

Financial Connection



First Financial
CREDIT UNION

August 2011



www.firstfcu.org

Your Kids Are Ready. Are You? — Options for the College-Bound Crowd

The graduation hoopla is dying down, and you're getting serious about planning what to pack. When they're ready to go, we are ready to help. FFCU offers several options to assist you in this important step.

We can help you pay for tuition, room & board with:

- Home Equity Loans
- Signature Loans
- Personal Lines of Credit

Another concern among college parents is the barrage of instant-approval, high interest credit card and loan options on campus. Despite recent CARD Act provisions against soliciting students under 21, major credit card companies have found loopholes and are again offering accounts with "no co-signer needed." Arm your students with affordable financial tools before they step inside their dorm room, and you can help protect them from high-interest creditors.

First Financial CU offers student-friendly versions of:

- Checking & Savings accounts
- Online Banking with Bill Pay
- VISA Debit Cards — accepted worldwide
- VISA Credit Cards — tied to a deposit account
- Direct Deposit
- New and Used Auto Loans

Your Credit Union is a strong supporter of higher education, and we want to make sure your family is aware of all the ways we can help you accomplish your dreams. Visit us online anytime at www.firstfcu.org, call any of our friendly member representatives at **847-676-8000**, or stop in and see us today!



Help us Celebrate 75 Years!



Don't miss out on our great giveaways and events during our 75th Anniversary Celebration!

When you open a new account, are approved for a new loan, or refer a friend to the credit union for a membership, you'll get to choose one of several giveaways displaying our 75th Anniversary logo. PLUS, you'll be entered to **WIN** our **Grand Prize of \$750!***

Visit the "Anniversary" tab on our website to see additional details and information about other events, including the Groundbreaking Ceremony for our new branch. →



*Members will receive one (1) drawing entry for opening a new membership savings account. Additional savings accounts, Christmas clubs, or vacation clubs do not qualify for drawing entries. New deposit accounts and loans must stay open for a minimum of 6 months; if the accounts are closed for any reason, the member will forfeit his/her drawing entry and his/her right to the \$750 prize. Only one (1) RapidCash loan per member qualifies for a drawing entry. Members who refer a new member will qualify for one (1) entry for each new membership; new membership account must remain open for a minimum of 6 months, or the member will forfeit his/her drawing entry and his/her right to the \$750 prize. No purchase necessary. Winners will be provided with a 1099 for tax purposes.



WHERE IS YOUR MONEY HIDING?

Our Home Equity programs can help you find it!

Do you have \$10,000 or more stashed in your attic, basement or closets? You may be surprised at how much you can borrow from the equity you've worked hard to build in your home! Use this hidden reserve to:

- remodel
- cover wedding costs
- pay tuition
- take that trip
- consolidate bills
- and more!



How much can you really uncover?

You can estimate how much cash you have access to right now. The formula is simple:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Current market value of your house} \\ - & \text{Amount you still owe on your mortgage} \\ & \text{(Your current home equity)} \\ \times & \text{70\% (FFCU's equity loan percentage)} \\ = & \text{Cash you could borrow right now} \end{aligned}$$

Four reasons why finding Home Equity funds is a smart move

- 1) Each month, when you make your mortgage payment, you are literally investing money in your home ownership. A home equity loan or line of credit lets you use the money you've invested to finance other things you need. Essentially, you're borrowing from yourself – not a creditor.
- 2) The interest is often tax-deductible,* unlike borrowing with a credit card or other personal loan.
- 3) Our friendly loan officers are committed to your financial success, so we not only review your personal circumstances and work with you toward approval, we will never lend you more than you can comfortably pay back.
- 4) Our interest rates are among the most competitive available – currently as low as 4.50% APR**!

Let our Home Equity Loan and/or Line of Credit help you find the money to achieve your summer goals! Learn more today at **847-676-8000**, online at www.firstfcu.org, or stop in to see one of our friendly Loan Officers.

*Consult your tax advisor. **APR=Annual Percentage Rate, subject to change. Not a promise to lend; standard credit qualifications and some restrictions apply.

Credit Union Holiday Closings

Labor Day — Saturday, Sept. 3rd & Monday, Sept. 5th

For a complete list of Holiday Hours for 2011, visit www.firstfcu.org and click on the "Hours & Locations" tab. As always, you can access your accounts 24/7 by using CU*Talk (phone access), It'sMe247 (home banking) & ATM/Debit.

Sun, fun & some of our favorite people...

First FCU staff picnics with Cooper's Hawk members



Have an event you'd like us to attend? Call **847-676-8000** and ask for our Marketing / Business Development Department.

MEMBERS-ONLY DISCOUNTS

Check this section of upcoming newsletters for new ways to save!

SPECIAL OFFER

debtinfo

Use this **FREE** and anonymous online service to bring your debt into focus. Use the link at www.firstfcu.org to get started. Your personal financial analysis, including a wealth of information and strategies, is designed keep your finances moving forward.

SPECIAL OFFER



GreenPath

debt solutions

Free Financial Counseling and assistance available with personal and family budgeting, debt repayment, and HUD-approved housing counseling.

877-337-3399 • www.greenpathref.com

DISCOUNT TICKETS

Remember: **AMC** movie tickets are available in our office. Gold tickets are \$8.00 and silver tickets are \$6.50.

Also, pick up your discounted **Six Flags Great America** tickets (\$35 general admission) and season passes (\$68).

COUPON



DUNKIN' DONUTS

AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'™

50¢ OFF

purchase of \$1 or more.

First Financial Credit Union members only. Non-transferable. No photocopies accepted. Valid only at 3910 W Touhy Ave. Lincolnwood, IL 60712. Coupon expires 8/31/2011. Other restrictions may apply. Visit www.dunkindonuts.com for terms and conditions of all discount offers. No cash value.

Main Office
5550 W. Touhy Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077
(847) 676-8000
Check www.firstfcu.org for
branch hours and locations.

Important Phone Numbers:
CU*Talk: 888-379-0013
Loan Connect: 800-311-3841
Lost/stolen Debit Card: 800-682-6075
Lost/stolen Credit Card: 800-991-4964

