



Co-op Credit Union News

"We're your financial home"

January 2012

IRA FAIR MARKET VALUE

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) at the Co-op Credit Union, watch your mail over the next few weeks. A Fair Market Value statement for your IRA account will be mailed to you by January 31, 2012. The fair market value of your IRA is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.



Important Change to U.S. Savings Bonds

TreasuryDirect

Paper savings bonds will no longer be sold at financial institutions after December 31, 2011.

But they're not going away. They're being replaced by electronic savings bonds that can be purchased online through TreasuryDirect.

Already have paper savings bonds? Existing paper bonds are still valid and will earn interest for 30 years from the issue date or until redeemed. You can continue to *cash* savings bonds at your credit union, you just can't purchase them. For more information or to purchase savings bonds, go to their website: www.treasurydirect.gov.

*TreasuryDirect is a registered mark of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

OPEN HOUSE IN MONTEVIDEO OFFICE

**Wednesday, January 18
10 AM - 4 PM**



The busy holidays are over and it's time to sit back and catch your breath. Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments on Wednesday, January 18th, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

WE APPRECIATE OUR MEMBERS!

MEMBER SECURITY ALERT!

There are so many scams out there. Crooks will try anything to get your financial information. Your credit union wants to make sure you are aware that we will NEVER ask for personal information, such as online credentials, account numbers or card numbers, through e-mail, voice or text messaging. If you receive any e-mails of these types, NEVER provide the information requested. Delete the e-mail, or you can forward the e-mail to spam@uce.gov (Federal Trade Commission). The FTC uses the spam stored in this database to pursue law enforcement actions against people who send deceptive e-mails.



The same thing goes for phone calls. Do not give out any information over the phone. The only time we will ask you for information is to verify your identity when you call the Credit Union. We may ask you to confirm information we have on file about you or your account. When in doubt, don't give out any information and then call us.

- Toll-Free 800-967-1709
- Montevideo 320-269-2117
- Benson 320-843-4210
- Canby 507-223-5737
- Willmar 320-235-1573

Your Credit Union works hard to keep our website updated with the latest security measures. You can do your part by making sure your home computer has updated security features, too.



Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right. --- Oprah Winfrey

We beat the banks! MONTE OFFICE WINS FOOD CHALLENGE

The results are in. Our members are awesome! The Monte Office collected \$2,005 and 640 pounds of food for the Chippewa County Food Shelf. Thanks to all our members who took the time to donate food and money. Your efforts make us proud.



HOME FINANCIAL SERVICES WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK IN 2012

The year 2012 brings exciting changes to our current HFS program. HFS will evolve into a new product called Virtual Branch, which is a modern version of our current HFS program. One of the things Virtual Branch will offer members is more flexibility in setting up automatic transfers to and from savings and loan accounts. It also provides secure email, reminders and alerts.

2011 IRA Contributions

You have until April 16, 2012 to open or contribute to your 2011 Individual Retirement Account savings.

For more information, refer to Publication 590 on the IRS website: www.irs.gov.

As the risk of consumer fraud in today's digital environment becomes greater and greater, we continue to monitor and upgrade the products we offer our members. It is our goal to provide our members with a safe internet banking experience. Virtual Branch is a necessary step towards this goal. Please watch our website for details in the upcoming months. www.co-opcreditunion.com



Online Security is Very Important to Us!

To ensure that your online experience is secure, we use a process called multilayer authentication as part of the log on procedure for Home Financial Services (HFS). This process involves several layers of security. To access the secure area, we require that you enter your account number, answer a security question if you have not registered your computer, verify your security image and personal phrase, and finally input your password. If you use our Bill Pay product, a security phrase that you have chosen will flash on the screen.

As a precaution, your security information is stored in an encrypted format that even we cannot decode. When you are logged in, we use:

- Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol to ensure that your connection and any information transmitted is protected.
- 128-bit encryption to make your information unreadable as it passes over the Internet.
- Automatic time-out that occurs if you are inactive in the secure area of our site for more than 10 minutes.

If your browser doesn't support SSL or 128-bit encryption, you should upgrade your browser.

While we continue to evaluate and implement the latest improvements in Internet security technology, members who are using the system also have responsibility for the security of their information and should always follow the recommendations listed below:

- Utilize the latest browser version of either Firefox or Microsoft Internet Explorer. Our online HFS system is best viewed and is most secure when you use one of these browsers, as they are certified for use at our site.
- Your password must be kept confidential. For maximum security, use the full available length of your alpha-numeric password (it is best to always use at least 8 digits) and change it frequently to ensure that the information cannot be guessed or used by others.
- Be sure others are not watching you enter information on the keyboard when using the system.
- Never leave your computer unattended while logged on to the system. Others may approach your computer and gain access to your account information if you walk away.
- Exit the system (log out) when you are finished to properly end your session. Once a session has ended, no further transactions can be processed until you log on to the system again.
- Close your browser when you are finished, so that others cannot view any account information displayed on your computer.
- Keep your computer free of viruses. Use virus protection software to routinely check for a virus on your computer. Never allow a virus to remain on your computer while accessing the system.
- We recommend our business members conduct their own risk assessment regarding the controls they have in place to mitigate fraud or losses.

By following these simple recommendations, you can make your online financial activities more secure. We look forward to serving your needs both today and into the future—securely!