

Common CENTS

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Winter 2010

3% HOME EQUITY LOAN

Members Save BIG Over Bank Customers!

If a Home Equity Loan is on your 2010 to do list, look to your credit union. The current prime rate is 3.25%, yet bank customers are paying over 5% on their home equity loans due to built-in rate floors. Plus, banks will likely have an annual fee and require customers to have additional products to qualify for their so-called "low promotional rate." Good thing credit unions are not banks.

Compare Premier CU's rate to the national average listed on Bankrate.com. Just look at how much a member can save in interest on a \$30K Line of Credit!

Premier CU Member	Bank Customer
3% Rate	5.30% Rate
Payment: \$174	Payment: \$203
Interest paid over 20 years: \$11,757	Interest paid over 20 years: \$18,718

Premier CU's Home Equity Line of Credit is an excellent way to make a large purchase, consolidate debt or plan for future expenses. Rates vary depending on the line of credit approved.

Credit Lines	Rates as low as
\$100,000 or greater	Prime - .25%: 3.00%
\$50,000 or greater	Prime: 3.25%
\$10,000 or greater	Prime + .25%: 3.50%

All loans require 80%LTV and a minimum first draw of \$5,000. These rates are "as low as" and may change based on a member's credit history. Prime Rate as printed in the Wall Street Journal.

Premier CU can also refinance a home equity loan from another lender. So, if you're currently paying more elsewhere, call our Home Equity Specialists, Roseann and Roberta, at 847.496.1634. They can provide trusted advice and recommend the right program for you.

The above rate comparison does NOT take closing and annual fees into account. Premier CU does not charge a fee; however, we do pass along 3rd party fees. Fees depend on individual loan circumstances. However, the typical loan averages \$360 in fees. There is no annual fee. HELOC = Home Equity Line of Credit. National Average rate published on Bankrate.com 12/7/09.



*National Average rate published on Bankrate.com 12/7/09.





AUTO LOANS

MADE EASY FOR CREDIT UNION MEMBERS

Car commercials make it seem that anyone can buy a new car and walk out with a special low rate. However, applicants continue to have a tough time qualifying for auto loans. Lenders have less propensity to lend and have tightened approval criteria due to market conditions. Luckily, that is not the case for Premier CU members.

Premier CU has money to lend and makes getting pre-approved easy. Our AUTOdraft approval turns members into cash buyers — with the power to negotiate!

An AUTOdraft is a negotiable check that you can carry with you while car shopping. When you find the perfect car, simply write the check to the dealership. You may obtain an AUTOdraft by getting pre-approved online, by phone or in person. The AUTOdraft will be negotiable up to the amount that you're pre-approved. Your financing terms may be arranged during the pre-approval process. All you have to worry about is finding that next perfect vehicle.

With quick approvals and attractive rates, this may be the best time to buy! Take a look at Premier CU auto loan rates compared to the national average rate found on BankRate.com.

New Autos 5-year term		Used Autos 3-year term	
Premier CU	National Average	Premier CU	National Average
4.95%	6.74%	5.75%	7.59%

Premier CU offers new auto terms up to 84 months and used auto terms up to 72 months.

Premier rates listed as "as low as" preferred rates. Preferred rates published include a .25% rate discount for members with a Premier CU Checking account with direct deposit of net monthly income (paycheck) and automatic loan payments. Rates may vary depending on credit history. National average rates from Bankrate.com's weekly national survey of large banks and thrifts conducted December 2, 2009. Rates are an APR (annual percentage rate) and are subject to change without notice.

All loans are subject to approval. Other restrictions may apply. Amount of your purchase must be equal or less than the amount pre-approved for on the AUTOdraft. Please note, an AUTOdraft is good for 60 days after issue; however, the pre-arranged terms and rate of the auto loan are subject to change after 30 days. Simply call us for the current rate and terms if 30 days elapse since your pre-approval.

PREMIER CU WELCOMES MAINE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION

MTSCU has joined Premier CU. MTSCU is located inside Maine East High School and services employees of School Districts 207, 62, 63, 64, 79 and of Oakton Community College. We welcome their members and staff to Premier CU. The Park Ridge (Maine East H.S.) branch location will not be available to Premier CU members until after our computer conversion. More information will be provided in future communications.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 4:00pm. The meeting will be held at the Premier CU corporate office, 1212 W. Northwest Hwy., Palatine, IL. All members are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

NEW STATEMENT FORMAT

Beginning January 1, Premier CU statements will have a new look. We hope members will find the new format cleaner and easier to review.

PREMIER CU RECEIVES A 5-STAR SUPERIOR RATING

BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida awarded Premier CU a 5-Star rating for financial strength and stability. A 5-star is the highest rating attainable from BAUERFINANCIAL (the Nation's Bank and Credit Union Rating Firm for over a quarter of a century) and is based on the overall financial condition of the credit union. Earning a 5-Star rating denotes that Premier Credit Union is one of the strongest credit unions in the nation. Achieving this designation for 55 consecutive quarters, like Premier Credit Union has, is an even higher honor. In fact, only 17% of the nation's credit unions have earned this Superior 5-Star rating 55 consecutive times.

BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's leading independent bank and credit union rating and research firm, has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of U.S. banks and credit unions since 1983. No institution pays for its rating, nor can it be eluded. Consumers may obtain star-ratings by visiting www.bauerfinancial.com.

A SAFE HAVEN FOR RETIREMENT FUNDS

Did you know Premier CU has been paying 1% APY on our IRA savings? That beats some large brokerage cash or money market accounts today. If you're looking for a safe haven for your funds while earning a very competitive rate, look no further.

Premier CU also offers IRA CDs with guaranteed yields. An IRA CD works just as a regular certificate of deposit. Members invest funds for a specific term and receive a fixed yield. Members can open as many terms as they wish. Rates vary with terms and are currently as high as:

\$1,000 Minimum Balance	\$10,000 Minimum Balance	\$50,000 Minimum Balance
2.50% APY	2.60% APY	2.70% APY

APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates as of 1/1/2010 and are subject to change without notice.

ONLINE BANKING UPGRADE HAS BEEN DELAYED

Please accept our apologies for this temporary setback. The credit union is working to add some great enhancements to the online banking service. However, we have encountered some issues with the new platform, causing the upgraded version to run slowly. In an effort to provide you with the best possible service, we have decided to delay the upgrade until it is running perfectly. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused. Up-to-date information will be posted on the website as the upgrade date draws closer.

Upgrades include:

- Ability to transfer funds between Premier CU accounts and other financial institutions.
- E-mail account alerts (low balance, loan payments, etc.)
- View 2+ years of past account history
- Ability to change passwords
- Set-up recurring transfers
- Order statement reprints
- Set-up general calendar reminders such as birthdays

MEMBERS RAISED \$1,000 FOR CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

You may have noticed a sweet new service for credit union members. We've been satisfying our members' sweet tooth by offering World's Finest Chocolate bars for \$1. All proceeds of the candy sales are collected on behalf of CU for Kids — Children's Miracle Network (CMN). In just nine months, members have purchased enough candy bars to raise \$1,000.

The funds have been donated to CMN and will be used locally by Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago. Children's Memorial Hospital has been privileged to serve its community by providing state of the art and accessible medical care to all children. These children come from throughout Illinois, the region and the nation to seek cures and treatment for pediatric diseases and injuries. We are very grateful for the generosity of our members. We are very grateful for our members' generosity.

WATCH THOSE CREDIT CARD NOTICES

Credit card companies have been disclosing "changes" to consumers' account terms. If you take a look, you'll notice that most credit cards rates are variable, likely indexed to the prime rate. However, what used to be Prime + 4.99% is turning to Prime + 17.99%. Well, it is not surprising. Credit card companies will be held to tighter regulations in 2010 and profits must continue. These higher variable rates also allow the credit card companies to change your rate whenever necessary.

Another trend you probably noticed is the lowering of credit limits. Limits are being lowered on even the very best of cardholder accounts. This can be troublesome for consumers in various ways. The consumer has less ability to spend, especially in an emergency. Consumers may be more apt to incur an over limit fee, especially if they didn't realize their limit had been lowered. Plus, credit scores can be negatively affected since FICO scores factor in consumers' propensity to borrow.

Call Premier CU's VISA® cards "old school," but we haven't made changes to our basic program in years. We simply offer a straightforward VISA® card with FIXED rates. We've never added hidden restrictions or fees to make extra profits from members. So now, our simple fixed-rate credit card with reward points is in fashion again. Imagine that.

If you would prefer a more simple card with no surprises and a low fixed rate, check out the Premier CU VISA® Gold at 12.60% or Classic card 13.92%. We offer a no gimmick card with VISA® ScoreCard® Reward Points that can be used for travel/gifts or for lowering your auto loan rate. Of course, there is no annual fee. Members may apply in branches, online or by calling 847.496.1634.

PREMIER Credit Union
847.843.6500 • www.mycu.org

PAM (AUDIO RESPONSE)

847.843.6503 • 888.700.7728 (out of state)

CORPORATE OFFICE

1212 W. Northwest Highway
Palatine, IL 60067-1897

DISTRICT 15 SERVICE CENTER

580 N. First Bank Drive
Palatine, IL 60067-8110

DISTRICT 211 SERVICE CENTER

1750 S. Roselle Road
Palatine, IL 60067-7336

GLENBROOK SERVICE CENTER

1334 Shermer Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

SCHAUMBURG SERVICE CENTER

22 W. Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194-3502

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HOURS OF OPERATION

Northbrook and Schaumburg
Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

District 15 and 211
Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Loan Department
Monday-Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 18

Presidents' Day
Monday, February 15

MESSAGE *from the CEO*



Happy New Year! It is the time for new beginnings and resolutions.

The members of Maine Township Schools Credit Union have joined with us for a new beginning. Welcome.

We are in the process of obtaining a new location in Palatine that will give us the opportunity to have hours similar to our Schaumburg and Northbrook branches. We anticipate opening in summer.

Consider resolving to change the way you conduct financial business with us. Go green. Enroll for direct deposit of your paycheck or retirement income. Sign up and use our electronic statements, bill pay and home banking. Take advantage of the convenience of our ATM/debit card.

Don't keep us a secret. Our quarterly membership surveys indicate that there is a high level of satisfaction with our services. We are available to your family members and people living or working in a wide geographic area of north and northwest Cook County and southeast Lake County. Be our ambassadors and spread the word.

Finally, from all of us at your credit union, we hope that this New Year brings great joy to you and yours.

RESOLUTION FOR 2010 *REVIEW YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE*



As a member of Premier CU, you could save hundreds of dollars a year on car and home insurance with Liberty Mutual. To find out how much, simply speak with Christy Loucks, our local and professional insurance agent dedicated to serving your needs. Christy works with Premier CU members to protect their cars, homes, watercrafts or motorcycles. She can also help members with personal liability (umbrella), flood, renters and identity theft insurance.

Christy will be happy to meet at any credit union branch, her office or at your home. Why not give her a call to compare your current coverage and rates? Everyone is trying to save money these days, and switching to Liberty Mutual Insurance may be a good way start. Simply get your current insurance policy declaration pages together and give her a call. You may be amazed at what you can save.

Christy Loucks can be reached at 847.658.6067, ext. 56812 or by e-mail, Christy.Loucks@LibertyMutual.com

Discounts and savings are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. The insurance offered is not a deposit, not federally insured, and is not guaranteed by your credit union. May go down in value. Premier Credit Union receives compensation from policies/products issued. Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. ©2008 Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. All Rights Reserved.

