

Main Office: 330.493.8325
Loan Dept: 330.493.7602
Online at www.starkcu.org

24-Hour Access: 330.493.3711
Anyhour Loan-by-Phone: 866.467.0427
Lost or stolen debit card call: 800.523.4175

JANUARY 2012 ISSUE

Celebrate the new year with some new wheels

Winter weather takes its toll on your vehicle. The last thing you want is to deal with car problems on a snowy morning. Turn to Stark Federal Credit Union for your next car loan. We've been doing car loans since 1961, but we've never had car loan rates starting as low as **2.75% APR***.

- ▶ No processing fees
- ▶ Free pre-approvals before you shop
- ▶ Competitive rates, even for imperfect credit
- ▶ Flexible terms to meet your budget
- ▶ Apply in person, online through our website at starkcu.org or by phone at **330.493.7602**



* APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Application subject to approval.

Get your statements faster with E-statements

Rain, snow, sleet and hail may not stop the mail, but \$3 billion in cuts to the U.S. Postal Service might slow it down. The Postal Service will continue discussions in May whether or not to close the Canton mail processing and distribution facility on Cleveland Ave. NW. If the Canton facility is closed, operations will be moved to Cleveland. This will almost certainly slow down local mail delivery, including your credit union statements.

The solution is easy and free. E-statements are a way to view your Stark FCU monthly account statement(s) on your computer. Sign up for E-statements while in SAFE@home. Click on the E-Statement link then click "Sign Up Online Now." That is all there is to it!



4th Quarter Dividends

Your Board of Directors has declared the following regular dividends for the 4th quarter of 2011:

**Regular Share Accounts &
Secondary Share Accounts
.25% Rate .25% APY**

Recover from Holiday Bills

Consolidate up to **\$1,800** of your holiday bills into one easy payment. You'll have **12 months** to repay the loan or pay it off early with no penalty! The rate is just **7.99% APR.***

Act today...this offer expires on **January 31, 2012!**

* APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Application subject to approval.

Important Tax Information Enclosed

If you received \$10.00 or more in taxable dividend income, your substitute 1099 is included with your statement. If you paid interest on a home equity loan, the form 1098 is also included.

New Year. New Hope?

Well let's hope so! Mortgage rates are still at historic lows and the Federal Government announced a broader range of mortgage products (HARP) that are specifically set up to help those that owe more on their home than it is worth.

In addition, there are rumors of more programs being implemented in the Spring of 2012. These programs would allow even more homeowners to take advantage of the lower mortgage rates. Only time will tell.





As for Stark Federal Credit Union...we are offering a full complement of products to purchase your next home or refinance your current home. We can also help you purchase or refinance your vacation home as well. Call Steve 330.639.2300



Steve Pflugh
Mortgage Originator

A Word on Passwords

As more and more online services are developed to make our lives easier, the more passwords you'll need to remember. The tricky part is creating a strong password that you'll remember but the bad guys can't guess. Here are steps you can take to create a strong password. Some or all might help protect your online transactions:

-  **Length.** Make your passwords at least eight or more characters.
-  **Complexity.** Use the entire keyboard and include punctuation, symbols and numbers. The greater the variety of characters in your password, the better. However, password hacking software automatically checks for common letter-to-symbol conversions, such as changing "and" to "&" or "to" to "2." Hacking software will also try every word in the dictionary, so
-  **Variation.** Change passwords frequently. Set an automatic reminder every three months to change your passwords to access your email, banking accounts, and credit card websites.
-  **Variety.** Don't use the same password for everything. Cybercriminals steal passwords on websites that have very little security, and then they use that same password and user name in more secure environments, such as banking websites.

Stark FCU Offering Loan Programs for Local Businesses

Local businesses are at the heart of our community, yet business owners tell us how difficult it is to get a loan right now. It seems many other financial institutions have lost faith in our community's determination to recover from the recession. If our businesses can't expand, unemployment rates stay high and our local economy won't grow.

Several local businesses have already chosen Stark FCU for their business loan. We offer term loans, commercial real estate loans, lines of credit, SBA programs and the Ohio 166 Program. Call us at 330.493.7602 to get started.



Credit Union Scholarships

Stark Federal Credit Union and the Stark County Chapter of Credit Unions will be awarding two scholarships for \$1,000 each.

Applications can be picked up in any Stark FCU lobby or on our website at www.starkcu.org. They need to be returned to the address on the application on or before **February 10, 2012**.



APPLY YOURSELF.

Thank you for the coats and toys!

We'd like to thank our generous members for donating coats and toys this holiday season. These items have been distributed to local people in need by A Community Christmas, a non-profit organization. This year, Stark FCU partnered with My101.7 in the "Christmas is for Children" toy drive. The effort brought in toys for more than 500 local children and over \$1,800 in donations.

Your generosity was overwhelming and truly made an impact in our community!



Employees at Transue & Williams in Alliance dropped off a pile of 70 brand new coats. These coats have been distributed to Alliance children.



Amy Malone and Jon Marochino from My101.7 WHOF perform a live remote broadcast from the Dressler Road office during the "Christmas Is For Children" toy drive.

Holiday Closings

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 16, 2012

Presidents Day

Monday, February 20, 2012

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sat. 9:00 a.m. - Noon

(Saturday drive-up only service at Dressler)

24 Hour Access Line 330.493.3711
Anyhour Loan By Phone 866.467.0427

To report a lost or stolen
debit card call 800.523.4175

To report a lost or stolen
Visa card call 800.808.7230

Dressler Office

4100 Dressler Rd. NW
Canton, OH 44718

Main Office: 330.493.8325

Loan Dept.: 330.493.7602

Alliance Branch

310 Johnson Ave
Alliance, OH 44601
Office: 330.821.7225

Cleveland Ave. Branch

3426 Cleveland Ave. NW
Canton, OH 44709
Office: 330.493.8326

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Informational Meeting February 1, 2012

Your member-owned credit union is looking for candidates for key committees and the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please attend an informal meeting at the Dressler office on Wednesday, February 1 at 6:00 PM.

51st Annual Meeting April 17, 2012

We hope to see you at our 51st Annual Meeting for good food, discussion and door prizes. Hear about the financial status and operation of your credit union. Social hour is at 6:00 PM and dinner is at 6:30 PM at Skyland Pines. Watch for details.



Online at www.starkcu.org
Facebook: facebook.com/StarkFCU
Twitter: twitter.com/StarkFCU



STARK
Federal Credit Union

Q&A: Ask Our Financial Advisor

Q: I have been hearing about the Roth IRA... But how do I know which IRA is right for me?

A: Very good question! There are several factors to keep in mind when deciding which IRA will potentially benefit you more. First of all, you need to take your own personal tax situation

into account. If you historically have had to pay taxes when you file, the Traditional IRA can help lower that bill when you itemize on your tax return. On the other hand, the Roth IRA is typically better for someone who either gets a refund and/or doesn't itemize on their tax return. The Roth is also better from a liquidity standpoint because you

can access your principal (what you've contributed), and withdraw your gains after holding the account for five years if you're over age 59 1/2. Lastly, you have more control over the Roth because there are no forced distributions by the government once you reach the age of 70 1/2.

IRA Fast Facts...

Traditional IRA	Roth IRA
<p>Gives you a tax deduction in the contribution year</p> <p>Tax-deferred growth, meaning taxes are postponed until money is withdrawn</p> <p>Required minimum distributions at age 70 1/2</p> <p>10% penalty on any early distributions before age 59 1/2.</p> <p>Better if you have a shorter time horizon because the tax benefit is received immediately</p>	<p>Funded by money that was already taxed when you got your paycheck; no deduction</p> <p>Growth is tax-free</p> <p>No mandated distributions at age 70 1/2</p> <p>You maintain access to your principal. Gains can be withdrawn after 5 years if over age 59 1/2.</p> <p>Better if you have a longer time horizon for the account to grow and compound.</p>

Here is one more point that confuses many people. Remember that IRA is only a tax classification used by the government to let them know if a given account can still be taxed. An IRA is NOT an investment, in and of itself. It might help if you think of an IRA as being a piece of candy and its invest-

ment being the candy wrapper. The candy (IRA) can be wrapped (invested) in a money market, CD, mutual funds, stocks, bonds, even gold or real estate. It is independent of the fact that it's an IRA. The only thing that the term IRA tells us is the tax classification, not the investment. Thus, an IRA is not inher-

ently high risk or low risk. That all depends on what it is invested in.

If you have your own question for our financial advisor, send an email to lindsayh@hackenberg.biz and your question may be published in a future issue.



Hackenberg Financial Group

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EASY LOAN APPLICATION

Individual Credit Joint Credit

Member Name _____

Account Number _____

Joint Applicant's Name _____

Amount Requested \$ _____

Phone Number _____

Term _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Applicant's Employer _____

Purpose of Loan (Circle): Vehicle / Signature

Monthly Income \$ _____

If vehicle, what year, make & model?

Joint Applicant's Employer _____

Joint Applicant's Income \$ _____

Monthly Mortgage/Rent Payment \$ _____

Return this application to any office or fax to 330.493.1619.