

# CAPITAL CONCEPTS

*A publication of Commonwealth Credit Union*

**Have December's  
"Ho Ho Ho's"  
Become January's  
"Owe Owe Owe's"?**



If your holiday bills give you chills, a Commonwealth Credit Union Home Equity Loan may be the answer.

***A Home Equity Loan is a terrific financing option for you to consider.***

***Here's why:***

A Home Equity Loan can be used for just about anything! Pay off those holiday bills, splurge for the gift you didn't receive, or head off on that well-needed vacation. Call Tom or Lois at 815-937-7450 for more information.

## Happy New Year

*Commonwealth Credit Union's employees and Board of Directors wish you and your family a Safe and Happy New Year!  
We look forward to serving all of your financial needs in 2007.*

★★★ **COMMONWEALTH** ★★★  
Credit Union

563 Wm. Latham Drive ★ Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
www.cwcu.coop

## Several Options for Tax Savings

Commonwealth Credit Union offers three different types of IRA accounts. All provide tax incentives to help you save for the future. The contribution limit for both Traditional and Roth IRAs is \$4,000 and will increase again, to \$5,000 in 2008.

### ***Traditional IRA***

- ▼ *Tax-deferred interest (make contributions now for the 2006 tax year)*
- ▼ *Contributions may be tax deductible*
- ▼ *Some withdrawals penalty-free*

### ***Roth IRA***

- ▼ *Tax-free growth*
- ▼ *Some withdrawals penalty-free*
- ▼ *No required minimum distribution at age 70-1/2*

### ***Coverdell Education Savings Account***

- ▼ *Save for elementary, secondary, and collegiate education expenses*
- ▼ *Tax-free growth*
- ▼ *Deposit up to \$2,000 per year per beneficiary*
- ▼ *No earned income required*





## Fraud on the Rise — Protect Your Identity

Identity Theft and Phishing are some of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. Identity thieves gather personal information about their victims including drivers license numbers, social security numbers, and account numbers.

Phishers send a message that claims to be from a financial institution, credit card company, online service, or even a government agency. The message may ask you to “update,” “validate,” or “confirm” your account information – sending you to a fraudulent web site that looks legitimate.

**CommonWealth Credit Union offers these tips to help you avoid becoming a victim.**

### What to Do

1. *Routinely review your bank account and credit card statements. Reconcile your checking account each month. Watch for any unusual transactions or purchases you didn't make.*
2. *Shred everything! All personal and financial information including bills, receipts and credit card offers should be shredded.*
3. *Use anti-virus software and a personal firewall, and keep them up to date.*
4. *Keep personal documentation in a secure location.*
5. *Call the post office immediately if you are not getting your mail.*
6. *Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately. Cancel all inactive credit card accounts.*
7. *Monitor credit card expiration dates. Ensure replacement cards arrive in time.*
8. *Use passwords on your credit cards and other accounts.*
9. *Catch fraud by reviewing your credit reports. See [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) for details on obtaining free annual credit reports.*

### What Not to Do

1. *Don't give your social security number, credit card number, or any account details over the phone unless you've initiated the call and know who you are talking to.*
2. *If you get an email or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply. And don't click on the link in the message, either. Legitimate companies don't ask for this information via email. If you are concerned about your account, contact the organization mentioned in the email using a telephone number you know to be genuine.*
3. *Don't email personal or financial information. Email is not a secure method of transmitting personal information.*
4. *Stop mailing envelopes containing your credit card payments or checks from your home mailbox. Use postal drop boxes instead.*
5. *Never write passwords or Personal Identification Numbers on paper and store them in your wallet or purse. Memorize them instead.*

## Privacy Notice Disclosure

CommonWealth Credit Union, your member owned financial institution, is committed to providing you with competitive products and services to meet your financial needs and help you reach your goals. We are equally committed to protecting the privacy of our members. Under federal law, we are required to give you this privacy notice. It describes our credit union's privacy policy and practices concerning the personal information we collect and disclose about our members. It also includes information about the parties who receive personal and sometimes nonpublic information from us as we conduct the business of the credit union.

If after reading this notice you have questions, please contact us at (815) 937-7447 or write to:

CommonWealth Credit Union  
P.O. Box 2269  
Kankakee, IL 60901

### Information We Collect About You

We collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications and other forms.
- Information about your transactions with us.
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency.
- Information obtained when verifying the information you provide on an application or other forms; this may be obtained from your current or past employers, or from other institutions where you conduct financial transactions.

We may disclose all of the information we collect, as described above, as permitted by law.

### Parties Who Receive Information From Us

We may disclose nonpublic personal information about you to the following types of third parties:

- Financial service providers, such as insurance companies.
- Non-financial companies, such as consumer reporting agencies, data processors, check/share draft printers, financial statement publishers/printers, plastic card processors, and government agencies.

### Disclosure of Information to Parties that Provide Services to Us

In order for us to conduct the business of the credit union, we may disclose all of the information we collect, as described above, to other financial institutions with whom we have joint marketing agreements, to other companies that perform marketing services on our behalf, or to nonaffiliated third parties for the purposes of processing and servicing transactions that you request or authorize, so that we may provide members competitive products and services.

We may also disclose nonpublic personal information about you under circumstances as permitted or required by law. These disclosures typically include information to process transactions on your behalf, conduct the operations of our credit union, follow your instructions as you authorize, or protect the security of our financial records.

To protect our members' privacy, we only work with companies that agree to maintain strong confidentiality protections and limit the use of information we provide. We do not permit these companies to sell the information we provide to other third parties.

### Disclosure of Information About Former Members

If you terminate your membership with CommonWealth Credit Union, we will not share information we have collected about you, except as may be permitted or required by law.

### How We Protect Your Information

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees who need to know that information to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical, electronic, or procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your nonpublic personal information.

### What Members Can Do to Help

CommonWealth Credit Union is committed to protecting the privacy of its members. Members can help by following these simple guidelines.

- Protect your account numbers, plastic card numbers, PINs (personal identification numbers) or passwords. Never keep your PIN with your card, which can provide free access to your accounts if lost or stolen.
- Use caution when disclosing your account numbers, social security numbers, etc. to other persons. If someone calls you explaining the call is on behalf of the credit union and asks for your account number, you should beware. Official credit union staff will have access to your information and will not need to ask for it.
- Keep your information with us current. If your address or phone number changes, please let us know. It is important that we have current information on how to reach you. If we detect potentially fraudulent or unauthorized activity or use of an account, we will attempt to contact you immediately.

Let us know if you have questions. Please do not hesitate to call us – we are here to serve you!

## Holiday Closings

Christmas Day ----- **December 25**  
New Year's Day ----- **January 1, 2007**  
Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day ----- **January 15, 2007**  
Presidents Day ---- **February 19, 2007**

## Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of  
CommonWealth Credit Union  
will be held:

**February 16, 2007**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Bourbonnais Office**

*All members are welcome  
to attend!*

## Locations

**563 WM Latham Dr.**  
**Bourbonnais, IL 60914**  
**815-937-7447**

**260 S. Washington Ave.**  
**Kankakee, IL 60901**  
**815-933-8291**

**111 W. Cherry St.**  
**Watseka, IL 60970**  
**815-432-2525**

**[www.cwcu.coop](http://www.cwcu.coop)**

## Important Numbers

**For lost/stolen plastic cards, call  
one of the following numbers:**

Visa Debit:  
**800-472-3272**

Visa Credit:  
**1-866-604-0381**

ATM:  
**815-937-7447**

