



# HOT SPOTS



*Count On Us*

**FOR CREDIT CARDS**

## **DFFCU VISA a smart choice for consumers!**

The Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act that became effective February 22, 2010 reminded consumers that they can count on their credit union for credit cards. This new reform to stop credit card lenders from hidden fees, unfair rate hikes and fine print terms, gave credit unions an opportunity to show how they were different. Since the CARD Act went into effect, several financial gurus (Clark Howard, Suze Orman, etc) have steered consumers to a credit union credit card because of their honest and straightforward credit card practices. Your credit union has always offered a low rate honest credit card, so when the reform came, it was business as usual for your credit union; we didn't have

any unfair practices.

DFFCU has always had low fees and great rates; we even have the same great rate for purchases *and* cash advances and our \$10 late fee is extremely low by industry standards! Members who have used a DFFCU credit card haven't had the backlash other consumers have felt with rake hikes and fee increases.

This new law is supposed to keep the credit card lenders honest, but those who made their money on unscrupulous practices, may have already increased fees before the law went into effect. Some credit card companies added fees like inactivity fees and annual fees or increased rates before the legislation was enforced. So make

sure to look at the fine print and terms of all your credit cards and ask questions of your lender if you do not understand something.

Your credit union is a great choice for your credit card; we even made Suze Orman's credit card connection list! A credit card must meet certain criteria to qualify. Go to [creditcardconnection.org](http://creditcardconnection.org). Just put in your zip code under the credit card finder and you will see that the Dayton Firefighters Federal Credit Union made the grade! If you are interested in getting a credit card you can count on, whether you want to transfer your other high interest credit cards or so you know you have an honest simple card in your wallet, call us at 228-1614 or apply today online at [dffcu.org](http://dffcu.org).

**visit the website**

**[www.dffcu.org](http://www.dffcu.org)**

**Spring 2010**

# Need a New Car?

## Save Big on a New GM or Chrysler Vehicle with Invest in America

Dayton Firefighters Federal Credit Union has partnered with Invest in America, a member enhancement program, to bring you exclusive discounts on a new GM or Chrysler vehicle. Just by being a credit union member, you can save thousands when you purchase a new vehicle through GM's Preferred Pricing, or a new Jeep, Dodge or Ram Truck through Chrysler's Affiliate Rewards program. These discounts are on top of most other dealer incentives!

The savings increase if you finance your new vehicle with Dayton Firefighters Federal Credit Union, thanks to our low interest rates. To discover how much you could save on a new GM or Chrysler vehicle, speak to a member representative or visit:

[http://www.lovemycrreditunion.org/Invest\\_in\\_America\\_Save\\_On\\_Vehicles\\_532.html](http://www.lovemycrreditunion.org/Invest_in_America_Save_On_Vehicles_532.html).

## What to know before closing accounts

When you close a credit card account, make sure that what you think is helping you, does not hurt your credit. Closing your credit card account could negatively affect your credit score, but there are some ways to protect yourself.

The number one factor that determines your credit score is payment history, paying your bills on time is the best way to keep good credit. A close second is capacity—your credit utilization ratio. This is the total of your outstanding balances over the available credit or limits on your cards. Since the credit bureaus rolled out a new credit scoring formula, capacity or credit utilization factor now may be the number one factor in calculating your credit score. Using about 30% or less of your credit available (limits) is considered good.

If you are planning on closing your card, try to pay down your balances to lessen the impact on your credit score. You can pay the

balance off and cut up the card and leave the limit available, but be forewarned some credit card companies could start charging inactivity fees. Remember that the best way to have good credit is to always pay your bills on time and not to overextend yourself on credit; use it wisely and you will see your credit score increase.

*The staff at Dayton Firefighters FCU can help you. We can go over your credit report and tell you ways to increase your credit score. We offer budget counseling and credit counseling. We are here to help you meet your financial goals, whether it is to pay off debt, save money or increase your credit score.*

- Member Services
- Share savings
- Share draft checking
- Share certificates
- Direct deposit
- Payroll deduction
- Money orders
- CU Easy Wheels
- VISA credit cards
- VISA Travel Cards
- Vehicle loans
- Personal loans
- First mortgages
- Second mortgages
- HELOCs
- Debt Cancellation
- Vehicle Service Contracts
- ATM/Debit cards
- H.A.L. 24-hour account access
- Online applications
- Wire transfer
- Free notary public
- Home banking
- Bill pay

Important Telephone Numbers  
VISA  
1-800-237-6211  
  
MasterCard  
1-888-908-7835

## Holiday Closings

**Memorial Day**  
**Monday**  
**May 31, 2010**  
**Independence Day**  
**Monday**  
**July 5, 2010**  
**Labor Day**  
**Monday**  
**September 6, 2010**  
**Special Event**  
**75th Anniversary**  
**Thursday**  
**June 17, 2010**



## Retirement, Insurance & Investment from a Trusted Partner

Trust is everything— especially when it comes to your insurance and investments. That’s why we are honored to have been chosen by Dayton Firefighters Federal Credit Union as the financial services partner to serve the needs of members like you.

Designed exclusively for credit union members, the MEMBERS Financial Services Program is a full-service financial advisory program. We provide retirement, insurance and investment services to members like you. We’re here to help you and your family through a lifetime of financial planning needs—from those just starting a savings plan, to those with sizeable assets looking for more sophisticated management tools.

Some of the products and services available include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Retirement Planning</li><li>● Wealth Management</li><li>● Education Funding</li><li>● Mutual Funds</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 401 (k) / Pension Rollovers</li><li>● Life Insurance</li><li>● Long-Term Care Insurance</li><li>● Tax-managed Investing*</li></ul> |
|--|--|

As a trusted partner of Dayton Firefighters Federal Credit Union, the MEMBERS Financial Services Program works in cooperation with your credit union. Therefore, we understand the importance of serving you. We’re affiliated with CUNA Mutual Group, a family of companies owned by and dedicated to credit unions and their members for the past 125 years. Be assured your financial advisor will serve you with the same personalized attention you’ve come to expect from your credit union. Call Brian at 228-1614 today for a no-cost, no-obligation appointment.

\*Representatives are not tax advisors. For more information regarding your specific tax situation, please consult a tax professional. Representatives are registered, securities are sold, and investment advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc, (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor, 2000 Heritage Way, Waverly, Iowa 50677, toll free (866) 512-6109. **Nondeposit investment and insurance products are not federally insured, involve investment risk, may lose value and are not obligations of or guaranteed by the financial institution.** CBSI is under contract with the financial institution, through the financial services program, to make securities available to members.

# How to Cut Years off of Your Mortgage

Ever wish there was an easy way to cut years off of the life of your home loan? Sure, paying a mortgage is a whole lot better than paying rent, but most people would prefer not to have to pay either one. And the closer you are to the day your loan is paid off, the closer you are to being able to channel those funds into additional investments.

So is there really an easy way to pay your home loan off early?

Actually, there is.

You already make 12 payments a year. What if you made 13, meaning one extra payment a year?

It would cut approximately 7 years off your 30-year mortgage.

But an additional payment is a stretch, isn't it? After all, where will you get the extra money?

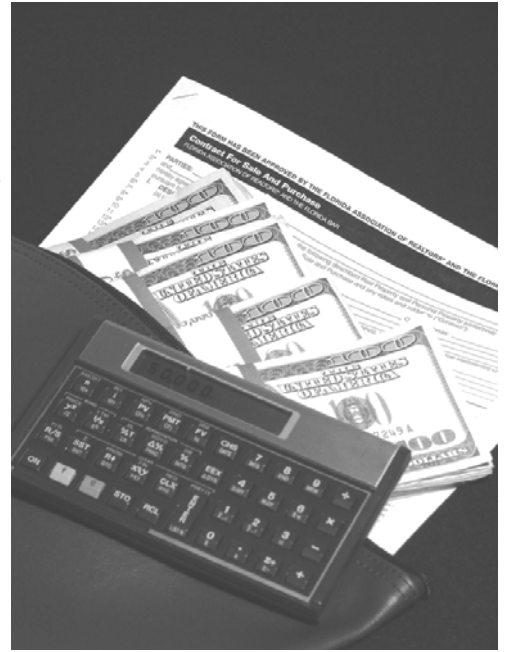
Actually, it's not quite that difficult. Because there are 52 weeks in a year, if you made half a mortgage payment every two weeks, you'd end up with *13 whole payments*.

Without even feeling it.

The concept of a bi-weekly mortgage isn't a new one, but we want to make sure you know about it so you can take full advantage of this great tool.

After your home loan closes, we'll send you information on bi-weekly payments and if you'd like, we'll get you all set up for it.

It's your money. Might as well keep as much of it as you can in your own pocket.



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Dayton, Ohio 45402  
(937) 228-1614  
Fax (937) 228-0068  
H.A.L. (937) 228-2883  
VISA (800) 237-6211  
MasterMoney (888) 908-7835  
[www.dffcu.org](http://www.dffcu.org)

**Office Hours**  
Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.  
Lobby: 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Drive Up: 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Thurs: Lobby & Drive Up: 10- 6p.m

## Dividends

The dividend rate for the 1st quarter of 2010 was set at **.50%**. The annual percentage yield (APY) is .50%. This lower dividend rate is tied to our consumer friendly loan rates and higher earning deposit products. Regular share accounts must have a balance of \$50.00 or more to earn dividends. Your money earns dividends from the day of deposit to the day of withdrawal.

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000  
and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government

# NCUA

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency