

'Blocking' Can Tie Up Accounts

Everyone's nightmare: You're at a restaurant with a business client or a date and your debit card is declined. No one wants it to happen to them, but it can—even if you have enough money in your account to cover the bill.

It's called "blocking" and it's perfectly legal. It works similarly to the way credit card blocking works. For example, if you check into a hotel or rent a car, the clerk usually contacts the company that issued your card to give an estimated total. A hold then is placed on your card for an amount that is sometimes greater than the actual purchase amount. This hold can block your use of the money for up to five days on a debit card and possibly 10-15 days on a credit card.

For debit card users, blocking happens most often at gas pumps, but can occur whenever you use your card before knowing how much you'll be spending.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), merchants use blocking to make sure you don't exceed your account balance before leaving a gas station or checking out of a hotel, leaving the merchant unpaid.

Some tips to avoid blocking are:

- Use credit cards, not debit cards, for hotel bills & car rentals.
- When you're traveling, stop at stations of major gasoline brands.

You Could Win \$25

Members in good standing could win \$25! All you need to do is answer the following questions that relate to the articles in this CU-Tips edition. Answer all of them correctly and you will be eligible to win 1 of 4 drawings for \$25! **The deadline for submitting quiz entries is Aug. 8, 2008.** One entry per member please!

- True False Immediate family members of current RPEFCU members can join the credit union.
- True False Good credit saves you money.
- True False This is the 2nd year to use electronic voting from your home for Board Positions.
- True False Dividends posted to your account do count as a transaction and keep your account current.
- True False 'Blocking' happens most often at hotels.

Name: _____

Member #: _____ Date: _____

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO:
Roanoke Postal Employees' FCU • ATTN: CU-Tips Quiz
PO Box 12405 • Roanoke, VA 24025-2405

Alexander Scholarship

Winning a scholarship can sure put a little stretch in your school dollars. If you're a student, any age, seeking higher education for the **2008-2009 school year**, you may want to consider this opportunity. The **Alexander Scholarship** is open to all RPEFCU members interested in seeking higher education and who meet the eligibility requirements. Ten \$1,000 Alexander Scholarships will be awarded in the fall. Applications are available in our offices, by mail or on our web site. All applications and supporting documents must be postmarked no later than Saturday, August 9, 2008.



Study Hard - It Pays!

RPEFCU recognizes the importance of education. We're proud of the hard work that you are doing and we'd like to reward you for it. If you're 17 or younger, we'll give you **\$2.00 for every final "A"** and **\$1.00 for every final "B"** average on your report card! If you take classes that are only for one semester (instead of the entire school year), we will combine two semester classes for the final grade. However, as summer comes to an end so does this offer. Be sure to bring in your report card by August 1, 2008. Good luck and keep up the good work! The maximum amount paid out on a report card is \$15.00.



NEW Hollins ATM

Make a deposit, get cash and check your balances!
Corner of Williamson & Peters Creek Roads, Roanoke.



Roanoke Postal Employees' Federal Credit Union

Is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative. It is run by a volunteer Board of Directors chosen by the members of the credit union.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12405 • Roanoke, VA 24025

Office Locations:

419 Rutherford Ave. • Roanoke, VA **Office Phone:** 540-342-3429
4025 Brambleton Ave. • Roanoke, VA 800-342-3429
3300 Odd Fellows Rd. • Lynchburg, VA **Office Fax:** 540-345-0500
105 Teal Court • Danville, VA

PAL: Roanoke area: 855-3600 • Toll-free: 800-450-2345

MyCU@Home Online Banking available at www.rpefcu.org



Our Members. Our Strength.
Our Future.

CU-Tips

July 2008



Loans subject to qualification. Rates and terms subject to change.
Your rate may vary due to the term you choose.

Sizzling Low Rates and a Cool Ride!

New Cars as low as **5.75%** APR

Used Cars as low as **6.25%** APR

FREE Roanoke Postal Sun Shade
with all new auto loans to keep your new ride **COOL!**

Special Offer for RPEFCU Members from MAGIC CITY



Here's some exciting news for RPEFCU members! Roanoke Postal EFCU and Magic City Ford Corp. have created a plan to save you money on a vehicle purchase and also make it a very easy and enjoyable experience.

This year Magic City is celebrating their 70th year in business. To help celebrate they are offering RPEFCU members special pricing of **\$70 over dealer cost** on new vehicles* **AND** all applicable rebates will still be passed on to you with each purchase!

To take advantage of this great offer, stop by RPEFCU and get pre-approved for your loan. Then contact **Tony Webb** to review their inventory or to set up a test drive. You can reach Tony at: tony@magiccityford.com, 540-345-0911 or 800-525-1890 ext. 239.

MORE exciting news! As of July 1, 2008, Magic City Motor Corp. will become a Lincoln-Mercury Dealer. Of course, the special pricing will apply to selected Lincoln-Mercury vehicles too!



Magic City, 809 Williamson Rd., Roanoke Va. 24016
* Some models are excluded from this offer.

New Danville Office

We are happy to announce that on June 1, 2008 Danville Postal Credit Union merged into Roanoke Postal Employees' FCU. The Danville Postal CU had served postal employees' and federal employees along with their families for more than 80 years. We are very excited and proud to be the new home credit union for these members.

Roanoke Postal EFCU membership currently covers 34 counties in Southwest Virginia that have approximately 257 USPS facilities. Those who may join Roanoke Postal EFCU are active USPS employees who work at a postal facility, employees who work regularly under contract for the USPS at a postal facility, or retired USPS employees who live in our 34-county geographical area. Eligibility to join is also extended to immediate family members of current Roanoke Postal EFCU members. Best of all, once you join, you are a member for life -- even if you move out of the area!

Please visit your new Roanoke Postal Danville Office located within the Main Danville Post Office at 105 Teal Court. **Toni Smith**, a Financial Services Officer will be at the Danville office every Thursday to help you with our products and services and answer any questions that you may have.



Toni Smith

Danville Office hours of operation are
Thursdays 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, closed 12-1 pm for lunch.



A Message From Our CEO

Jeff Thompson

Your Credit is Key

Did your mom and dad ever tell you how important it was to eat your vegetables and drink your milk so that you would grow big and strong? Have you ever said the same things to your children?

Did your mom and dad ever discuss the importance of financial responsibility with you? Have you ever discussed it with your children? I would venture to say that this should rank ahead of milk and vegetables. I can remember my dad saying, "We pay our bills before we eat."

Good credit can be your best friend and bad credit can be your worst enemy. Good credit can open so many doors for an individual as you move through life. It can help you get a job. It can help you buy a car to get to your job. It can help you get your first apartment. It can help you buy your first home. It can help you through difficult situations.

Good credit will also save you money. It will allow you to dictate price when you're shopping for a new car instead of being at the mercy of the car dealer. It will allow you to dictate the interest rate for your car loan instead of being at the mercy of some finance company. It will also allow you to get the best terms for a mortgage loan when you buy a home.

How's your credit? If you're not sure, come by the credit union and any of our Financial Service Officers will be glad to discuss your credit with you. We want our members to always be able to get the best deal possible.

What's the best advice I can give you?

Before you borrow from anyone, talk to your credit union first. No one is going to look out for your best interests better than we do.

Thanks for being a member owner!

Sincerely,
Jeff

Annual Meeting

October 5, 2008 ♦ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

All members and their families are invited to attend our Annual Meeting at Brae Loch (Boxtree Lodge) in Vinton, VA on Sunday, October 5. **We'll start with a lunch buffet from 1:00-3:00 PM.** During lunch, we'll continue with fun and games for the kids. **The business meeting will begin at 3 PM.** Members will learn about our CU's financial condition, various committee reports will be given, scholarships will be presented and election results will be announced. Door prize winners will be selected throughout the day. Please remember, only RPEFCU members are eligible to win door prizes.

Notice:

New accounts will not be opened during the annual meeting.

VACUPAC drawing this year will be a 50-25-25 split. With 50% going to VACUPAC and 2 winners receiving 25%.

Voting Days & Changes to Voting

The benefit of Voting Days as an alternative to traditional voting at the Annual Meeting is a unique way to exercise your freedom of choice. Because of possible changes in voting options, you will receive a separate mailing from us in late August that will detail any changes in the voting process and your voting options. Included in this special mailing will be absentee ballot information and directions to the annual meeting location at Brae Loch (Boxtree Lodge) in Vinton, VA.

Voting Days for the 2008 election will be held in the Lynchburg Office and both Roanoke Offices on the following days:

Wednesday, September 17
Thursday, September 18
Friday, September 19

Danville Office will hold its 2008 voting day on
Thursday, September 18

Nominations & Elections

By being nominated, these candidates have actively shown their dedication and interest in serving CU members through volunteer efforts that shape and guide our CU. Take a moment to get acquainted with our candidates and cast your vote! Three of the Board positions elected will serve a 3-year term, one position will serve a 1-year term. The one Credit Committee position will serve a two year term.

Board of Directors Election (4 positions available)

John Deatherage John is a retired USPS employee, CU member for 38 years and dedicated volunteer. He has previously served on the Supervisory Committee and helps with setup for our Annual Meetings. John has also held positions on the local, district and state levels of NALC.

Donald Draper A Credit Union member for over 17 years, Donald is also a member of NAPS and NFPA. He has previously served on our Education Committee and is looking forward to becoming more involved in the credit union.



Paul English Paul has been a CU member for 30 years and is currently a RPEFCU board member. He is very active in his church and is a NALC union officer. Paul embraces the true philosophy of credit unions, people helping people, daily in his personal life.



Janice Gray A Credit Union member for 24 years, Janice plays an active part in keeping our Credit Union the best it can be by her volunteer position of board member. She also serves as secretary of the Ruxton Home Owners Association.



Richard Smoot Rick has been a credit union member for 24 years. He is a Mailing Standards Specialist and currently serves on our Board of Directors. Rick has also held volunteer offices for Roanoke Valley Christian Schools and Shenandoah Baptist Church Board of Deacons.



Larry Stores A Credit Union member for over 28 years, Larry serves in the Army Reserve and helps disabled veterans in his spare time. He loves our credit union and is willing to give his time to help make it the best it can be.



Judy Naff Judy works as a USPS Clerk in Roanoke and has been a CU member since 1987. She currently serves as a member of the Credit Committee and is active in her church.

Credit Committee Election (1 position available)

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- ♦ Borrow up to 90% of the market value of your home



We'll pay closing costs* for all new HELOCs!

* Excluding appraisals. HELOC must carry a balance for at least 24 months or closing costs will be refunded to RPEFCU. Loans subject to qualification. Rates and terms are subject to change.

Don't Let Your Account Go Dormant!

The Division of Unclaimed Property requires that all financial institutions report dormant accounts annually to the State of Virginia. For our credit union, a dormant account is presumed abandoned (dormant) five years after the date of a mailing of a statement or other notification that was returned as undeliverable and if it has not had activity in five years. Dividends posted to your account and phone transfers do not count as a transaction.

We will be contacting our members who are considered dormant in the near future. If you are contacted by us please stop by, call, write or e-mail us to verify that your account is active. Please direct your inquiries to **Rose Hoback, extension 3617**. If your account is dormant, making a deposit or withdrawal in person will bring it out of dormancy.

Now is the perfect time to review the many services offered by your credit union.

Important Stuff

Holiday Closings

Monday, September 1
Labor Day

Monday, October 13
Columbus Day

CU Night at the Ball Park

Lynchburg City Stadium
July 10th Game starts at 7:00

Bring the family and enjoy a night of fun and excitement as the HillCats go up against the Winston-Salem Warthogs. **Free** tickets will be available in all RPEFCU lobbies in July. **One ticket gets the whole family in!**

Christmas Clubs

Club amounts will be transferred into savings accounts on 10/01/08. You can withdraw or transfer your Christmas club money by ATM or debit card, and by using MyCU@Home or PAL.

New Christmas Clubs for 2009

New club deductions for 2009 can be started anytime. Start thinking now about what you want to "sock" away for the next holiday season!

International Credit Union Day

Keep watching your statements for flyers with information on this year's ICU Day festivities, which will be on Thursday, October 16th.

Your Credit Union: It's a Family Affair

At Roanoke Postal EFCU, when you become a member, your family also can become members. It's one of the many ways the people you know and care about can benefit from the great financial services you're receiving.

Your siblings, parents, children, grandparents and grandchildren can all join because you are currently a member. Help improve your family's financial lives today—encourage them to become members of RPEFCU!