



TOWPATH TRIBUNE

A publication for members of Towpath Credit Union
November 2009

HOLIDAY LINE *of* CREDIT



Let us help make those holiday shopping sprees a little easier. Qualified members can borrow up to **\$2,000** at 10% APR* for 12 months! Open your line of credit and use as much or as little as you need, when you need it! Call us today!

*Annual Percentage Rate. A sample monthly payment based on a \$2,000 loan for 12 months at a rate of 10% APR would be approx. \$175.84. All rates are subject to change without notice. The Holiday Line of Credit is available from Nov. 1, 2009 - Jan. 31, 2010

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE HERE!

Just in time for holiday gift shopping we have the 2010 Entertainment books available at both branches for only \$30.00. Inside you'll find coupons for discounts on a wide variety of items such as dining out (from fine dining to fast food), sporting events, entertainment venues and even travel and hotels. Supplies are limited so make sure you pick one up on your next visit.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL

If you are planning on a holiday trip this year you should to let us know. Activity away from your everyday location will trigger alerts and can cause your credit or debit card to be temporarily blocked when you may need it the most. A simple phone call to let us know when you are leaving and where you are going may keep your transaction from being declined while you are away.

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED LATELY?

Have you moved within the last few months? Gotten a new cell phone or land line number? If so, you need to let us know! Giving us a call to update us on any changes is an absolute must in case we need to contact you.

EXTREME GREEN ONLINE SIGN-UP EXTENDED

We have had such a great response to our new Extreme Green Online Access & Bill Pay that we have decided to extend the online sign-up opportunity. If you have not already done so you can go to our website, towpathcu.com, and click on the Extreme Green box on the left side of the page. From there you will be asked to enter your account number as the username and then the last 4 digits of your social security number as the password.

When you are logged in you must immediately change your password. If you wish, you will also be able to change your user name at that time. From that page you will be able to access Bill Pay as well as perform other online transactions.

The Extreme Green Bill Pay System contains a feature-rich online bill pay product that meets the modern day-to-day needs of our members. **In compliance with federal regulations you must have a checking account to be enrolled in Bill Pay.**

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Both branches of Towpath Credit Union will be closed for:

**November 11
Veteran's Day**

**November 26 & 27
Thanksgiving**

BLACK FRIDAY ALTERNATIVE

Have you ever wondered why the day after Thanksgiving is often referred to as "Black Friday"?

As much as you'd like to think so, it's not because our wallets go into mourning as soon as they notice the thrill of the hunt in their owner's eyes. One theory states that the day was thus labeled because of the heavy traffic and stress that are synonymous with Black Friday.

The accountant's theory is more enlightening. Retail stores used to operate at a financial loss until that fateful day, when they would record a profit. Negative amounts were recorded in red ink and positive amounts in black. In simple English this means that Black Friday, for many stores, was the day they actually made money on their merchandise. Your money.

There are many reasons not to catch the Black Friday fever. Sure, holiday shopping is on the yearly to-do list. But getting up at an early hour of the morning to shiver in line at your store of choice and then get jostled by ravenous crowds to wait in another line is reminiscent of Soviet Russia. Thankfully, there are better ways to do your shopping.

Besides the much-advertised Black Friday sales, many stores get the jitters earlier. You can find great bargains, calmly and peacefully, a few weeks before the madness begins. The Internet also provides an array of Websites where you can check for bargains and compare prices on goods weeks before the shopping season officially kicks off.

You can even do all your shopping online, and save yourself the hassle - not to mention the gasoline. You'll probably end up saving money too, since shopping online let's you select exactly what you know you're looking for and your eyes aren't drawn to every other item on display. The same goes for using good old catalogs. If you're worried about breaking tradition, start a new one. You'll be happy to know that retailers have even coined a name for online shopping.

The first weekday after the Thanksgiving weekend is now known as Cyber Monday. Doesn't that sound a little less ominous than Black Friday?

So this year, don't set your alarm clock for five in the morning. Get a good night's sleep, and do all those things you never got to do on your day off. After all, there are so many places to go besides Wal-Mart.

Do you find it difficult to say 'I can't afford it'?

It's not a sin to live within your income. And if living within your means comes to not buying certain things that others can easily afford (or charge), you haven't done anything wrong. It's ok not to have enough money to buy everything you'd like. It's ok to save up and wait until you can afford things. And it's ok to use credit responsibly.

Next time you feel uncomfortable making excuses to your spouse, your children, your friends or your co workers, take a deep breath, smile, square your shoulders, and say with confidence: "I can't afford it!"

How much did you spend the last time you visited a Sams Club or BJs?

Paying for 'membership' at a discount club (read: store) doesn't guarantee anything. Certainly not low prices. The warehouse feel, high ceilings, and bulk packaging make you FEEL like you're getting a bargain and saving money, but don't get swept up into it. Think for yourself and do the math. If it isn't cheaper than your local grocery, hardware, or house wares store, leave it for others to buy.

Another potential pitfall: with prices of gasoline climbing, you may feel great about stocking up to 'avoid too many trips to the store'. But ask yourself: will this purchase really save you the trip?

Double Your Money

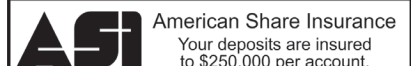
The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.



Fairlawn 2969 Smith Road, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333
Akron 645 N. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44310

Mon.-Thurs. 9 am—5 pm
Friday 9 am—6 pm
Saturday 8 am—Noon*Drive-thru only
Drive-thru opens at 8 am daily

Local Phone: 330.664.4700
Toll Free: 866.634.4700
Info Line: 330.664.4701
Website: towpathcu.com
Email: info@towpathcu.com



This institution is not federally insured, and if the institution fails, the Federal Government does not guarantee that depositors will get back their money.

**MEMBERS' ACCOUNTS ARE NOT INSURED
OR GUARANTEED BY ANY GOVERNMENT
OR GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AGENCY.**