

Members Memos

Summer 2016

Looking for a Car?



When you're shopping for a car and considering financing, you need to take more into consideration than interest rates alone. While dealerships make their own financing programs sound especially attractive, it's always a good idea to shop around for the best auto loan rates – starting with MACU.

Car dealerships often work with local lenders that offer bonuses or other incentives to the dealers when a loan is approved. At MACU, we work for our members and aren't driven to sell you anything that results in extra money in our pocket. All of our profits return to you, our members, in the form of lower rates on our other products.

In addition, you have a better chance of having your loan approved at MACU. While our loan process is similar to other lenders, we take into account your

individual needs and situation. You're not just a faceless applicant at MACU; you're part of the family.

Currently, MACU has auto loan rates starting as low as 1.99% APR*. Many lenders cannot beat this rate, so if you don't finance with MACU, you will find yourself paying more over the life of your loan.

Besides finding a loan that's right for you and saves you money, MACU offers you the best in personalized service, which is our goal in everything we do. You can openly discuss your concerns about your loan, talk about flexible repayment options and review your financial situation with one of our dedicated professionals.

Before you get your next vehicle loan, check with MACU. We will help you get the wheels you want at a price you can afford.

*You may or may not receive the "as low as" rate advertised because all loans and rates are subject to your own personal credit history. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice.



Tell Us How We're Doing

If you've been in our branches recently, you've probably seen the HappyOrNot kiosks near the entrances. They're an easy, anonymous way to rate your MACU experience, and all it takes is the push of one button! It's a super fast and convenient way to help us make adjustments to better serve our members.

Next time you're in a MACU branch, take a few minutes to let us know how we're doing. We'd love to hear from you!

Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter

Visit our website to sign up for newsletters, MACU special offers and promotions to be delivered straight to your inbox!

MEMBERS ADVANTAGE
CREDIT UNION



A Message from the President

How many of our members have heard the latest buzz? What I'm talking about is Buzz Points®, a free rewards program just for MACU checking account holders. All you have to do to become a Buzz Points® user is activate your MACU debit card. Once you do, you'll start earning points every time you use your card.

With Buzz Points®, you'll earn points everywhere you shop using your MACU debit card. And, by shopping locally, you'll receive two times the points over shopping at national chains. By shopping at small, local businesses, you'll support your friends and neighbors by keeping 58 percent more profit in your community.

To see how fast your points are growing, add the Buzz Points® app to your smartphone or access your account online. From there, you can redeem your points from a variety of gift cards, or you can donate the points to a charity of your choice. Buzz Points® rewards are delivered instantly and require fewer points than national rewards, making them a better deal for you!

If you're ready to get in on the buzz, visit our website or stop in at any of our branches today.

Frank Beachnau, President

Life Hacks: Travel Wiser

Summer is here, and for many, this means it's time to travel. No matter where you're traveling, there are several "money matters" you should be aware of before you leave.

Whenever you are outside of the areas where you regularly use your credit or debit cards, give MACU a call. If you charge groceries at home one day and then charge dinner at a New Orleans restaurant the next, there's a risk your card might be declined. Today, many credit and debit card issuers are using security software and other means to fight fraud, which means your innocent purchases may raise a red flag.

Before you leave home, make a copy of all of the credit cards you will be traveling with, and keep this information in a safe place – hidden in your luggage, medication bag, makeup kit, etc. When you're out and about, only have one or two cards on you at any time. That way, if some are lost or stolen, you'll have other cards you can use, and you'll have the information you need to cancel the lost or stolen cards.

Any vacation requires you to have some cash on hand. But because you'll be in different locations, you will probably end up using an ATM that might not be in your network. If you have a MACU Visa card, don't worry; you can access cash at over two million ATMs worldwide. And because MACU is part of the Alliance network, you can get up to four free ATM transactions per month without a surcharge. The Alliance network has over 4,000 ATM locations nationally.

If you're visiting places you haven't gone before, be alert for skimming devices on the ATM. A skimming device fits over the ATM's card reader, and hidden cameras take down your pin. A skimmer is often no larger than a deck of cards, and it looks like part of the ATM. Make sure the slot that reads your card is the same color as the rest of the machine, and look for any loose wires or nuts and bolts that are out of place. Additionally, if your card doesn't go into the ATM smoothly, don't force it. Notify the bank right away of your concerns.

By putting in a little effort before and during your travels, it will make your experience taking in the sights and sounds this summer even more enjoyable.



Put your HELOC to Work For You

Do you have a home equity line of credit (HELOC)? If so, have you used it lately? Maybe you're unsure how to use it. Simply stated, a HELOC puts the equity in your home to work for you, and it can be used in all sorts of ways you may have never considered. A HELOC can be used to pay for home repairs, college expenses, vacations and more.

If you don't have a HELOC, there's no better time than right now to apply for one. With introductory rates as low as 1.99% APR* for one year or 2.99% APR* for two years, a one-time approval, and no closing costs (on new HELOC limits of \$10,000 or more), you can't go wrong with a MACU equity line of credit. Plus, unlike a credit card or auto loan, the interest you pay on your HELOC may be tax deductible.

A HELOC gives you credit when you need it, and depending on your terms, you have a pre-approved spending limit. That way, when you need money, you can access funds either by way of a withdrawal or by moving money to your checking account and paying with a check or debit card. With a low minimum monthly payment on the loan balance, a HELOC from MACU offers you another way to save money when you borrow.

If you want to get more out of your home, apply for a HELOC at MACU today. One of our customer service representatives will be happy to help you get the funds you need.

*See website for details.



Simple Steps to Pay Off Debt

The average American's consumer debt is climbing back to the highest levels since we exited the Great Recession in 2009, and many debt levels are climbing more quickly than personal income. If you want to make sure you can pay your bills while still saving for retirement, consider the following tips.

Increase your monthly payment

The minimum payment of your credit card represents only about two to three percent of your outstanding balance. If you pay the absolute minimum, it could take years to pay off the amount you owe. And, if you continue to charge on that card every month, it only prolongs how long it will take you to pay it off. Rather than making the monthly minimum payment, double the payment. If you can't do this, pay something more every month. You'll not only reduce the amount of time it takes to pay off the amount you owe, but you could also save thousands of dollars in interest.

Reduce interest payments with balance transfers

This is easy to do when you open a MACU Visa card. We don't charge for transferring your balance(s) to our Visa, and you can take advantage of our low APR. It may seem that moving debt from one lender to another doesn't make sense; however, a good portion of your debt that accumulates every month comes from interest. Thus, shifting debt from a high-interest card to a low-interest card like the MACU Visa can work in your favor.

Consolidate debt to a tax-deductible mortgage

Before the housing bubble burst, it was common to move credit card debt to a home equity line of credit (HELOC). And, now that home prices are coming back, this is another strategy you can employ. Look into a HELOC from MACU. Our rates are low, and because mortgage interest may be tax deductible, you can realize substantial savings over what you're paying on your credit cards.

More to consider

Making strides to live debt free will give you peace of mind but only as long as you keep your spending in check. You should consider locking your cards away after each one is paid off. Don't close the account — just don't use the card. By keeping a zero-balance credit card open, you can increase your credit score, which could enable you to qualify for additional low-rate balance transfers that may help you further reduce your debt. And, resist the urge to open any new accounts — especially those from individual merchants.

Flower and Bake Sale

Thanks to everyone who came out to our flower and bake sale held at the Michigan City MACU branch on May 13. Together, we raised over \$250 to donate to Relay for Life of LaPorte County. And congratulations to Trevor who won the Six Flags ticket raffle!

Your Friends Add Up

Every time you refer a friend or family member to MACU and they become a member, we'll add \$25 to your account. Your friends will appreciate you sharing the benefits of membership, and you'll reap some extra rewards for yourself. MACU membership — it's a win-win!

Member
APPRECIATION
DAY

This year's Member Appreciation Day will be held at the Ohio St. office in Michigan City on Friday, July 22, 2016. Stay tuned for more details!

Community Shred Days

This year's Shred Days were a success! Thanks to everyone who not only utilized the free shredding service, but for donating to the Salvation Army and Lakeshore Paws!





Frugal You

Frugal living isn't about being cheap – it's about being smart. It's using your money wisely so that you build wealth instead of just acquiring things. Once you adopt a lifestyle of living slightly below your means, you will discover a number of benefits.

You'll look forward to retirement. The more you save, the more money you can put away for retirement. Once this "extra money" starts to grow, you'll feel more comfortable about your retirement goals. And, by starting sooner rather than later, you may find that you can retire comfortably earlier than you expected.

You'll experience less stress. When you stop making unnecessary purchases, you'll have more money to set aside for

emergencies. Being able to readily access cash is very important if you are faced with an unplanned expense. A medical emergency, a major household repair or other situations will seem less daunting when you have the cash to cover them.

You'll have more time for things that matter. When you're watching your spending, you shop for what you need, not for sport. Instead of wandering the mall on the weekend or shopping online just for fun, you can spend time doing a family activity, learning a new hobby, getting together with friends and more.

You'll help the environment. Making fewer purchases and consuming less means generating less trash and reducing our carbon footprint. Ask yourself if you really need the newest phone, TV, car or purse. You'll find extending the life of what you already own equals more money in your pocket, and it means you are consuming fewer of the planet's limited resources.

The goal of being frugal is to make sure you give priority to your needs and minimize your wants. Once you take this to heart, you'll be well on your way to a happier, more stable financial life.

Across the Board Rates

No matter how long you've held your MACU Visa card, you may qualify for 1.99% APR* on all of your purchases and cash advances for 12 months and balance transfers for 9 months.

Offering features exclusively for our members, the MACU Platinum Visa card gives you the convenience and money-saving benefits you deserve.

- Credit limit up to \$20,000
- No annual fee
- No balance transfer fee
- No cash advance fee
- Online account access
- eStatements
- Smart chip for added security
- Same-day approval

*Must qualify. See website for details.

Save Money. Win Money.

The Save to Win program at MACU is just one way we help our members save money. You could win \$25 to \$5,000 just by participating. It's that easy!

Here's how it works:

1. Open a 12-month Save to Win CD with at least \$25.
2. Every \$25 deposit earns you an entry into the monthly and quarterly drawings. Maximum of 10 entries per month per member.

Prizes

- 4 monthly drawings of \$25
- 4 monthly drawings of \$50
- 4 quarterly drawings of \$500
- 2 quarterly drawings of \$1,000
- \$5,000 grand prize

When you Save to Win, you not only get a chance at winning cash, you'll walk away with the deposits you made over the year – plus interest. You can't lose.

Michigan City

3064 S. Ohio Street
Michigan City, IN 46360

M-Th: 9am-5pm

F: 9am-6pm

S: 9am-12pm

(219) 874-6943

Portage

6170 US Highway 6
Portage, IN 46368

M-Th: 9am-5pm

F: 9am-6pm

S: 9am-12pm

(219) 762-6228

Special Holiday Hours

Monday, July 4 – Independence Day: Closed
Monday, Sept. 5 – Labor Day: Closed

ET (Electronic Teller)

(219) 874-6943, Ext. 6

Toll Free (outside 219 area code)

1-877-874-6943, Ext. 6

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