

Money Cents



Marathon County Employees Credit Union Newsletter
400 East Thomas Street Wausau 715-261-7680 www.mcecu.org



The Board of Directors and Staff cordially invite you and your family to attend our **40th Annual Meeting on April 26th** at the VFW Clubhouse.

To register call 261-7680.



In **Introducing** a new **0 Down** **Mortgage** **Option**

If you're a first-time home buyer, sometimes it can be hard to come up with a down payment on your mortgage. MCECU understands! Therefore, we've introduced our new Opportunity Home Loan that requires **no down payment!*** Contact our mortgage partners at 800- 845-5025 for all the details.

In partnership with Connexus Credit Union we offer you multiple mortgage options. For more information call Joan at 847-4732.

*\$0 down offer is subject to underwriting and approval. Auto pay required. This loan is for an adjustable rate, 30 year mortgage with up to 100% financing available. 5.875% APR is the current available rate. Your monthly payments could range from \$59.15 to \$92.75 per every \$10,000.



Message from a Member:

"I love being a member of the credit union. Everyone is so friendly, personable and helpful each time I come in. I love the casual atmosphere! Being able to check my accounts on line has worked out perfect for me. Thanks to the credit union for making my life easier!"



IRA NEWS



You have until April 15th, 2005, to make your contributions to an IRA for 2004. There have been some enhancements to IRA programs, which allow members greater flexibility when contributing to Traditional, Roth and Education IRAs. Please contact Jillian at 261-7684 for more information. 1

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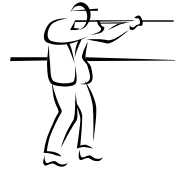
MYTH #4 ABOUT CREDIT AND DEBT

“If my debts get to be too much, I’ll just file for bankruptcy.”

Reality: **Bankruptcy is a very serious matter** and should be a last resort, not an easy out. It is a legal case filed with the bankruptcy court that is a matter of public record, and it can be reported for 10 years or more. Many people who have filed bankruptcy wish they had tried other alternatives before filing. Once a person files, they will always be “a person who filed bankruptcy,” and that can never be taken back. 4871

Bankruptcies affect all of us. It is estimated that bankruptcies **cost every US Citizen over \$400 a year**. WOW! Why? Because when a member declares bankruptcy on the credit union, since we are member owned, they are declaring bankruptcy on you, the 2,338 member/owners of the credit union. The credit union has to “write off” the loans that this person had and that costs money, money that could have been spent in other ways.

If you, or someone you know is in need of financial help, give **Consumer Credit Counseling Service a call for a confidential interview**. They are located in Wausau at 715 849-3322. 5730



President’s Corner

The adventures of Anne and Eric continue. A few years ago, I broke down and let Eric get a “custom” rifle. This rifle was great until “the buck” came by. Eric fired one shot and he missed. He cycled the bolt so fast that the “custom” gun malfunctioned and it jammed. He proceeded to mail the rifle back to the maker in South Dakota. They returned it saying nothing was wrong. When he got it back, it malfunctioned again. Now, I admit that Eric is a fast shot, but not that fast. He shipped it back again, it was returned again with a note that nothing was wrong. This so infuriated Eric that we drove 1608 miles to show them how the gun malfunctioned. We drove to Rapid City, South Dakota, to return this “custom” rifle.

Our appointment was for 7:30 AM. By 7:33 am Eric had shown them the malfunction. They were all in awe of his bolt speed and the fact that this “custom” rifle malfunctioned. We were back on the road by 9:00 am with the promise that this time they would actually fix the problem. It is now three weeks later and no gun back.

1608 miles is a long way to go for a rifle, so I am hoping that this time they get it right.

My advice to members this month is: Rifles from Gander Mountain or other local stores are just fine!



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The construction work on Thomas Street is scheduled to begin in August. There are many ways to access your accounts at MCECU, here are just a few:

In person:	Lobby, Drive through or Night Drop
Mail:	Inner Office or US Postal Service
MARS:	Our 24 hour teller at 1 877 678-1016
Phone:	715 261-7680
Debit Card:	Use at merchants or ATMs
Checks:	Write checks anywhere
Online:	www.mcecu.org “CU ONLINE”
Email:	cuteller@mail.co.marathon.wi.us

Odds n Ends

Pat has left our staff, Jillian **has rejoined our staff**. Please stop down to welcome **Jillian back** to our credit union family. Best of luck to Pat in her new career!

You, our members, helped us raise a total of \$1,500.00 in 2004 for **Children's Miracle Network**, Saint Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield. Thanks for helping make miracles happen! Watch for us on the upcoming CMN Telethon on Channel 9. 3765

There are seven **hidden account numbers** in this newsletter. If your number is one of them, call 261-7680 to claim your \$5.00 prize. Good luck!

The 11th Annual **Relay for Life** is June 10th and 11th at John Muir Middle School. Join our team to help raise money to fight cancer. Call Anne at 261-7689 if you would like to be on our team. 1939

Credit Union Nights at the Ballpark are July 19th and 20th.



ATTENTION!

RECENT AND SOON-TO-BE COLLEGE GRADUATES

As valuable members, we want to help you take advantage of low interest rates on student loans right now with a Federal Consolidation Loan. By combining your student loans into a Consolidation Loan, you can lock in at a low fixed rate for the life of the loan. You benefit by the lower rate, as well as making money management easier with one lower monthly payment and one payment due date. And as an added plus, if you consolidate while in your grace period, you receive a 0.6% interest savings.

Applying is easy, you complete the application, and we do the rest. **So don't miss this opportunity to lock your student loans into the lowest rate ever.** Stop by the Credit Union today for an application, or call Mary at 715-261-7687 for more information.

What's up withJillian

Well, you heard correctly, I am officially back at the credit union full-time! I left last year to pursue an opportunity with Wausau Benefits. Much to my dismay, I found that Health Insurance and I are not on the same page. I regretted my decision for months, and then Anne called and told me that Pat was leaving to pursue a career in nursing. Congratulations Pat! I jumped at the opportunity to come back to MCECU. So, since February 21, 2005, I have returned to serve you, our members. And I plan to be here for years to come (According to my calculations, I can retire in about 50 years).

Things haven't changed much in my life...I still live in the "Animal House" with my best friend Kim, and our three cats and two dogs. In my free time, I enjoy bartending at Wausau Mine Co. for extra \$\$, going to the gym, watching local bands play, dancing, and most of all, bowling. At one point this winter, I was bowling four days a week... I finally received my first 500 series pin! 6754

I just want to thank the Credit Union Staff and our members for giving me the opportunity to come back and work for you. And for those of you I have seen already, thank you for the warm welcome, it feels great to be back!

I leave you with my favorite words of wisdom:

"It's not always rainbows and butterflies.....

It's compromise that moves us along."

Adam Levine, Maroon Five

Privacy Policy

Marathon County Employees Credit Union, MCECU, is committed to protecting the privacy of its members and considers all personal information to be confidential. We make financial products and services available to you that will enable you to meet your financial needs and reach your financial goals. Protecting personal information and using it in a manner consistent with your expectations is a high priority for everyone associated with our Credit Union. 2769

As a member of MCECU, you also have a responsibility to safeguard your financial information.

To ensure that you can rely upon the quality of products and services we make available, our Credit Union stands behind the following privacy policy:

- MCECU will collect only the personal information that is necessary to conduct our business. That means just what is necessary to provide competitive financial products and services - no more.

- MCECU will protect your personal information. Our Credit Union will maintain strong security controls to ensure that member information in our files and computers is protected. Where appropriate, we will use security-coding techniques to protect against unauthorized access to personal records, ensure accuracy and integrity of communications and transactions, and protect member confidentiality.
- MCECU will only share information to administer the products and services we provide, when required to do so by the government, or when we partner with other businesses to offer a broader array of products and services.
- MCECU will partner only with businesses that follow strict confidentiality requirements. The businesses we select will offer products designed to enhance our members' economic well-being. Under no circumstances will we authorize these firms to charge your account without your expressed consent, and we will not sell member information to telemarketing firms.

Thanks for being a member!

(If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the Credit Union)