



# COMMENTARY

Superior Service Is Our Trademark

Volume 6

## TAKE A PEEK on our WEBSITE

[www.ptofcu.org](http://www.ptofcu.org)

The place to go for all the latest promotions, events, rates and fees!

### CREDIT UNION CLOSED

During the following holidays the credit union will be closed.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY** (observed)  
Friday, July 3rd

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
Saturday, July 4th

**LABOR DAY**  
Monday, September 7th

**COLUMBUS DAY**  
Monday, October 12th

**VETERANS DAY**  
Wednesday, November 11th

### STAY CONNECTED

#### JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Just send your email address by text message:

Text PTOFCU to 22828 (message data rates may apply)

### MONEY SAVING TIP



A shocking 75% of the energy used by home electronics is consumed when they're turned off.

These "phantom" users include: televisions, VCRs, stereos, computers and many kitchen appliances--basically anything that holds a time or other settings.

A simple solution? Plug all of these items into power strips; then, get in the habit of turning off the strips between uses.

## A Good Rule of Thumb



*Ever wonder how much money you should save?*

A good rule of thumb is to save 20% of your take-home pay. You should put 10% away

for emergencies and 10% toward retirement. If you're living on more than 80% of your income, ratchet your spending down and start saving a smaller percentage. Save 3% of your income, then cut rarely used expenses such as your cable and gym membership. Try to dine out less and maybe look into downgrading your cell phone package. Slowly work towards that goal of saving 20%.

## Leave Your Cares Behind!

TO APPLY VISIT [www.ptofcu.org](http://www.ptofcu.org)



Make planning your next family or romantic trip more relaxing. With great rates and flexible terms, you can take that dream vacation and leave all your worries behind!

### VACATION LOAN

- As Low As 7.99% APR\*
- Borrow between \$500 - \$5,000
- 36 month term
- Offer valid through Sept. 30, 2015

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Offer and rate based on approved credit. Other rates and terms available.



## LOW RATE = LOW PAYMENT

You want it, so go get it and drive away with **BIG savings!** Whether you are in the market for a new or a "newish" used car...any way you like it, you are sure to drive away with **BIG savings** with rates as low as 1.99% APR\* and no payment for the first 60 days.

To apply visit [www.ptofcu.org](http://www.ptofcu.org) TODAY!

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 1.99% available for qualified borrowers on approved credit.



## For Whatever You Want!

- ✓ As Low As 8.25% APR\*
- ✓ Borrow \$500 (min.) to \$15,000 (max.)
- ✓ Up to 72 month term
- ✓ TO APPLY VISIT [www.ptofcu.org](http://www.ptofcu.org)

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 8.25% available for qualified applicants. Other rates and terms available.



## PTOFCU Home Equity Loan - SO SIMPLE!

With a Home Equity Loan or Line of Credit, you can access funds at a much lower rate of interest. Home equity funds can be used for anything! Whether you've been thinking of remodeling your kitchen, finishing your basement, paying for college or consolidating higher interest debt, you can let your home's equity get the job done.

\* APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Offer available on approved credit. Rate applies to qualified borrowers. Contact a Loan Officer for details.

### HELOC Benefits

- As Low As 2.99% APR\*
- Borrow up to \$75,000
- 60 month term
- Fast turn-a-round time
- Interest is usually tax-deductible (consult your tax advisor for details)



## PRE-RETIREEES 5 Real Estate Mistakes

When heading into retirement, many people make the decision to downsize, relocate to a different community, or renovate an existing home. Here are five common mistakes to avoid:

**Waiting to downsize**—Lots of people wait until the kids graduate and then discover that the kids already are back. It could be an eight- to 10-year extension on your time in a larger house.

**Spending the windfall**—If you're able to downsize and get cash out at the same time, carefully consider what you will do with it. For some people, it will be best to live on the equity and leave retirement funds alone for a while, allowing Social Security benefits to increase.

**Moving sight unseen**—Before you move, research the location. Find out about taxes, cost of living, access to the activities you enjoy, and health-care options for the future.

**Maintaining two households**—Maybe you think you'll save money by buying a house at today's prices and moving when you retire. Factor in the cost of running two homes to see exactly how much you'll gain—or lose.

**Holding a mortgage in retirement**—Weigh the advantages and disadvantages of paying off your mortgage before retirement. You might be able to use that freed-up money to delay taking Social Security. Keep in mind that your tax deduction will not be as significant as it was at the start of the mortgage.

If you're thinking of taking on a new mortgage just before retiring because of today's low rates, consider a short-term mortgage such as a 10-year mortgage.

To discuss your options, contact us.

## NEW ACCOUNT CARDS

We are now offering picture ID account cards. If you would like a new account card, stop by the credit union or call 571.272.0350 to make an appointment.

## SAVING AT THE PUMP



### Park Further Away

Circling is for sharks, vultures and people who don't mind wasting gas. Give up the quest for the perfect parking spot, and settle for one at the back of the lot. You may have to walk a bit further to get to the store, but when did that become a bad thing?

## TRAVELING? Before you pack...



If you plan to make any unusual transaction or if you plan on using your cards outside the United States, please call 1-877-809-4216 for credit cards and 1-888-241-2440 for check cards.

To report your ATM/debit card lost or stolen, call 1-888-241-2510 toll free inside the U.S. or 1-909-941-1398 collect outside the U.S.

**Main Branch:** 1st Floor, 501 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday – Friday  
Phone: 571-272-0350 • Fax: 571-273-0190  
**Randolph Square Branch:** 2800 S. Randolph Street, Room 8C08, Arlington, VA 22206  
**Effective immediately, the Randolph Square Branch will be open on Wednesdays by appointment only. Appointments must be made 24 hours in advance. Call 571-272-0350 to schedule appointments.**  
Office: 703-933-0222

Visa® Check Card & ATM Important  
Phone Numbers  
After hours hotline: 800-754-4128  
Card activation: 800-466-0040  
Falcon (U.S.): 888-241-2440  
Falcon (International): 909-941-1034  
**Lost/Stolen**  
U.S. Toll Free: 888-241-2510  
International: Collect Call 909-941-1398  
[www.ptofcu.org](http://www.ptofcu.org)



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With a PTOFCU VISA® credit card you can be confident you are making one of the best decisions for your wallet. Our VISA® card is only 10.90% APR! You get the same great rate for purchases, cash advances and balance transfers. And you will never have to worry about paying an annual fee!

\* APR = Annual Percentage Rate.