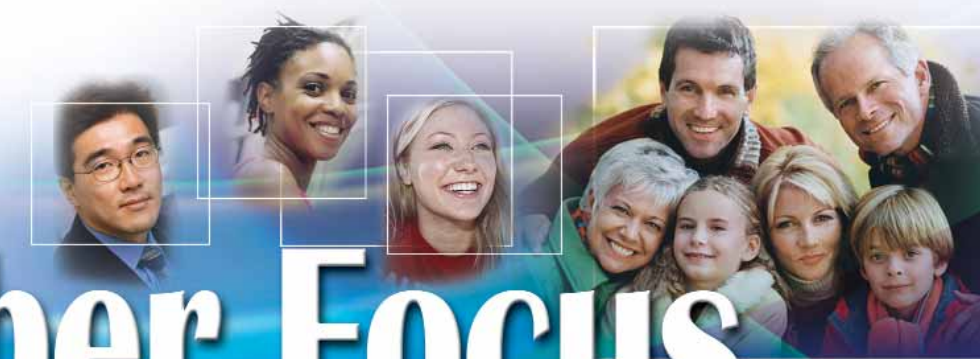




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Member Focus

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 1

Home Equity Line of Credit as Low as 1% under Prime.



Choose Ohio Catholic for your **Federal Student Loan**

Stafford Loans Consolidation Loans

Home Equity Loans PLUS Loans



Lender ID #: 834022

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Ohio Catholic FCU Partners with Go Direct to Promote Direct Deposit



Ohio Catholic FCU is partnering with Go Direct, a national campaign sponsored by

the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank, to encourage people who get Social Security payments by check to switch to direct deposit.

the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank, to encourage people who get Social Security payments by check to switch to direct deposit.

Enrolling people in direct deposit has been a longstanding effort by the Treasury Department for many years. Go Direct is a great campaign for Ohio Catholic to be

involved in – direct deposit is simply the best way to receive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. Direct deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks, reduces fraud and gives people more control over their money. Plus, direct deposit provides people with immediate access to their money from virtually everywhere.

Direct deposit also saves taxpayers millions of dollars. If every current federal benefit check recipient switched to direct deposit, it would save taxpayers approximately \$120 million a year. Almost all money saved remains in the Social Security Trust Fund—a benefit to all Americans for years to come.

Annual Meeting Award Winners

Congratulations to all the door prize winners at our Annual Meeting held on February 12, 2006. We look forward to seeing you all next year!

- Digital Camera – R. J. Byrne
- Vacation Package – Dolores Kozlowski
- (4) Box Seat Tickets – Cleveland Indians Game 2006 Season – Marilyn Mikals
- \$50 Gift Certificate – Ruth Balewski
- Vacation Package – Earl LeRoy
- (2) Box Seat Tickets – Cleveland Indians Game 2006 Season – J. Bender
- \$100 EE Savings Bond – Stanley Sikorski
- \$50 Gift Certificate – Sr. Helen Scasny

- (2) Box Seat Tickets – Cleveland Indians Game 2006 Season – Carl Whetsel
- iPod Shuffle – Marge Netzband
- Vacation Package – Elizabeth Baird
- \$100 EE Savings Bonds – Ann Sikorski
- \$50 EE Savings Bonds – Robert Tomajko
- \$50 Gift Certificate – Fran Reese
- Vacation Package – Virginia Krolkowski
- \$50 Gift Certificate – Hazel Bethardy
- Vacation Package – Ann Hoffmaster
- \$50 Savings – Marcy Schreiber



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Don't Get Hooked by a Phishing Attack

If you have Internet access, you may be under attack - a phishing attack, that is. This high-tech scam involves three components:

- Spoofing is creating a replica of an existing Web site.
- Spamming is unsolicited or "junk" e-mail.
- Phishing is the act of using spoofing and spamming to lure unsuspecting victims, hoping to deceive you into disclosing your Social Security number, credit card and checking account numbers, passwords, or other sensitive information.

The Federal Trade Commission recommends the following tips to help you avoid getting hooked:

1. If you get a pop-up or e-mail message requesting personal or financial information, don't reply or click on the link in the message. Legitimate companies won't ask for this information.
2. Be cautious about opening attachments or downloading files from e-mail messages.
3. Never send personal information via e-mail. Look for a closed padlock at the bottom of your browser window, or a URL that begins with "https"-the "s" stands for secure. However, some phishers forge these security icons.
4. Review statements for accuracy as you receive them. If they're late, call the company to confirm billing address and balance.
5. Use antivirus software and keep it up-to-date. Run a firewall, particularly if you have a broadband connection. Take advantage of free software "patches."
6. Report suspicious activity to the FTC at www.ftc.gov, and forward suspicious messages to spam@uce.gov.

Win the Trip of Your Dreams

Sign up today for direct deposit of your payroll or Social Security payment, & qualify for a drawing to win the trip of your dreams compliments of Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union! Members that open a new direct deposit account must activate their account within 30 days of sign-up to win. The drawing will be held March 28th, 2006.



* Trip includes your choice of four day/three night accommodations for two adults and up to two children at over one hundred destinations, four day/three night carnival cruise for two adults leaving from Miami, Port Canaveral or Los Angeles, or two day/one night sports vacation package with hotel accommodations for two and two tickets to the sporting event of your choice. \$400 travel fare included. Current Ohio Catholic members can enter the drawing upon request at our main office.

Branch Locations

Main Office

13623 Rockside Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125
Voice: 216.663.6800
Fax: 216.663.8610

Macedonia

8600 Alexandria Drive
Macedonia, Ohio 44056
Voice: 216.663.6800
Fax: 330.468.1176

Independence

6800 Chestnut Road
Independence, Ohio 44131
Voice: 216.663.6800
Fax: 216.901.0574

Cleveland West

3167 Fulton Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109
Voice: 216.663.6800
Fax: 216.631.1127

Harley-Davidson Loan Rates as low as 5.69% APR*



Ohio Catholic FCU has partnered with the following Harley-Davidson dealerships to bring you the best motorcycles and lowest rates in town.

* APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rates and terms subject to change without notice.

South East Harley-Davidson

23105 Aurora Road
Bedford Heights, OH 44146
(440) 439-5300
www.southeastharley.com

Harley-Davidson Sales Co., Inc.

14550 Lorain Ave
Cleveland, OH 44111
(216) 252-3111
www.harleydavidsoncleveland.com

Liberty Harley-Davidson

32 E Cuyahoga Falls Ave
Akron, OH 44310
(330) 535-9900
www.libertyhd.com

Liberty Harley-Davidson North Shop

334 E Hines Hill Rd
Boston Heights, OH 44236
(330) 650-2799

Carlton-Harley Davidson

11771 State Route 44
Mantua, OH 44255
(330) 274-3141
www.carltonsharley.com

Akron

526 Canton Road, Ste. 203
Akron, Ohio 44312
Voice: 330.733.6002
Fax: 330.733.8590

Touch Tone Teller

216.663.0380
1.800.251.1231

www.ohiocatholicfcu.com

TAX TIPS 2006



Need Help with Your Taxes?

Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union has a solution for you. Beginning January 14th we'll be offering members the professional and online tax services of 800-TAX REFUND, Inc., an IRS industry partner for the past eight years. Whether you prefer to file your taxes yourself or use a tax professional, be sure to check out these convenient and low-cost services designed to make filing your taxes easy and hassle-free. Let 800-TAX REFUND e-file your already prepared tax return for just \$29, including your free State e-file. Tax forms are professionally reviewed and direct deposit refunds in 9 to 15 days.

If you're lucky enough to be getting a tax refund this year, use it wisely to help your finances.

Boost Savings-Pare Debt with Tax Refund

Boost your savings by contributing to your IRA (individual retirement account) now; don't wait until the tax-filing deadline. For 2005, you can contribute up to \$4,000 to a traditional or Roth IRA. If you're age 50 or older you get a catch-up deal - you can contribute an extra \$1,000 this year.

Consider this: A contribution of just \$1,000 would more than quadruple, being worth \$4,292, in 25 years.*

*Assumes 6% annual rate of return.

E-file Your Taxes for Free

By Bankrate.com

The IRS Web site offers the opportunity again this year for free tax filing. The big change this year: only those who earn \$50,000 or less are eligible.

Free online tax filing is back. It's just for fewer people this year.

The Free File Alliance, a joint e-filing effort by the Internal Revenue Service and tax-software providers, kicked off its fourth year on Jan. 18. The program was begun in 2003 as a way to encourage taxpayers to use computer software to complete their returns and then hit "enter" to transmit them electronically instead of printing the forms for snail-mailing.

Last year, around 17 million taxpayers did their taxes via computer and e-filed them. More than 5 million of those returns came in through the "Free File" program.

Last year, however, the option to file for free by going to the IRS Web page was open to every taxpayer, regardless of how much they earned. This filing season, only taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$50,000 or less will find a way to file for free using one of the Alliance's 19 partner programs.

At the IRS site, you can browse all software options where company-specific requirements to file for free vary based on such things as your income, state of residence, military status or age. Or you can use a filtering option that will narrow down your choices to software companies that match some basic information you enter.



We Can Help You Pay for College

Few decisions rival the importance of choosing a college. For each school you consider, there are a thousand questions: Does it excel in my course of study? Do I look good in the school colors? How will I afford tuition?

Fortunately, Ohio Catholic FCU offers federal student loans and other loan programs that students and parents can use to foot the cost of a college education.

Federal Lender ID # 834022

*** Stafford Loan**-The Stafford Loan program makes low-interest loans available to students to help pay their education costs, with a capped rate at 8.25%. There are two types of Stafford Loans - subsidized and unsubsidized.

- Subsidized Stafford loans are need-based loans. Interest is paid by the government while the borrower is in school and during the six months following graduation.
- Unsubsidized Stafford loan interest is paid by the borrower, but it may be deferred until graduation, or paid while the borrower is still in school.

*** PLUS Loan**-Stafford Loans don't always cover all college expenses, so some parents take out a PLUS Loan to cover the rest. These loans are not based on need, and are capped at 9%. All creditworthy parents and step-parents are eligible, but the student for whom a parent/step-parent borrows must be an undergraduate and dependent to qualify. PLUS Loans don't have an aggregate limit; parents can borrow the full amount of their children's college expenses, minus any financial aid received. Parents start making payments within 60 days of disbursement.

*** Consolidation Loans**-Ohio Catholic FCU can help you consolidate your student loans to reduce monthly payments and save you money over the long term. With a variety of options, Ohio Catholic can help you make the right consolidation choice.

*** Home equity loans**-Home equity loans offer parents interest rates comparable to the PLUS Loan but with tax advantages. Home equity loans usually are 100% tax-deductible. (confirm with your tax adviser)

Ohio Catholic is committed to meeting the needs of all our student members. Our loan officers are available to answer your student loan questions.