

EXCEL^{your} Life

3rd Quarter
Fall 2009

It's Better to Give than Receive



Every year starting in October, Excel members and employees begin collecting new, unwrapped toys and canned goods for needy families and children throughout Atlanta. Join in the spirit of the holiday by making a donation on your next visit to any branch office. Donations received before December 15th will be delivered in time for the holidays.

Loan Specials



See the enclosed flyer to find out how you can qualify for the lowest rates in town and a \$50 gas card! We can handle almost any loan over the phone, fax, and web. Call 770-441-9235 or 1-888-441-9235 or use our online applications. We'll have pre-approval on the loan amount you qualify for no later than the next business day.

Important News Regarding Loans

To comply with new laws in the CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, changes are being made in regards to open-end consumer loans which includes all EXCEL consumer loans with the exception of 1st and 2nd mortgages. No action is required by members as a result of these changes.

All open-end EXCEL consumer loans will

- receive a monthly statement reflecting loan activity and payment due dates
- have a "payment due date" of the 28th each month, beginning with the payment due in October, 2009
- not be considered late, nor will late fees be assessed, until 21 days after the due date

Details regarding these changes were mailed to members with open-end consumer loans in late September. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact member services.



\$25 Gift Card Giveaways for Holiday Club Members

Members who systematically save for the holidays throughout the year by making regular deposits to their Holiday Club Account can make withdrawals free during fourth quarter (Oct 1 through Dec 31). Plus, continue to make deposits and you could win a \$25 gift card. Beginning October 5th and running through December 31st, each deposit into your Holiday Club Account will earn one entry into our drawing. At the end of every week, each branch office will randomly select one winner.



Easy ATM Access

Members now have access to ATMs that display the CO-OP logo. The CO-OP network, the largest credit union-only ATM network in the country, provides access to over 28,000 ATMs worldwide with no surcharge fee imposed by the terminal owner.

Please note, there is a \$1 Excel service fee when using ATMs other than Excel machines or the ATMs located outside Publix® (look for **Presto!**).

We've installed a new Excel ATM in the Summit Building at 401 West Peachtree Street NE, on the second floor, by the mail center and the IRS office.

Need to find an ATM machine near you? Use the easy online ATM locator tool under the services tab on our website at www.excelfcu.org.



Avoid Credit Card Fraud

The most recent attempt from scammers to steal your credit card information and make money using your card comes in the form of a phone call from the “Security and Fraud Department at VISA®.” The caller gives their name and an official sounding “badge number” and asks if you’ve recently made a purchase of “\$497.99” from a company based in “Arizona”. When you say “no” they assure you that you’ll receive credit and ask you to verify the address they have on file (at this point they provide your correct address). The caller then says they want to verify you’re in possession of your card by asking for 3 numbers off the back of your card. They are now asking **you** to provide **them** with information. This is the information they need in order to apply charges to your card. Don’t give them any information!

Quick Tips:

- Do not provide confidential information to callers
- If you think a request is valid, contact the financial institution directly by calling the number on the back of the card
- If you mistakenly give out information, contact your financial institution immediately!

It’s a Safety Net, Not a Catch All

Many financial institutions offer “overdraft-protection” services to help reduce the possibility of bouncing a check or having your debit card transactions declined. With these plans, you still pay an overdraft fee to the financial institution, but avoid the merchant’s returned check fee. Plus, you’re able to stay in good standing with the people you do business with.

We offer members protection against merchant returned transactions in the following ways:

Overdraft Protection from Line-of-Credit – this is an optional line-of-credit loan that can be linked to your checking account. In the event funds are not available in your checking account, we’ll first look to your line-of-credit loan and then to your savings account, if you’ve directed us to do so, to cover the charges. If you tap your line of credit, you pay interest only on the amount you borrow and there is no transfer fee. In the event funds need to be pulled from your savings account(s), there is a \$5 fee per transfer. Either way, it’s a lot cheaper than what most financial institutions charge.

EXCEL Courtesy Pay (or “ECP” for short) – this is a discretionary overdraft service that offers members in good standing a small, short term loan. ECP funds may be provided after funds from your linked accounts have been depleted. ECP is generally limited to an overdraft courtesy limit between \$300 and \$700 (including fees), dependent on the amount of deposits you make with us each month and whether you have established direct deposit.* There is a \$26 fee to use these funds and the money, including the fee, must be paid back to the credit union within 30 days. This service, if it’s available to you, should only be used in the event of an emergency, since short-term loans are costly forms of credit.

These are optional services. If you haven’t established a line-of-credit, or linked your accounts, or you would like to have Excel Courtesy Pay funds available to you in the event you need them, please speak with member services to see if you qualify.

* Other restrictions apply; please refer to the disclosures on our website or speak with member services for more details.



Don’t Abuse the Safety Net

We offer overdraft protection options because members like having a safety net. We don’t recommend using these services on a regular basis!

Avoid overdrawing your account(s) by developing the following habits:

- Keep track of how much money you have in your checking account by keeping your check/debit card register up-to-date
- Pay special attention to your electronic transactions, including ATM withdrawals (and any associated fees), debit card purchases and online payments
- Don’t forget to subtract automatic bill payments you have set up for utilities, insurance, and loan payments
- Keep an eye on your account balance, since some checks and automatic payments may not have cleared yet
- Review your account statements each month!

Mistakes happen. If you do overdraw your account, avoid additional headaches and fees by depositing money into the account as soon as possible!

Holiday Closings:

Columbus Day
Veteran’s Day
Thanksgiving Holidays
Christmas Holidays

New Year’s Day

Monday, October 12th
Wednesday, November 11th
Thursday and Friday Nov. 26th & 27th
Thursday, Dec 24th (closing at 1pm)
Friday, December 25th
Friday, January 1st 2010

📞 **Contact Information 770-441-9235**
Outside Atlanta call **1-888-441-9235**

🌐 **www.excelfcu.org**

📱 **mb.excelfcu.org**

Third Quarter 2009 Share Savings Dividends Declared

Amount	Dividend Rate	Annual Percentage Yield
\$100-2,499.99	.25	.25
\$2,500-4,999.99	.50	.50
\$5,000 and above	.50	.50

Calculation of dividends is based upon the Daily Computation Method.

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