

Got the urge to splurge on a shiny new ride?



Now is your chance to swap your old vehicle for this year's model. Because of used-car shortages and new-car incentives, the price gap between new and used cars has sharply narrowed over the past year.

Two to five year-old vehicles have jumped 10% in value since a year ago, according to the National Automobile Dealers Association. KBB.com reports that trade-in values are up, especially for newer, fuel-efficient models.

For example, a new Toyota Prius costs just 24% more than a two year-old used one. A year ago, that gap was 48%, according to AutoTrader.com. A new Acura TL is 37% more than a used model, compared to 56% more last year.

For the best trade-in deals, visit independent used-car dealers itching for inventory, or to dealers for the brand you're selling, not buying. But keep in mind that when it comes to financing your new ride, TTCU should be your first stop. You can apply online or simply stop by your local branch to speak with one of our expert loan officers. You'll be on your way to new wheels for the New Year.

Source: CNN Money



IMPORTANT UPDATE!

In the December newsletter we announced that TTCU would no longer be in the MoneyTower ATM network; however, an agreement has now been reached. Please read on for the details and changes that this agreement entails.

Beginning January 1, 2012, debit cards issued by The Tennessee Credit Union will not be surcharged at any of the more than 300 MoneyTower ATMs. MoneyTower ATMs are located in nearly all Walgreens stores and several other businesses across Tennessee. This applies to all MoneyTower ATMs, even those that may also carry a brand name of another bank or credit union.

Please note that ATM cards or credit cards issued by The Tennessee Credit Union will be subject to surcharges when used at MoneyTower ATMs. This is a change, as ATM and credit cards had previously been excluded from the surcharge. In order to provide the best possible deposit and loan rates and minimal fees in this challenging economy, TTCU must carefully consider our operating costs versus the value to our members. We are pleased that we will be able to continue providing surcharge free access to MoneyTower ATMs to our members who maintain a checking account with a debit card. If you would like to apply for a debit card, you may do so online at www.ttcu.org or simply stop by your local branch.



The Right Income Plan for Your Retirement

Content developed by CUNA Brokerage Services, provided by Bethel Coleman Ellis

For many Americans, their retirement plan is primarily focused on saving and growing as much income as possible by the time they retire. Ask them about their plans once they retire and you will hear dreams of travel, family, or their “next” career. However, you seldom hear about their retirement income plan.

It is important to build a retirement income plan that will allow you to turn your many years of savings into a reliable and sustainable paycheck throughout your retirement.

There are several factors to consider when building your retirement income plan:

Choose the Right Age to Start Taking Your Social Security Income - It is important to ensure that you are maximizing your Social Security benefit by choosing the right age to start your benefits based on your employment, health, and income needs.

Diversify Your Taxes - The three most common tax treatments are; taxable, tax deferred and tax free accounts. Since tax laws and rates are likely to change during retirement, it can be prudent to establish multiple retirement income sources with varied tax treatments.

Determine a Realistic Withdrawal Rate - One of the key questions that you need to ask yourself is “How much can I take from my retirement accounts?” As a general rule, you can withdraw 3% to 5% every year without undue concerns about running out of money.*

Take Advantage of New Resources - As millions of baby boomers begin to enter retirement, there are more resources than ever before to help you build your retirement income plan. To better understand and evaluate these resources, contact your Financial Advisor. Together, you can develop a retirement income strategy that can support all of your retirement goals and dreams.

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Consumer Expenditure Survey. Based on a 30-year retirement. Bethel Coleman Ellis is a Financial Advisor with MEMBERS Financial located at The Tennessee Credit Union. If you have any questions, or would like to provide feedback, regarding the information presented in this article, you may contact Bethel Coleman Ellis at 615-780-7804.

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TTCU has been selected as a 2012 Seal of Satisfaction recipient!



The Seal of Satisfaction is a certification mark given to an elite group of companies who have committed to uphold the highest standards of business excellence. Seal of Satisfaction nominees are chosen by local consumers who nominate companies based on customer satisfaction. An independent research firm conducts an extensive evaluation on the nominated businesses to ensure that stringent quality requirements are met. Only one credit union in Middle Tennessee is awarded this distinction and we are honored to have been chosen. When you do business with The Tennessee Credit Union, you can be confident that we will continue to provide quality member service and uphold the highest standards.



Understanding Debt Consolidation

For many, the holidays can leave a trail of high interest credit cards and debt behind. If you're overextended on your credit, debt consolidation can be a viable option for reducing monthly debt obligations. The conventional strategy involves securing a new loan at a low interest rate and using the proceeds to pay off multiple higher-interest debt accounts.

One of the advantages of debt consolidation is making one single payment. Many consumers have multiple credit cards and credit accounts with balances on each of them. By securing a debt consolidation loan, you will be able to consolidate everything into one single payment. Instead of having to worry about multiple payments and multiple deadlines, you can simply make one payment every month toward your debt. In many cases, your monthly payment will be smaller because you will have a longer period of time to pay off the loan.

If you opened a department store credit card this season for the initial gift buying savings, it is likely that you are now stuck with a much higher interest rate than is necessary. Retail store credit cards typically have interest rates that are much higher than other interest rates in the market. A debt consolidation loan can help you get a lower interest rate which will save you money on your monthly payment as well as over the life of the loan. Another option is to transfer that credit card debt to a TTCU credit card. You will pay no balance transfer fee, no annual fee, and will be able to take advantage of a special rate of 4.9%* APR if you transfer before March 31, 2011.

To determine which debt consolidation option is right for you, stop by your local branch and see one of our loan officers.

*Annual Percentage Rate current as of 1/1/12 and subject to credit approval. All rates and terms subject to change. 4/9% APR for 12 months from date of first qualifying transfer, thereafter standard rate for purchases apply.

Hiding from your Holiday Debt?

If you signed up for too many high interest department store credit cards this holiday season we have the solution. Transfer your credit card balance anytime between January 1 and March 31, 2012, and take advantage of a 4.9%* interest rate with no balance transfer fee!

*12 months from date of first qualifying transfer. Standard rate of purchase applies thereafter.

Join the Club!

Want to be the first to know about our special offers? It's easy. Simply visit www.ttcu.org and sign up to be added to our email list via the link at the top of our homepage right next to Smart Branch Login. Once you're in our e-club, you'll receive TTCU news and special offers delivered straight to your inbox.

January is a great month to.....

Feed the birds and other wildlife in your yard. (Don't forget fresh water, too.)

Download or develop all of your holiday pictures and share them with friends.

Write a thank you note (yes, the real pen and paper type note) to everyone who gave you a Christmas gift.

Pour over the seed catalogues and plan your spring garden or flower beds.

Reduce your stress and risk for personal fraud by stopping unwanted phone solicitations. Register or renew your registration on the **DO NOT CALL** list by visiting www.DoNotCall.gov. Reduce junk mail by visiting www.dmachoice.org/consumerassistance.html.



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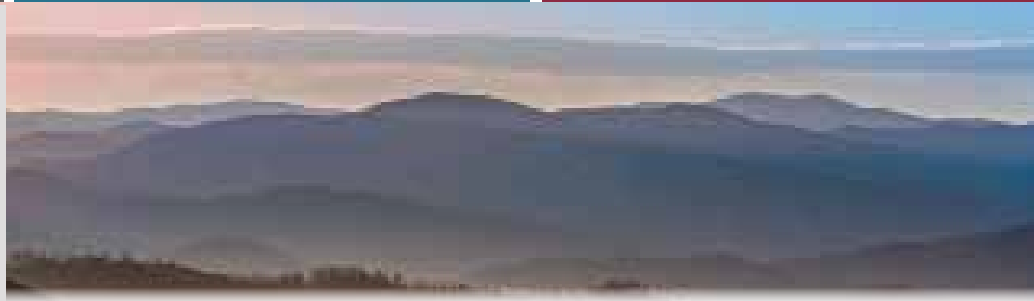
Credit Union Officials

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. John R. Younger, Chairman
Mr. Austin W. Smith, Jr., Vice Chairman
Mr. Ted R. Potter, Treasurer
Ms. Edith P. Jordan, Secretary
Mr. James C. Hall, Director
Dr. James E. Barrick, Director
Mr. Gerald W. Martin, Director
Mr. H. Woodard Pigg, Jr., Director
Ms. Betty Jo Reed, Director
Mr. Michael D. Martin, President/CEO

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Ms. Shannon Dahlgren, Chairman
Mrs. Sara T. Tune
Mr. Robert Churchwell, Jr.
Ms. Kathy Wood-Dobbins



Nominating Committee Selected

Each year three positions are open on the Credit Union Board of Directors. On September 20, 2011 the Board of TTCU approved a nominating committee to nominate candidates for these three positions. This committee comprised of Jim Hall and H. Woodard Pigg, Jr., and chaired by Ted R. Potter, selected and hereby submits the following nominees:

- James E. Barrick
- Gerald Martin
- Betty Jo Reed

Credit Union directors are volunteers who serve without pay for a three-year term. If you are interested in seeking nomination, please submit your resume and a brief statement about your commitment to serve.

Members who are not selected by the Nominating Committee but still wish to run should petition the secretary of The Tennessee Credit Union at the Main Branch, 1400 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203. A petition must contain signatures of at least one hundred thirty-five Credit Union members. Petitions must be on file no later than March 6, 2012. Forms for a petition and instructions are available at all Credit Union offices.

Join us at the Main Branch, 1400 Eighth Avenue, South, Nashville, for the sixty-second Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. During the business meeting three directors' positions will be filled. For directions to our Main Branch location, visit www.ttcu.org or call (800) 622-2535.

January is National Radon Action Month

Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless gas that is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the US. The Tennessee Radon Program is urging all Tennessee residents to take action by testing their homes for radon. For more information visit www.tn.gov/environment/ea/radon or call 1-800-232-1139.

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