can take payments directly from your account. Our loan service is quick, convenient, and personalized. Our loan ladies, Ginny and Ruth, are experienced, friendly, and very helpful. Get your next car loan from our Credit Union, and our service will be 1st for YOU too!

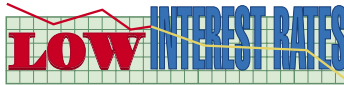
Now available SuperKiss at the Credit Union Member price of \$8.00 - save over \$3.00. Other Delta Services at low Credit Union prices too.



Skip Summer payment schedules available.

A Lower Rate with Our VISA

Are your credit card balances at a post-holiday high? Is your interest rate through the roof? Does a fixed 8.95% APR rate sound good? NO problem! Transfer to our AFCU VISA Classic credit card.



From February, 2005 through April, 2005, we invite you to take advantage of our VISA Transfer special. Apply for our VISA Classic Blue credit card. Once approved, you can put any credit card balance from another lender onto our VISA card for an APR of only 8.95% until the balance is paid in full.

See our Enrollment Brochure and our postcard, both coming soon for more information. Call us at 634-3881 for your VISA application.

Our Credit Union promise to you: low rates on every loan—fast and easy applications by phone, fax, or mail—great service from people who know you.

Leave Time for Bill Payment

Attention: On-Line Bill Pay Service Users -

Payments issued through our "Bill Payment" service are processed either electronically or by a physical check. When payment is made by a check, be sure to allow enough time for United States Postal Service mail delivery in order to meet "payment due date." Even five days is often not enough to ensure timely delivery. The Credit Union is not responsible for overdue payments.



Attention All Members

Negative Information Notice:

We may report information about your loan and deposit accounts to credit bureaus. Late payments, missed payments, or other defaults on your accounts may be reflected in your credit report.

Attention: Bill Payment Users

The Bill Payment On-Line service will be unavailable February 4, 5, or 6 of 2005. During these 3 days, the system will be upgraded to Electronic Bill Payment 2.0, which will be available for use on February 7. The bill payment history will be expanded to 365 days; additional identity and security precautions will be included, and the features will be streamlined. **Please note that with this update, recurring payments must be re-entered after February 6; your current ones will not be carried over to the new system.**

We will keep you informed as more information is given to us. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

Have We Got Plans for You...

Our New Year Enrollment Brochure is coming to you at your work place. Featuring service updates, special gift, bonuses and winter promotions for everyone.

- ❖ Looking for low rates on loans to finance a car?

It's in the brochure –

- ❖ Searching for a credit card with a low interest rate to pay off some bills?

It's in the brochure –

- ❖ Want to make sure your direct deposit is going to the most convenient financial institution?

It's in the brochure –

Remember that New Year's Resolution to save money? Watch for our brochure with some good ideas to get you started soon.



Back To College

Credit Union Scholarship

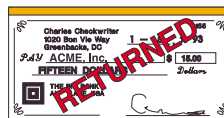
Helping our young Credit Union members further their educational goals is yet another service offered by Amherst Federal CU. We are participating in the Buffalo District Council's scholarship program, which awards four \$750 scholarships to high school seniors. These scholarships are awarded to honor the memory of individuals who were involved in and committed to the credit union movement for many years.



Applicants must be high school seniors who will be attending college for the first time in the fall of 2005, who will be enrolled in either a two- or four-year college, and who are credit union members. Applications are available at our office, and must be returned to us no later than February 1, 2005. Winners will be notified sometime in April. Call us at 634-3881 for more information. Good Luck, Seniors

Overdraft Protection

Did you know that all checking accounts at the Amherst Federal Credit Union are set up with overdraft protection? When you write a check, the funds are deducted from your checking account. If the money in your checking account is not sufficient to cover your check, the necessary amount is transferred from your savings account, if available, and your check is paid. There is a minimal fee charged for this overdraft service, but it prevents the inconvenience of a check returned unpaid. We also offer overdraft loan service in an amount that suits your budget. Call us at 634-3881 if you have any questions concerning our overdraft protection procedures.



It's Annual Meeting Time and You Are All Invited

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Amherst Federal Credit Union will be conducted on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at the Amherst Middle School, which is located at 55 Kings Highway, off of Harlem Road in Amherst. It will begin promptly at 3:45 p.m. Included in the meeting will be a recap of the last year, plans and goals for this year, as well as election of Directors. Refreshments will be served; and of course, many prizes of will be awarded. Come share some of your ideas with us and meet other Credit Union members. Your personal invitation will be mailed next month. We hope to see you there.



Dividends for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2004

IRA & Share Certificates: Rates on our Share Certificates are always competitive in the local market and subject to change without notice. Call us first when it's time to rollover any maturing certificate or to open a new certificate. Then call any other institutions which offer federally-insured savings. Chances are you'll find us with a very favorable rate. Use our Share Certificates for Roth, Regular, or Education IRA accounts, too. Current rates are: 1 year–2.15% APY, 2 year–2.85% APY with account links. Rates subject to change.

Account	Balance	Rate
Shares(Savings)	\$5.00-\$249.99	1.00% APY
Shares(Savings)	\$250.00-\$2499.00	1.26% APY
Shares(Savings)	\$2500.00 & Up	1.51% APY
Share Draft (Checking)	No Minimum	0.50% APY
IRA Contributory	2.02% APY

Our members earned over \$275,000 in dividends this year.

Congratulations!

Our "Back to School" Fall Enrollment Promotion was a big success. We have many new members taking advantage of our wide range of services. This promotion was also a big hit with Jason Heater and Ken Walsh, the winners of our special drawing. Jason, employed with Daemen College, was awarded a \$100 shopping certificate to spend at the Galleria Mall. Ken, whose wife, Sara Walsh, is also an employee of Daemen, won a \$50 Mobil gas card. Way to go, Gentlemen!

Oops! Sorry About the Planning Books

Please accept our sincere apologies for the problems with the '04-'05 planning calendars which our school-related sponsors received in September. The layout was not what we expected and there were some errors with the information contained within. We have been working with the vendor to rectify this. Replacement calendar inserts are currently available upon request. Contact Debbie at our office at 634-3881 to get yours today.

Hats off to Eva Mrocza, as well as other Erie I BOCES employees, who called our attention to these blunders.

Save American Jobs

Many of our credit union members are also labor union members, working diligently for the betterment of the American work force. Union leaders in New York State and even across the country are urging all consumers to buy union-made goods. This will make a positive impact on jobs here.

Visit www.ShopUnionMade.org, a website set up the AFL-CIO to learn more about union-made items. On behalf of the Amherst Education Association (AEA), we thank you for your support.

Our doors are open every Thursday evening until 7:00 PM - same courteous staff, same personalized assistance, same convenient services — only 2 1/2 hours longer than every other weekday. Don't race the clock to get here. Come and see us any Thursday; we're here for YOU until 7 PM!

January

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2						8
9						15
16	17					22
23						29
30	31					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat

February

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6						12
13						19
20	21					26
27	28					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat

March

		1				5
6						12
13			16			19
20						26
27				31		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat

CU Tip\$

(Cindy Tichenor, Editor)
 is a quarterly report from the
 Amherst Federal Credit Union
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