

FINANCIAL FOCUS

ISSUE 1 2009



CTCU.ORG

WHAT DO SNOW AND CTCU'S LOAN RATES HAVE IN COMMON?

THEY'RE BOTH FALLING!

We're still lending at Community Trust Credit Union! While some banks are tightening their belts, we are helping members meet their dreams. Whether you are looking to consolidate debt, remodel, or head off on vacation to a warmer climate, CTCU can help get you there.

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The rate is variable and adjusts monthly based on the Prime Rate as established in The Wall Street Journal. The Prime Rate in effect as of 12/16/08 is 3.25% APR. Contact the credit union for more details on the VISA Gold Card and the Home Equity Line of Credit. Rates subject to change without notice. Some conditions apply.

HOME EQUITY
LINE OF CREDIT

.25% BELOW PRIME
CURRENTLY
3.00% APR*
80% Loan-to-Value

VISA GOLD CARD

PRIME +2%
CURRENTLY
5.50% APR*

APPLYING IS EASY!

- **Online:** www.ctcu.org
- **By Phone:** 1-800-837-3059
- **In Person:** Stop in to any of our 3 locations

WHY SO BLUE?

by Brad Jenks, Investment Manager

The holiday season is behind us and it's 2009. That also means that the worst of the recession is behind us.

Firstly, to be sure, we are officially in a recession. We mark the start of a recession at the point in which the business cycle (GDP) slows down; and then the end of the recession when the business cycle moves back up. By that measure, this recession began in December of 2007. The end is still to come. Or maybe it's already here?

By way of history, recessions last on average about one year. A recession differs from a depression in the severity of the decline of the business cycle. A decline of over 10% would "officially" mark a depression, anything less is a recession. In case you're wondering, the Great Depression marked a 33% sagging in the



business cycle. In comparison, the worst recession in the post war era was the 1973-75 recession where GDP sagged 4.9%.

Gloom and doom seem to be the order of the day. The media has been pounding the recession drum for over a year now.

It's unlikely that the economic experts are going to put themselves out there with optimistic predictions. So, we sit and wait for the economic data to turn for the better, and then the wave of optimistic media reports will begin again. When the wave of turning data begins (I think it's already here), investors need to be ready for the ensuing rally in the market. The rallies come early in the recovery, and they come fast.

Historically, most of the recovery in the stock market occurs in the first few months of the economic recovery.

Don't miss what will inevitably be one of the greatest investing opportunities of our lifetime. When the biggest economy in the world has a 40% sale, it's time to start buying.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE SPECIAL OFFERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY E-MAIL

[SIGN UP FOR CTCU E-NEWS AT WWW.CTCU.ORG]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Madeline Lipka

YEAR IN REVIEW



As I look back on 2008, I see a year ending in economic turmoil and yet, I can't help but remain proud of Community Trust Credit Union's achievements. This past year marked the credit union's 75th anniversary – a milestone that would not be reached without you, our loyal members. That's why throughout 2008, CTCU focused on celebrating our member owners.

Early in the year, we kicked off our celebrations by opening our new Lake Villa office. To commemorate the opening of this facility, we hosted three terrific events. First, we organized a Children's Day on Saturday, June 14th. The credit union entertained the kids with a balloon sculptor and a prize wheel. The credit union then sponsored a Shred Day on Saturday, June 21st, inviting all members to properly dispose of confidential documents and learn more about protecting themselves from identity theft.

We held our official Lake Villa Grand Opening on Saturday, June 28th. We had a great time entertaining our members with impersonators portraying Captain Jack Sparrow and Austin Powers, along with balloon sculptor Holly Nagel. Serving hot dogs, corn dogs and popcorn to all visitors, we held numerous prize drawings – including a grand prize drawing for an entertainment center.

A few weeks later, on Saturday, July 19th, we celebrated Community Trust Credit Union's 75th Anniversary. What a day! Despite the rain, hundreds of our members came out for hamburgers and hot dogs – and we greatly appreciate your support. The Gurnee Police Department participated by conducting child safety seat checks. With gas prices soaring, we also gave away a \$750 gas card during the event.

On December 9th, I was honored to be sworn in as President of the Grayslake Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I have been serving on the Chamber in different capacities since 1994. I look forward to serving all area businesses in this new capacity.

Stay tuned for an exciting 2009! The credit union is as strong and stable as ever before and we are looking forward to continuing to improve our products and services while providing exceptional member service. Watch this newsletter for product announcements and special offers.

*Best wishes for a happy, healthy
and prosperous New Year!*

OUR NEW PARTNER

Community Trust Credit Union is proud to introduce our mortgage partner CU/America Financial Services, Inc. CU/America is owned by eight Illinois credit unions. In an effort to offer trusted mortgage service products these credit unions formed the mortgage company in 1994, CU America Financial Services, Inc.. As a credit union owned mortgage provider CU/America understands what it means to provide mortgage services to Credit Union members. They offer the same quality of service our members deserve. CU/America offers many different mortgage products to fit your individual lending needs. CU/America prides itself on finding and/or tailoring a mortgage program to fit your specific requirements.

Some of the services and programs available to you include:

- Same day pre-approvals
- FHA and VA programs
- Up to 97% financing
- Reverse mortgages for our senior members
- Multiple terms to choose from including
 - 10, 15, 20, 30 Year Fixed Rate Mortgages
 - Adjustable Rate Mortgages

For more information about our products and services, please call 800-351-0449 or 630-620-5200.

CU/America Financial Services, Inc.

Main Office

450 East 22nd Street, Suite 240
Lombard, IL 60148

Branch Office

6767 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Suite 207
Niles, IL 60714

Se Habla Espanol • Mowimy Po Polsku

TOY DRIVE SUCCESS

Our toy drive was Saturday, December 13th. We had a great turn out. Four Marines joined Santa in greeting members that stopped by to drop off toys for our Toy Drive. Our Angel Tree Tag drive was down just a bit from last year however we collected more toys for the Toys for Tots program than last year. Once again, our Santa for a Senior was successful. We collected approximately 20 more gifts than last year. We served cookies and juice and each child that visited Santa received a bag full of goodies.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Scholarship applications are now available on-line at CTCU.org or at any of our three offices. Community Trust Credit Union offers four \$500.00 scholarships.

Application must be postmarked on or before March 6th, 2009. Applicant must be a high school senior, who will be enrolled in a college or technical school within six months of graduation from high school.

TurboTax® Federal Free Edition

Prepare, print and e-file your simple federal return for FREE.

The uncomplicated, unexpensive, untaxing way to get the **MAXIMUM REFUND** you deserve.

- ✓ Help & Advice available online 24/7.
- ✓ Audit Support Center download included.
- ✓ Refund in as few as 8 days with e-file and direct deposit.

It's easy! It's free!
Get started at:

WWW.CTCU.ORG



PROTECTION FOR YOUR PET

Community Trust Credit Union now offers pet VPI Pet Insurance, health insurance for pets. Pets are unpredictable. While it's hard to anticipate

accidents and illnesses, you can be prepared for them. From routine office visits to significant medical incidents, VPI Pet Insurance provides protection for your pet when he or she needs it most. With affordable, comprehensible healthcare coverage for dogs, cats and exotic pets, a VPI policy is the smart way to protect your pet's health and well-being.

For more information check out our website at www.ctcu.org.



SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

Martha Schmidt

January 4 13 years

FEBRUARY

Michele Lipka

February 5 8 years

INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

Community Trust CU Members who don't use any other services except a small savings account (under \$500) and haven't had any activity in that account for one year, will be assessed an inactive account fee of \$10 per month. If your account falls into the category, there are several ways to avoid the charge:

- Make a deposit at least once during the calendar year or increase your balance to over \$500.
- Open a new CTCU Checking, VISA or loan account.
- Transfer remaining funds to another type of CTCU account and close the inactive account.

We understand that no one likes a charge, but in fairness to our members who are actively using the credit union, we need to take this step. Thank you.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Community Trust Credit Union will be closed on the following holidays:

New Years Day

Thursday, January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 19

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 16

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be sure to let us know if the address or phone number you have on file at Community Trust Credit Union has changed. This will ensure proper delivery of any mailed material, including Tax Documents. Thanks!

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Community Trust Credit Union Annual Meeting is at our main office in Gurnee, 1313 Skokie Hwy., on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30pm.

AVAILABLE 24/7/365

You can still take care of your personal financial needs when we are closed by:

- Calling 800-837-3059 to access our Any-Hour Loan Service (open 24/7);
- Using your CTCU ATM card or MasterMoney Debit Card to get cash;
- Calling ART - CTCU's audio response teller at 847-662-7346 (outside 847 area, dial 877-457-7553);
- Or going on-line to www.ctcu.org.



Financial Focus is published quarterly for the members of Community Trust Credit Union.



OFFICES

1313 Skokie Highway
Gurnee, IL 60031

1263 N. Route 83
Grayslake, IL

1380 Deep Lake Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046

PHONE SERVICES

Contact us at 847-662-2050
Toll-free 877-342-4788
(outside of 847 area code)

Any Hour Loan Application
1-800-837-3059

ART – Audio Response Teller
847-662-7346
Toll-free 877-457-7553
(outside of 847 area code)

OFFICE HOURS

Lobby
Mon-Thur 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fri 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sat 8:00 a.m. - noon

Drive-up
Mon-Thur 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fri 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sat 8:00 a.m. - noon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Madeline Lipka, President
Edward Clark, Chairman
Shawn Depke, Vice Chairman
Elmer (Bud) Reed, Secretary
Don Fontana, Treasurer
Gilbert Bennett, Sr.
Linda Wegge-Slipke
Gerald Crews