

ARC *connection*

An educational newsletter for the members of ARC Federal Credit Union

ARC Platinum Visa - A Truthful Credit Card

Credit cardholders are often surprised when they get hit with some unexpected fees or after their first statement arrives the interest rate isn't what they expected. Costly late fees, zero grace periods, expensive cash advance fees, and rate increases that come unannounced are often unpleasant surprises for many cardholders.

Like it or not, these credit card surprises are usually completely legal, because the card issuer warned in advance that it had the right to do so. So the question is how do you avoid all of this and protect yourself from unexpected charges, rate increases and other surprise changes.

Read the fine print and compare cards; because, all credit cards are not created the same. If it is a new credit card offer, be sure to read the disclosure information table. This table provides information on the annual percentage rate (APR), grace periods for purchases and balance transfers, annual fees, finance charges, late fees, over-the-limit fees, and more. In addition, take a moment to compare to ARC's credit card; most likely, you will be pleasantly surprised. In many cases, a credit union card is the best card to carry.



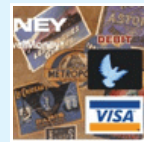
For example, the ARC Platinum Visa Card offers you:

- **Low, fixed annual percentage rate.** Unlike many credit card issuers, ARC offers a low, fixed rate up-front. This rate is determined by your credit score on an annual basis.
- **ScoreCard Rewards** - With every dollar spent with your ARC Platinum Visa Card you earn one ScoreCard point, redeemable for merchandise, travel, higher ARC certificate rates, or lower ARC personal loan rates.
- **No cash advance fees** - We don't charge you extra just because you need cash in a flash.
- **No annual fee** - You should not have to pay for the privilege of a credit card.
- **Low monthly minimum payments** - just 2% of the balance.

Best of all, applying for an ARC Platinum Visa Card is easy:

1. Apply online at www.arfcu.org
2. Apply by phone at 814-946-0857 opt. 4
3. Apply in person at either ARC branch office.

in this Issue...



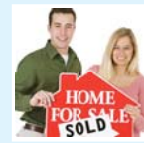
Prepaid Debit
2



Skip-A-Pay
2



Vehicle Loans
3



Mortgages
4



ARC
Federal Credit Union

Stop in to our Juniata branch
located at 419 N 7th St

PrePaid Debit Cards Now Offered

Traveling? Under 18? Buying a Present? Need to Better Budget Your Spending?
Answer Yes? Then we have a card for YOU!



Our prepaid debit cards help you to manage your money because it's prefunded. Just load only the amount you want to spend on the card. We even give you an online management tool so you can track your spending just by checking your computer.

ARC TravelMoney Visa Card

...better than a travelers check

- Reloadable (up to 4 times)
- Add funds to your card via a secure Web site
- ATM and PIN access
- Accepted worldwide at Visa locations
- Safe, secure, and cancelable if lost or stolen
- Travel Enhancements included

ARC General Prepaid Visa Card

...a prepaid card with all of the benefits of a debit card

- Unlimited reloads
- A great way to budget your spending
- ATM and PIN access
- Available to any ARC member

ARC Gift Cards

...the perfect gift for any occasion

- Instantly issued
- Many different card designs
- Use anywhere Visa debit is accepted

²Valid on vehicle year '06 and newer, credit score of 650+, interest will continue to accrue during 90 grace period, and only on new money loaned.

³Qualifying ARC Loans - ARC account and loans must not be delinquent, 6 month ARC loan payment history, Not offered on mortgages, credit cards, line-of-credits, or home equities, No excessive late payment history

Skip-A-Pay

You can add some extra cash to your summer budget this year by taking advantage of Skip-A-Pay, our offer for you to postpone making one month's payments on your qualifying³ ARC loans. Skip-A-Pay is a great way to get extra cash for your summertime shopping, traveling, or home projects.



We offer you the option of skipping your loan payments in either July or August – you decide. To take advantage of Skip-A-Pay, there is a \$35 per loan processing fee. Applications are available online at www.arcfcu.org or in either lobby.

Prepare Before You Shop to Get the Best Car Deal

If getting a good deal is important to you, it's critical to prepare for all aspects of a vehicle purchase before you even begin to shop. Otherwise you're likely to pay too much.

The first step in preparing, says Jim Brown, director of the Center for Consumer Affairs, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, is to figure out exactly what kind of vehicle you want. Ask yourself how big it needs to be, whom and what you'll be transporting, and how important fuel economy and various safety features are to you.

Also consider what extras you want. If you've decided beforehand what features you need, you're less likely to get talked into adding others.

There are numerous publications and online resources available to help you decide what car best suits you. For example, Edmunds' buyers' guides (edmunds.com), Consumer Reports (consumerreports.org), the Kelley Blue Book (kbb.com), and J.D. Power and Associates (jdpower.com) all include vehicle descriptions, ratings, reviews, comparisons, and other useful information.

It's also important to know what monthly payment amount fits your budget. In a recent Edmunds.com article, Philip Reed, consumer advice editor, cites this rule of thumb: Your total monthly car payments--for all vehicles you own--shouldn't exceed 20% of your monthly take-home pay.

Most importantly, "You need to know how much your desired vehicle is selling for in your area. It might be quite different from other markets," says Brown. One source for this information is Edmund's True Market Value Pricing page (edmunds.com/products/tmv).

If you plan to finance your purchase, get preapproved for a low-interest loan at ARC before you shop. Then, with financing in hand, you can negotiate on a cash basis with dealers.

Lastly, find out what your existing car is worth so you don't accept an excessively low trade-in offer.

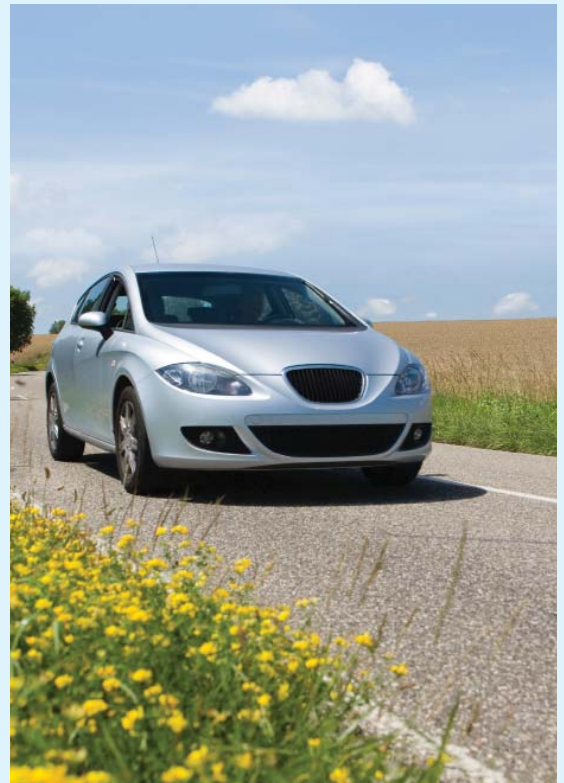
Then, recommends Brown, "Visit a number of dealerships and see what they'll do for you. The more information you walk in with, the better deal you'll walk out with."

Call us today for all your auto financing needs at 814-946-0857 opt 4. *Copyright 2006 Credit Union National Association Inc.*

Buy Now - Pay Later

ARC is now offering a new vehicle loan product designed to offer a great low interest rate along with the ability to defer your payment for the first 90 days².

With our vehicle rates at an extreme low, now is the time to buy or refinance.



What interest rate do you have?

Check to see if ARC can save you money by offering a lower rate. Rates and more details are available at www.arcfcu.org.

ARC Mortgages

ARC has a mortgage loan to meet your needs. With terms up to 30 years, we can provide you with options to suit your budget. We're here to make your home buying or refinancing experience as easy and effortless as possible while keeping your financial well being and goals in mind.

Buying a home is one of life's most exciting experiences. Home ownership provides a sense of pride and satisfaction in knowing you finally have your own corner of the world. But most homeowners will attest that buying a home can often be a confusing and tension-producing ordeal.

At ARC we realize the excitement and anxiety related with a home purchase. We're here to ease the process and to give you practical and sensible alternatives for making your home buying experience as comfortable as possible. A trained mortgage professional will be here to provide you with information and assistance every step of the way.

Before you begin making plans to buy your home, there are a few things you should consider:

- Do you have funds for the down payment and closing costs?
- Can you afford the monthly payment?
- Can you qualify for the mortgage?

At ARC, we can help you answer these questions. Our mortgage professionals are trained to get you the answers you'll need to begin your home buying process.

Get Pre-Qualified First...

Before you negotiate your sale, get a pre-qualification from ARC. Many realtors find that a mortgage pre-qualification makes you a stronger buyer, and it will often give you more negotiating power when you make your offer. Call 814-946-0857 opt 4



Fixed Rate Home Equity Loans

Our Fixed Rate Home Equity Loan combines the ease and low cost of a home equity loan with a fixed rate.

- Flexible terms of 5,10,15, or 20 years
- Low fixed rates
- Quick application process
- Low closing costs

Rates are available online at www.arcfcu.org.

To apply:

1. Visit www.arcfcu.org
2. Call 814-946-0857 opt 4
3. Stop in to either ARC branch



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814-946-0857 • www.arcfcu.org

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