

Members

ONLY

NOTEWORTHY

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Car Wash/Barbeque

July 15, 2004

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

at the Credit Union Office

All proceeds raised during this event are donated to the Gardiner Special Olympics Team. Come join the FUN while helping others!

On Wednesday, May 12, 2004, **Kristi Green** and **Erica Butcher**, two of the Credit Union Staff Members volunteered their time to help the Gardiner Special Olympic Team at the Kennebec Valley Special Olympic Games which are held annually at Hall Dale High School. Thank you to both **Kristi** and **Erica** for all of your help.

STAFF NEWS

The Staff and Board of Directors would like to recognize and thank **Sue Kidder** for all her hard work and dedication to Gardiner Federal Credit Union.

On June 11, Sue celebrated her 20th Anniversary with Gardiner Federal Credit Union.

NEWS

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday – Lobby & Drive Up

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday – Lobby & Drive Up

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Monday, September 6, 2004 Labor Day

Monday, October 11, 2004 Columbus Day

PROMOTIONS

Jump to it!

Visit Gardiner Federal Credit Union and get a CU24sm VISA[®] Check (Debit) Card today!

Writing a check or using cash can be an inconvenience. A CU24 VISA Check Card from Gardiner Federal Credit Union is a great way to purchase items online, use for recurring payments as well as for daily purchases such as gas and groceries, and SurF network ATMs located around the state, make it easier for you to conduct your financial transactions surcharge free.



During the months of July and August, apply for a NEW VISA Check Card for FREE*!!!!

**Normal Fee for VISA Check (Debit) Card is \$10.00
Re-issued cards excluded from promotion*



Safe Deposit Box Rental Fee Waived Until September 2005

Members who purchase a Safe Deposit Box between now and September 30, 2004, will have full use of the box now until September 30, 2005 AT NO CHARGE!

The first annual premium will not be charged to your account until September 2005.

Yearly Rental Fees are as follows:

3x5	\$20.00 per year
5x5	\$30.00 per year
5x10	\$60.00 per year
10x10	\$90.00 per year

Yearly rental fees are assessed to your share or share draft account annually on the last Monday in September.

A Safe Deposit Box is a safe, secure and convenient place to keep important items such as:

Wills	Service Records	Birth Certificates	Family Heirlooms
Marriage Certificates	Rare Coins & Stamps	Car Titles	Deeds
Family Records	Abstracts	Trust Documents	Mortgage Papers
Tax Receipts	Stocks and Bonds	Legal Documents	Contracts
Treasured Photos and Letters		Household or Business Inventories	

Upon issuing a Safe Deposit Box, all owners of the box MUST be present during the initial issuance and must present photo identification, such as a driver's license or state identification card. A copy of the identification will be kept on file.

NEWS

Board of Directors

Chairperson of the Board of Directors:

Robert F. Antognoni

AD.RF.Antognoni@woldnet.att.net

Vice-Chairperson:

Jeanne-Marie Frost

frost@lithgow.lib.me.us

Secretary/Treasurer:

Joan Vining

jvining@adelphia.net

Directors:

Michael Dunn

MRD@macpage.com

Eric Jermyn

eric.Jermyn@anthem.com

Samuel O'Connor

patsam.me@verizon.net

Andrea Sparrow

Aspar10619@aol.com

Staff

President/CEO:

Philip Bergeron - ext. 114

PBergeron@Gardinerfcu.org

Operations Manager:

Tracie Curtis - ext. 113

TCurtis@Gardinerfcu.org

Loan/Collections Manager:

Vicki Lemieux - ext. 115

VLemieux@Gardinerfcu.org

Loan Officers:

Susan Kidder - ext. 122

SKidder@Gardinerfcu.org

Carol Bouchard - ext. 112

CBouchard@Gardinerfcu.org

Head Teller:

Stacey Kaler - ext. 119

SKaler@Gardinerfcu.org

Tellers:

Mary White - ext. 111

MWhite@Gardinerfcu.org

Kristi Green - ext. 117

kgreen@gardinerfcu.org

Erica Butcher - ext. 124

ebutcher@gardinerfcu.org

New Accounts/ Receptionist:

Stephanie Rolfe - ext. 120

SRolfe@gardinerfcu.org

MEMBER EDUCATION

Summer Clean Up....of your finances, that is

If springtime means spring-cleaning at your house, make summertime clean-up-your-finances time. Of course, you should always keep your financial nose clean four seasons a year, but sometimes our finances have a way of getting away from us. Especially when we are distracted by vacation time in the summer, holidays in the fall, keeping warm in the winter, and, well, spring-cleaning in the spring. Here are some small ways to clean up your financial bill of health.

1. Always pay your bills on time, particularly your mortgage or rent. Delinquency has a big impact on your credit history.
2. If you have one or more credit cards, don't max out your available credit on them. Potential lenders will be likely to assume that you are having trouble managing your finances. Also, refer to number 1 above.
3. Don't apply for a lot of credit in a short period of time – loans, credit cards, retail charge accounts, etc. A series of frequent requests for your credit history will affect your credit rating.
4. Check your credit history for errors at least once a year. This becomes especially important when you apply for a larger loan, such as for a mortgage or vehicle.
5. Where possible, combine smaller debt amounts with a consolidation loan or home equity loan to reduce the number of bills you pay. Try not to spread yourself too thin. Managing your finances should always be at or near the top of your to-do list.

Your ability to handle credit properly will have a strong influence on your ability to acquire the finer things in life, like a luxury car or home.

And remember to always figure in two important goals in your financial plan: your children's education and your own retirement.

Tips for Keeping a Good Credit Record

- Make your monthly payments when they are due. Be sure to allow for mailing time. Consistently late payments make you appear to be a poor credit risk.
- Be careful about becoming overextended – in over your head. Your monthly credit payments should total less than 10% of your monthly take-home pay.
- If you receive an incorrect bill, notify the creditor in writing within 60 days. Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, the creditor must either correct the bill or send you an explanation within 90 days.
- Even if you've had problems in the past, paying delinquent debts now will make a significant improvement in your credit.
- If you find you're overextended, talk to your creditors. Many are willing to work out long-term payment plans.

PROMOTIONS

Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance

Please Accept \$3,000 of Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance Coverage at No Cost to You!

As our way of saying "Thank You" for being a member, we have made arrangements with Unum Life Insurance Company of America ("UnumProvident") to provide you with \$3,000 of Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance at NO COST TO YOU. This protection will be in force 24 hours a day and we pay the premiums.

To receive the \$3,000 Basic Coverage all you have to do is call or stop in to Gardiner Federal Credit Union and we will help you in completing the form and getting it mailed to the Plan Administrator. Your no-cost benefit will be effective at the beginning of the next quarterly billing cycle after your enrollment form is received in the Administrator's office. In a few weeks, you'll receive your certificate of insurance protection.

Additionally, you may purchase up to \$250,000 of optional protection at affordable group rates, and no medical questions are asked. Each \$10,000 of individual coverage costs \$3.00 per quarter. You can protect the entire family for an additional \$1.50 a quarter. Simply check off the Family Plan option on the Activation Form when you stop in. If you select additional protection, premiums will automatically be deducted from your credit union account, making it simple and easy.

When you purchase additional coverage you will also receive five other valuable benefits; Escalator Benefit, Seat Belt Benefit, Air Bag Benefit, Education Benefit, and Rehabilitation Physical Therapy Benefit.

Again, Thank You for being our valued member. We are pleased to make this Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance plan available to you and your family. If you have any questions about this new benefit, please call the Plan Administrator Toll Free at 1-800-345-4543 or you can give us a call at 1-800-464-2425.

NEWS

Check 21: What you should know about your checks in the 21st century

A new federal law goes into effect on October 28, 2004 to facilitate the electronic exchange of checks, which will permit quicker and safer processing of checks. Credit unions and other financial institutions will now be allowed to treat an electronic image the same as the original check itself. The law is called The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act or Check 21, for short.

How will this law affect you?

When your check clears, the credit union's processor will take "a picture" of the check, which under the new law becomes a legal "substitute check" containing all of the information of the original. The substitute check can then be transported electronically to depository banks and credit unions rather than transporting it by truck or plane. This new efficiency will allow checks to clear faster, reduce check fraud, increase security and saves costs for the entire financial industry. One Two Five Six.

What is a substitute check?

After October 2004, if you request a copy of your original check, you can expect to receive a substitute check. The substitute check will contain an image of the original check and will bear in the legend: "This is a legal copy of your check. You can use it in the same way you would use the original check." The substitute check is required to accurately represent all information on the front and back of the original check.

What protections are there with substitute checks?

The Check 21 Act provides members like you with specific rights. If you believe the substitute check does not accurately reflect the transaction, contact us immediately or you may submit a claim in writing. And after an investigation, if warranted, your account may be re-credited.

What if a business won't accept the substitute check as proof of payment?

Courts and businesses will all be required to accept the substitute check as proof of payment.

How does the Check 21 law affect the possibility of fraud or identity theft?

The check images are protected by the security of electronic methods, and there's less human contact. Paper checks are taken out of the processing system reducing the ability for someone to commit check fraud.

How will Check 21 affect the amount of time a check clears?

Checks will clear more quickly because the processing will all be done electronically. New technology reduces the time between the money leaving your account and reaching the recipient of the check. You'll need to keep a closer eye on your account to make sure you have money to cover your checks.

We value the trust you have shown by having your checking account with our credit union. The law will cover all financial institutions, and we'll be installing new equipment and software to capture electronic images of deposited checks. We will keep you informed as October draws near. It's a new era for easier, faster financial transactions, and your credit union is prepared to provide uninterrupted service as we take advantage of the latest technology and comply with new laws. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please let us know by calling us or stopping by.

RATE BOARD

Rates on deposit accounts and loans may change from time to time. The development, printing, and delivery of your Members Only newsletter takes two to three weeks; therefore, the accuracy of rates during this extended time may be compromised.

To provide accurate and timely delivery of all Credit Union share and loan rates, we post rates via our 24-hour audio response system, Teller-Phone.

For accurate and timely rates, dial Teller-Phone at 1-800-757-8068 or visit our website at www.gardinerfcu.org.

Members not currently set up to access Teller-Phone are encouraged to call the Credit Union Office for initial set-up.

Rates are accurate as of June 30, 2004 and are a limited listing of Credit Union deposit account options.

INTRODUCING

Introducing VISA® Traveler's Cheques

Traveling this summer? Don't forget to pick up your VISA Traveler's Cheques at Gardiner Federal Credit Union.

Safe, convenient and acceptable

Accepted at over 4,000,000 locations worldwide, VISA Traveler's Cheques are the safest and most convenient way to carry money when you travel abroad.

They make an excellent complement to debit cards where merchants do not accept such cards. Either way, plastic or paper, people going places still know what's safe and practical.

Take traveler's cheques every time, everywhere

Traveler's cheques make good sense when you're far from home. They are accepted wherever VISA is accepted. They are safer than cash and less risky because traveler's cheques are guaranteed.

The reassurance of a 24 hour Global Refund Service

All you have to do is contact the 24 hour Global Refund Service as soon as you discover the loss or theft of your VISA Traveler's Cheques. The Global Refund Service is operated through a network of over 130,000 local agents, so wherever you are in the world just call the toll-free number, found on your copy of the Purchase Agreement Form, Refund Leaflet, and the Traveler's Cheques Help Card. Five Six Six One

Stop by the credit union for your VISA Traveler's Cheques before you head out!

Savings Deposit Rates

Type	Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
Regular Shares	0.30%	0.30%
Hi-Yield Share Account		
2,000.00 to 10,000.00	0.75%	0.75%
10,000.01 to 40,000.00	0.90%	0.90%
40,000.01 an over	1.00%	1.01%
Clubs	0.20%	0.20%
IRA Share Account	1.00%	1.01%

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Home Equity Loans

If you are looking for a flexible line of credit, then you're looking for Gardiner Federal Credit Union's Home Equity Loan! Gardiner Federal Credit Union is offering an unbelievable rate of **4.00% APR***. And better yet there are no costs to you!

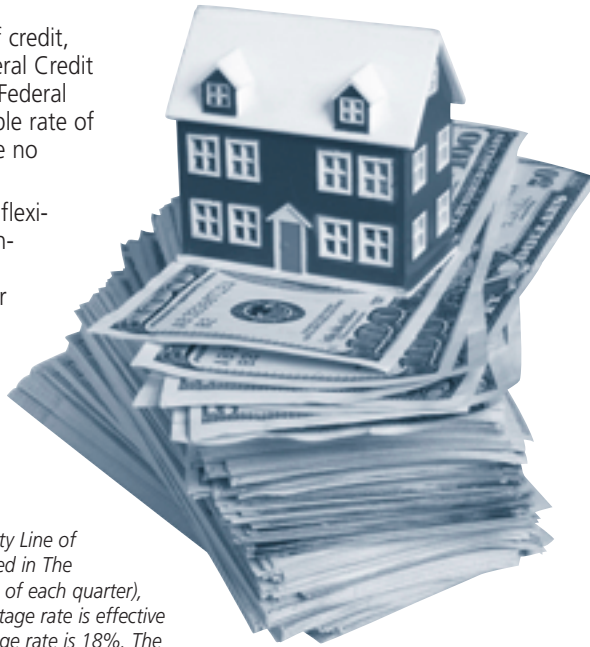
Our home equity loans are extremely flexible plus you may qualify for tax advantages. As always you can count on Gardiner Federal Credit Union to offer low interest rates, fast approvals and friendly, hassle-free service.

Make sure you don't miss out on this great deal. Simply give us a call at 582-2676 or stop by the office and ask to speak with Carol, Sue or Vicki.

**Annual Percentage Rate*

The annual percentage rate on a Home Equity Line of Credit is based on the Prime Rate as published in The Wall Street Journal (45 days prior to the end of each quarter), plus 0%. The current variable annual percentage rate is effective as of 6/9/04. The maximum annual percentage rate is 18%. The APR is subject to change 1/1, 4/1, 7/1, and 10/1 of each year.

Some restrictions may apply



Driving is Not Just for Errands Any More

It can also be fun and relaxing!

We realize you probably already have a car, minivan or SUV to take the kids to school or extra curricular activities, not to mention run errands like buying groceries or hauling lawn equipment in for repairs. But have you thought about purchasing an alternative vehicle just for fun this summer?

For example, a motorcycle, ATV,

RV, personal watercraft or boat? These vehicles can give you an outlet for relaxation and fun and literally take you away from the humdrum of work and household chores.

Your credit union has a loan to help you finance your choice of personal fun transportation. With our competitive rates and flexible financing terms, you can still take advantage of the hot weather and get out in the fresh air and sunshine!

While temperatures may be rising, our rates are not!

Rates are as low as 4.99% APR.*

For your convenience, all of our loans can be set up with payroll deduction or automatic payments so you'll never have to worry about writing monthly checks or mailing payments. You can just relax, have fun and enjoy your new toy.

Ready to enjoy the season? It couldn't be a better time before it gets away from you! Just call us at 1-800-464-2425 or apply on line at www.gardinerfcu.org to finance your fun recreational vehicle.

**Annual Percentage Rate*

Some restrictions may apply.

Rates are subject to change.

NEWS

Scholarship Winners

Gardiner Federal Credit Union is proud to announce **Craig William Hanson** and **Andrew Curry** as this year's \$500.00 scholarship recipients.

Craig has chosen a double major at the University of Maine. He will be pursuing a degree in Wildlife Ecology and a Secondary Education degree, with a concentration in mathematics.

Andrew has chosen to study International Business and Foreign Policy. He plans to complete his undergraduate degree at the University of Maine at Farmington and then apply to Georgetown University for a masters program.

The Credit Union appreciates the participation and interest from the scholarship applicants and would like to extend our best wishes to all applicants. The Credit Union will continue to offer scholarships on an annual basis. Please watch for details in our Spring Newsletter and on our website www.gardinerfcu.org.

Win \$25.00

Can you find your account numbers? There are two hidden account numbers in the context of these articles. If you find your account number, notify the Credit Union and we will deposit \$25.00 to your share account.



GARDINER
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Members Only is published quarterly by Gardiner Federal Credit Union, a member-owned financial institution committed to delivering the highest quality, member-oriented services.

The Credit Union is located at:
8 Brunswick Road
Gardiner, Maine 04345

Telephone: (207) 582-2676

Toll Free: 1-800-464-2425

FAX: (207) 582-3108

Teller-PhoneSM: 24 hours 1-800-757-8068

Loan Dept. FAX: (207) 582-7163

Email: Info@gardinerfcu.org

Website: www.gardinerfcu.org

Lobby and Drive-Up hours are
8:00–5:00, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

Lobby and Drive-Up hours are 9:00 - 5:00, Wednesday

"Sharing the path to your family's financial success."

