



# Dollars & Sense

Fall 2006

## How To Get The Most Home Improvement Bang For Your Buck

While new home sales continue to increase in the Des Moines market, home resales have hit a considerable dry spell, causing many potential home sellers to consider fixing-up their current home and sticking-around a while longer.

### Be sure to finance all your home projects with a Home Equity Loan from FECU!

Now through December 29, get a Home Equity Loan with FECU and we'll give you a gift certificate worth \$150 at the local home improvement store of your choice.\*

\*Some restrictions apply. Offer available to members with qualified credit and minimum equity requirements. Minimum initial draw of \$5,000 required.

When you're considering remodeling, adding-on and/or fixing-up your home, there are a few things to keep in mind to ensure you'll get the highest return on your investment when you do decide to sell in the future.

### 1) Prioritize repairs and remodeling jobs

Real estate agents know what sells—if they're all talking about the same thing, it's likely a good feature. Ask several agents what home buyers are

looking for in your area and how they would rank those qualities in order of importance.

### 2) Choose your updates carefully

Keep updates reasonable so your home stays within your neighborhood's average price range.

### 3) Shoot for curb appeal

There are several types of updates to your home that are typically lower cost, create emotional appeal and high ROI, however these only work as long as your home is structurally and mechanically sound. These projects include a green, healthy lawn; nice landscaping; fresh paint; clean windows; de-cluttering your home, and; cosmetic upgrades to kitchens and baths, such as new cabinet hardware, lighting, toilet seats and faucets.

## FECU Celebrates International Credit Union Day

For 55 years, credit unions have set aside the third Thursday in October to celebrate International Credit Union Day. Each year, it gives us an opportunity to remember our proud history as we promote understanding and support for the credit union difference.



CREDIT UNIONS  
*Making a  
World of Difference™*

This International Credit Union Day, we are excited to be a part of your dreams and achievements. Thank you for being part of the credit union difference. Please don't hesitate to tell us how we're doing, and how we can provide even better service in the future. In honor of International Credit Union Day, FECU invites you to stop in from 9-Noon to enjoy a special treat on the following dates:

Mon., October 16 Harding Hills  
& VA Hospital  
Wed., October 18 Knoxville Office  
Thurs., October 19 Federal Building  
Office

### College Scholarships Applications Available Now!

FECU is once again offering six college scholarships in conjunction with the Family Involvement Board. Four scholarships worth a combined total of \$3,750 will be offered to high school students planning to enter college, and two additional scholarships are

offered to nontraditional-aged and continuing education students, both totaling \$1,000 each. The entry deadline is Feb. 9, 2007. For details or to complete an entry, please visit our website at [www.fecuiowa.org](http://www.fecuiowa.org).



**2006 Holiday Loan**  
**7.9%APR\***

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**Borrow up to \$3,000**

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**12 months to repay**

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Apply online at  
[www.fecuiowa.org](http://www.fecuiowa.org)  
\*Annual Percentage Rate

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Mon., Oct. 9 - Columbus Day  
Fri., Nov. 10 - Veterans' Day  
Thurs., Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving  
Mon., Dec. 25 - Christmas  
Mon., Jan 1 - New Year's

## E-mail Fraud Alert

For more than a year bank customers have been the targets of e-mail fraud, also known as “Phishing,” but now credit unions are beginning to see these same types of e-mail scams aimed at their members.

These “Phishing Scams” are sent in the form of an e-mail that appears to be coming from the credit union by using the credit union’s name, logo and address. This false e-mail asks the recipient to click on a link to verify their credit union account registration. If the recipient clicks on the link, they will be directed to a false website and asked to enter their credit union account number and PIN, along with other personal information.



Please understand that Federal Employees Credit Union will never request personal information from you via e-mail or phone. Personal information should only be given to a credit union employee in-person or via phone, and only if you initiated the call. Anytime you receive an e-mail or phone call requesting personal information from FECU, you should consider it a fraudulent attempt to obtain your personal account data for an illegal purpose and should not follow the instructions in the e-mail or phone call.

If you respond to such an e-mail and provide any confidential account information, please notify us immediately.

## Get Your Tickets For FECU's Annual CMN Raffle!

Be sure to participate in FECU's annual raffle of a limousine tour of the Des Moines holiday lights to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network (CMN). Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 each, or six for \$5, at any one of our three office locations. All proceeds will be donated to CMN.

The raffle begins at the start of business Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2006 and ends at the close of business on Friday, Dec. 1, 2006. The drawing will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006 and the winner will be notified via telephone.

If you have any questions, please call your credit union office, or send an e-mail to [info@fecuiowa.org](mailto:info@fecuiowa.org). For more information about CMN, please logon to [www.cmn.org](http://www.cmn.org).



## FECU Locations

### Federal Building Office

210 Walnut St., Suite 132  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
Phone: (515) 244-1458  
Fax: (515) 282-4444  
Hours: Monday-Friday  
7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### Harding Hills Office

2524 Post St.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
Phone: (515) 274-0939  
Fax: (515) 274-6871  
Hours: Monday-Friday  
Lobby: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Drive-up: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

### Knoxville Office

1515 W. Pleasant, Bldg. 8, Room 113  
Knoxville, Iowa 50138  
Phone: (641) 842-5135  
Fax: (641) 842-2998  
Hours: Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### Two convenient ways to access your accounts, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week:

- Online Banking – Simply logon to [www.fecuiowa.org](http://www.fecuiowa.org) and click on "YourCU@Home"
- Privileged Status ATMs – Look for this logo and rest assured you won't be assessed a surcharge fee.



AMERICA'S  
CREDIT UNIONS™  
*Where people are worth more than money.™*



## Loan Rates

100%  
Financing!

<i>Term</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Monthly Payment</i> (per \$1,000 borrowed)
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### New Vehicles (2006)

24 months	5.90%	\$44.05
36 months	6.40%	\$30.38
48 months	6.90%	\$23.67
60 months	7.40%	\$19.75

### Used Vehicles

#### 2003-2005

36 months	6.90%	\$30.60
48 months	7.40%	\$23.90
60 months	7.90%	

#### 2001-2002

36 months	7.90%	\$31.06
48 months	8.40%	\$24.37

### 2000 and Older

36 month	9.90%	\$31.99
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### Home Equity Line-of-Credit (HELOC)

84 months	8.50-10.00% (Fixed Rate)	
180 months	8.25-11.25% (Variable Rate)	

### Visa Credit Cards

**Visa Classic:** Fixed Rate of 12.90%. No annual fee.  
**Visa Gold:** Variable Rate of 11.25%. No annual fee.  
(3% above Wall Street Journal Prime rate)

**Apply for a Federal Employees CU loan  
online at [www.fecuiowa.org](http://www.fecuiowa.org)!**

Rates listed above are current as of 9/15/06. All rates are subject to qualified credit and to change. Please contact the credit union for full details and restrictions. All rates expressed as Annual Percentage Rate.

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