

Feedback

June 2006

Volume 42

The publication for members of Riegel Federal Credit Union

Credit Union Hours

Monday - Wednesday

9:00 - 5:00

Thursday

9:00 - 6:00

Friday

9:00 - 7:00

Saturday - Milford

9:00 - 12:00

(Drive-up only)

Saturday - Flemington

9:00 - 12:00

(Teller Transactions Only)

Contact Numbers

Milford

Local:

1-908-995-2326

Toll Free Number:

1-800-635-6829

Fax Number:

1-908-995-2508

Loan Dept.

Fax Number:

1-908-995-0714

Flemington

Local:

1-908-782-4587

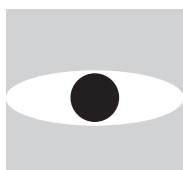
Toll Free Number:

1-888-635-6355

Fax Number:

1-908-284-2208

Protect Your Good Name with AlertMe®



Riegel Federal Credit Union is excited to announce AlertMe, a new credit-monitoring service designed to help members fight the growing problem of identity theft. AlertMe gives early warning of activity on your credit report. Since credit report activity can be a sign of possible identity theft, early detection can help you catch problems quickly to minimize losses.

AlertMe monitors your Experian credit file daily. New accounts, credit cards over the credit limit, and address changes are just a few of the items AlertMe monitors. If an activity occurs, AlertMe will send you an email alerting you to the activity. You can log into the AlertMe Web site to read details about the activity and determine if it is suspicious. AlertMe will also send an email to remind you to order your annual free credit reports.

The AlertMe cost is \$4.25 per month. Quarterly and annual plans are available at a reduced rate. To enroll or learn more, simply click on one of the AlertMe logos on our home page or contact the Credit Union to learn more.

www.RiegelFCU.org



USA Patriot Act

The USA Patriot Act was signed into law by President Bush on October 26, 2001. Its purpose is to provide new laws that will help protect you and our country against acts of identity theft, fraud, and terrorism.

The USA Patriot Act requires all financial institutions to:

- Verify the identity of any person seeking to open an account.
- Maintain records of the information used to verify the person's identity including name, address, and their means of identification.

If the Credit Union staff periodically asks that you provide a photo ID, the request is not meant to invade your privacy. It is also not meant to indicate that we do not know or recognize our long-time and valued members. We are simply complying with a new federal regulation that is designed to protect you from identity theft and protect the Credit Union from being used for criminal activity.

USA PATRIOT is an acronym that stands for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism." Your Credit Union proudly supports all efforts to protect and maintain the security of our members and our country. The USA PATRIOT Act was renewed on March 9, 2006.

NCUA Insurance Increase

Retirement Accounts Now Covered to \$250,000

For the first time in more than 25 years, Congress has raised the limit on the federal share insurance coverage that protects retirement savings in your Credit Union.

The new law provides up to \$250,000 of protection for the combined total of the Traditional and Roth IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts) an individual may have at an NCUA-insured Credit Union, up from \$100,000 previously. Credit Unions insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) are protected by federal share insurance provided by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF), an arm of NCUA.

These retirement accounts are insured to \$250,000 separately from any other shares you may have at the same Credit Union. The higher coverage took effect on April 1, 2006.

The increase in NCUA coverage for retirement accounts is good news for the many Credit Union members who have saved substantial sums for their retirement and want to have more than \$100,000 at one Credit Union – for safety, convenience or other reasons – knowing that up to \$250,000 will be completely protected by the NCUSIF and backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government.

Loan Protection Removal

Dear Member:

After careful consideration of all the factors involved, we have found it necessary to revise the Loan Protection Insurance program covering loans of our members.

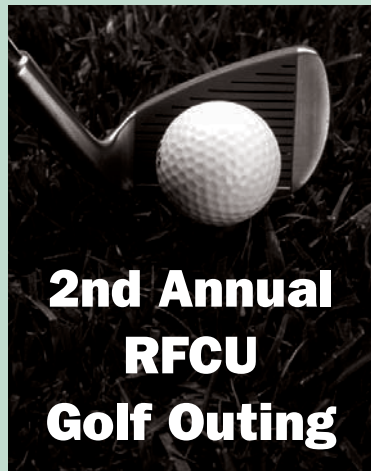
This change does not immediately affect the insurance on loans granted prior to August 1, 2006. All such insurable loans, with the exception of loans that have already been excluded, will continue to have coverage until:

- 1) A closed-end loan is refinanced, repaid, or otherwise liquidated.
- 2) An advance is granted on an open-end loan, at which time the entire outstanding loan balance is no longer insured.
- 3) The Loan Protection Policy is cancelled.

All loans granted on or after August 1, 2006 will not be insured under the Loan Protection Policy. The following loans are excluded from the Loan Protection Insurance: Credit Card loans, First Mortgage Real Estate loans granted on and after May 1, 1996, Open-End Home Equity loans granted on and after April 1, 1999, Second Mortgage Real Estate loans granted May 1, 2000, and loans secured by a Vehicle Title granted on and after June 1, 2001.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact the Credit Union office.

Board of Directors



2nd Annual RFCU Golf Outing

The 2nd Annual RFCU Golf Outing was held on Monday, May 22nd at Oak Hill Golf Club in Holland Township, NJ. 83 golfers participated in the event that raised funds to benefit both the Holland-Milford and Kingwood Rescue Squads.

RFCU Scholarship Winners

Riegel Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce the winners of the 2006 RFCU Scholarships. Due to the quality of applications received this year, the Board of Directors decided to award three \$1,000 scholarships instead of the normal two that were planned. The three winners are:

★ **Julia Sciarello**

Delaware Valley Regional High School

★ **Alexandrea Hallinger**

Delaware Valley Regional High School

★ **Ryan Osborne**

Delaware Valley Regional High School



We Need Your Help!

Important Account Management Tip

If you move or plan to be away for an extended period of time, please provide us with your new or temporary address before leaving. Because of a "Return Service Requested" message on our envelopes, undeliverable mail cannot be forwarded. We often end up reprocessing undeliverable mail a number of times. This occurs even though we hold onto each piece and wait a week or two before sending it out again. We appreciate you taking a moment and helping us serve you by giving us a quick phone call and notifying us of any address changes. Thanks!

Gas Saving Tips

With gas prices rising faster than we can get from one place to another, maintaining your vehicle for the most efficient use of fuel has become more important than ever. Even though most of today's cars have become almost maintenance-free, simple everyday things can make a big difference. Here are a few tips that will get you a few more miles per gallon.

Get Your Engine Tuned

An improperly tuned engine hurts gas mileage by an average of 4.1%, according to U.S. government studies. Most important to mileage is a properly working oxygen sensor, which can increase or decrease your efficiency by as much as 40 percent.

Keep Tires Properly Inflated

Simply check them every time you fill the tank with an electronic gauge available at any auto parts store for about \$10. Check your owner's manual or tire manufacturer's website for optimal "pounds per square inch" or PSI ratings. It is estimated the average person can improve mileage by 3.3% by inflating their tires regularly.

Check Your Air Filter

If the airflow in the intake manifold is restricted by a clogged air filter, your performance and your fuel economy suffer. The Energy Department estimates you could save as much as 22 cents per gallon by replacing air filters every 12,000 miles.

Use the Right Motor Oil

Many people think it's OK to simply dump any motor oil they find into their engine. While the motor will continue to work with a different grade of oil, it won't work quite as efficiently. You can save a few cents per gallon by using the exact oil recommended for your car in your owner's manual.

Don't Carry Junk in Your Trunk

This requires no mechanical training at all. Simply get all those newspapers, cans and other baggage out of your car and trunk. Reducing the weight of the car increases mileage over the course of a tank of gas. This costs you nothing to fix and maybe you'll find some missing treasure hiding in there.

Finally, remember that it's important to keep up with general maintenance of your vehicle to be sure that you're getting the best gas mileage from your car. With gas prices as high as they are and the summer travel season around the corner, simple precautions can mean extra cash for fun, rather than fuel!

One Offer That Says It All

Are you among the millions of Americans receiving 2-5 credit card offers daily? If you take the time to actually open the envelope, you may read the offer and find it quite appealing – a low interest rate, no annual fee for the first year, special bonus points for mileage or merchandise or a give away item. With all these options, how do you choose a credit card?

It's simple: don't be attracted to short-term offers that will eventually cost you more money. If you read the fine print for most of those other cards, you'll find that rates and/or terms will change in a specified time period or hidden charges may apply. Often an annual fee is added or rates are increased to near 20%! If you sign up for the card and forget that your rate will increase or that you will be charged an annual fee, you'll wind up paying for any bonus that was offered.

Our advice for you is to forget the specials and go with the one offer that says it all at your Credit Union. A Credit Card from the Credit Union offers:

- One low rate for purchases and transfers
- No annual fee
- 25-day grace period to pay for purchases in full
- 1/2% cash back on purchases

Best of all, you'll know that what you see is what you get! There are no hassles, hidden charges or penalty rates.

Identity Theft Protection

Your credit history is one of the most valuable assets you possess. It's a direct reflection of your ability to repay money borrowed from a financial institution, including those who issue credit cards, mortgages, and vehicle or student loans. Good credit can be the difference between opportunity and denial. Protecting your credit against fraud or identity theft and avoiding damaged credit is simple when you follow these helpful tips:

- Shred any paperwork containing personal information.
- Secure documents containing personal data in a locked file drawer, cabinet or box.
- Limit the number of credit cards you use and carry.
- Don't give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you initiate the contact.
- Take your name off mailing lists so that you are less vulnerable to identity theft.
- Memorize your Social Security number and passwords to avoid having them recorded in your wallet or purse.
- In the event of a lost or stolen credit card, call the credit card company immediately. File a police report and contact all three credit bureaus to request that a "fraud alert" be placed on your name and Social Security number.
- Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus on a yearly basis. Look to the Credit Union as your financial partner with the resources to help you build and maintain your good credit rating.

To order a free copy of your credit report, please call 1-877-322-8228 or visit www.annualcreditreport.com



RIEDEL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Hunterdon County's Premier Credit Union

SERVING OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1960

Riegel Federal Credit Union offers a large variety of products and services to meet all of your financial needs.

- Regular Shares
- ATM cards/machine access - Riegel machines located at Milford Citgo, Hunterdon County Library on Rte 12 in Flemington, Kathee's General Store in Frenchtown, Holland Liquors on Rt. 519, Hunterdon Shopping Center in Flemington, and the Shammy Shine on Rt. 31 South in Flemington.
- Coin Sorter/Counting Machine - For member use only - NO SERVICE FEE
- RIB (Riegel Internet Banking) - <http://www.Riegelfcu.org>
- Call 24 Audio Response - Toll Free (1-800-505-4644)
- Shares, Share Drafts, Business Accounts, Term Share Accounts (CDs), Holiday Club, and Vacation Club Accounts
- Riegel Check Card (Debit Card)
- IRA's
- Savings Bonds
- Direct Deposit (Our routing number is 2212-7669-7)
- American Express Travelers Checks - NO FEE
- American Express Gift Cards

We also offer a full portfolio of loan products from which to choose.

- Home Equity Loans - Fixed Rates up to 20 years
- Home Equity Lines of credit
- New Car Loans up to 6 years
- Used Car Loans up to 6 years
- Education Loans
- Personal Loans up to \$10,000.00
- Shares Secured/Pledged Loans
- Visa Cards up to a \$10,000.00 line of credit.

Visit Riegel Federal Credit Union website at: <http://www.riegelfcu.org>
E-mail the Savings Department at: dphlips@riegelfcu.org
E-mail the Loan Department at: rfuloan@riegelfcu.org