

# Centraspectives

Spring 2005

## Holiday Closings

5/30 Memorial Day

7/4 Independence Day

## 2005 Classic Travel

Conway Tours invites you to travel along on these great trips:

### April 17–May 1

14-night Panama Canal Cruise on Celebrity Cruise Line, a 5-star ship.

Ensenada, Cabo San Lucas, Acapulco, and Huatulco, Mexico; Costa Rica; Panama Canal; Grand Cayman; Jamaica, and Fort Lauderdale. Starts at \$2,669 for ocean view cabin. Includes air, transfers, taxes, and cruise.

### May 5–23

Fiji, Australia, & New Zealand.

Fiji 2-nights, Phillip Island, Little Penguin Parade, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney Opera House, Christ Church, Queenstown, Milford Sound, and Mount Cook National Park. \$4,069 per person.

Call Martha at 812-379-9811 or toll-free at 877-866-5619 for a detailed itinerary and for more information.

## 2005 Annual Meeting

Centra Credit Union's 2005 Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 21, in the National Road office lobby in Columbus. We will announce three \$1,000 CentraScholars winners, two \$500 share certificate winners drawn from our entire membership, and one \$500 travel voucher winner drawn from those in attendance. The doors will open at 6 p.m.

A Publication for the Members of  
**Centra Credit Union**



## Make Every Year Leap Year!

We're a nation on the go. There's work time, fitness time, child time, spouse time, parent time, friend time, and – if you're lucky – some quiet time. There's also wasted time.

One estimate says each of us spends up to 24 hours a year going to the credit union to cash or deposit our paychecks. Wouldn't it be nice to gain that time back and worry about one less thing?

Try direct deposit. It's simple, safe, and free!

With direct deposit, you authorize your employer or a federal agency, like the Social Security Administration, to deposit your check directly into your Centra Credit Union account so you can count on access to funds without visiting the credit union. Instead of a check, you receive a paper record of the transaction. Employers, for example, provide an earnings statement on payday showing net deposit and how much was withheld for taxes, company savings plans, or any other withheld amounts.

And direct deposit isn't just for paychecks. If you're receiving Social Security checks, Centra easily can switch you to direct deposit. The IRS also delivers tax refunds to accounts of both electronic and non-electronic tax filers.

## No matter where your check's coming from, direct deposit takes the worry out of:

- Stolen or misplaced checks. The Treasury Department reports that more than a million mailed Social Security and government pension checks are lost, stolen, or late every year. And, more than four million paychecks are lost or stolen each year.
- Delayed deposits. Your funds are deposited regularly, and on time. You get paid even if you're not at work on payday, or can't make it to Centra during business hours.
- Losing potential dividends. With direct deposit you earn dividends on funds as soon as possible. If you have to deposit funds in person, any delay postpones when your money starts making money.
- Lost time. What would you do with an extra 24 hours each year?



## International Credit Card Transactions

Effective April 2, 2005, the exchange rate for international credit card transactions will be a rate selected by Visa or Mastercard from the range of rates available in wholesale currency markets, which may vary from the rate Visa or Mastercard themselves receive, or the government-mandated rate in effect for the applicable central processing date, plus 1%.

Close a  
Home Equity Loan this

And take  
a 90-day

# SPRING BREAK

at Centra  
Credit Union from  
payments!



## Viewing Your Check Images Online... Free!

It's safe, easy, and free to view online copies of checks that have cleared your account.

To view your check images, log on to CentraLink and click the checking account suffix to view the account history. If you're not registered, enrollment is fast and free by calling 800-232-3642. Your check numbers will appear in blue if the image is available to be viewed. Click on the check number and the image will appear.

CentraLink also allows you to check your account history, make payments, and transfer funds between accounts 24 hours a day from any computer with Internet access.

Please note that checks written on Centra and presented at the teller window will be cleared at the time of presentment and its image will not be available for online viewing.

## 2004 Tax Alert!

The last day to make an IRA contribution for the 2004 tax year is Friday, April 15, 2005. Contact your local Centra office for IRA options to meet your financial needs.

## Fee Update

Effective June 1, 2005, the non-sufficient funds fee (NSF) will change to \$25 per check/ACH item.

**NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS.**

Rates As Low As Prime. No Closing Costs.\*  
Convenient Credit Card Access.



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

Offer current as of 3/1/2005, subject to credit approval, and subject to change. Variable rate based on Prime Rate as published every Tuesday in The Wall Street Journal and subject to change. Prime+0% for LTV of up to 80%. Prime+1% for LTV of 81-90%. \*Closing costs waived for loan-to-value (LTV) of less than 90%. Interest continues to accrue on principal during payment deferment period.



## Letter from the President

Dear Member,

If you are considering buying a home, I recommend that you start the process with a free mortgage pre-approval. A pre-approval letter not only gives you a price ceiling in your search, it could be very useful when submitting an offer and/or negotiating the purchase price of your home.

For example, getting pre-approved for a \$100,000 loan would help save you time and trouble by focusing your search to only those homes you can afford. Once you've found your new dream

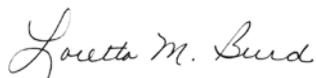
home, the seller might prefer the reassurance of your pre-approval letter versus an offer from a buyer who still needs to apply for a loan. In another scenario, you might find a home listed at \$105,000 and be able to negotiate a reduced price, having shown the seller your pre-approval letter for \$100,000.

Centra offers free mortgage pre-approvals for homebuyers in 30 minutes or less, making it an inexpensive and wise investment for you when you begin your home search. We also provide a copy of the pre-approval letter for your Realtor®.

Besides offering mortgage loans in all parts of the United States, Centra also features a range of financing options. Whether you're looking for a 30-, 20-, 15-, or 10-year term, we have the flexibility of fixed or variable rate loans. We also offer 100% financing, first-time homebuyer, and government programs.

Whether you're a sure buyer or just a browser, contact Julie Michael in our Mortgage Department at 800-451-8185 or at [mortgage@centra.org](mailto:mortgage@centra.org). She'll help you maximize your buying power with a pre-approval from Centra.

Sincerely,



## Federal **Financial Aid** and **Student Loan** Timeline

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 31. This must be done for each academic year in which you would like to receive federal aid. You can obtain a FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If you want to apply for a student loan, be sure to check "yes" to that question on the form.

A Student Aid Report (SAR) will be created once your FAFSA has been processed. You and the schools you listed on the FAFSA will receive a copy no later than 6 weeks after filing.

You will receive an award letter from your school notifying you of your financial aid award for the coming academic year. If you qualify for a Stafford loan, the school will either include a Master Promissory Note (MPN) with your award letter or instruct you to get one from a lender. **Although the award letter may include a preferred lender list, you still have the right to choose your Centra Credit Union.** To do this, just fill in our name and lender code (817517) when you complete the MPN and return it to your

nearest Centra Credit Union branch.

If your financial aid is not sufficient to cover the costs or you don't qualify for a Stafford loan, your parents or stepparents can apply for a PLUS loan. Call or stop in for an application.

Our experts are available to help you through the application process. Call our student loan helpline at 800-232-3642 ext. 350 during business hours and we will guide you through the process.



## Drive Down the Cost of Your Auto Insurance!

Your credit union membership could save you up to \$300 a year\*! MEMBERS Auto Insurance offers competitive group rates and fast online quotes that you can get at any time, day or night, in the privacy and convenience of your own home.

With MEMBERS Auto Insurance, your rates are locked in for an entire year, and you don't have to wait to begin saving. You can start your new auto insurance policy right away – even if your current policy isn't about to expire.

You get your quote in minutes after completing a simple online form. Then when you purchase your policy, you'll have fast, easy access to your account, so you can make claims, premium payments and policy changes online whenever it's convenient for you.

A MEMBERS Auto Insurance policy provides you the benefits of:

- **Affordable rates** just for credit union members
- **Multiple discounts**, including multi-policy, multi-car, safe driver and more
- **Anytime online account access** to report claims, make policy changes or print ID cards
- **Superior customer service**, with drive-in appraisal centers and access to a wide network of repair facilities
- **One-stop shopping** that includes homeowner's, renter's, boat, RV, motorcycle and more
- **Reliable coverage from Liberty Mutual**
  - The 10<sup>th</sup> largest insurer in the nation
  - Rated "A" (Excellent) for financial stability and operating performance by A.M. Best
  - Rated "A" (Strong) for financial strength by Standard and Poor's.

Start driving down the cost of your auto insurance. You could begin saving as much as \$300 a year today! Simply visit our Web site at <http://cfs.centra.org>, then click on the Auto Center or call 800-451-8185 ext 349 for a quote.

Coverage provided and underwritten by leading insurance companies, including Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. Insurance coverage and discounts may vary by state. Group discounts are not available in all states. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten, some applicants may not qualify. A consumer report from a consumer reporting agency and/or motor vehicle will be obtained on all drivers listed on your policy where state regulations allow (CA Dept of Ins License # OC46257). **The insurance offered is not a deposit and is not insured by the NCUSIF or guaranteed by your credit union.**

\*Figure based on an April 2003 sample of auto policyholder savings when comparing their former premium with those of the Group Savings Plus program. Individual premiums and savings will vary. 1437-P1098F1(0304)

### Ready to serve you at:

**1430 National Rd.\***  
Columbus, IN 47201  
812-376-9771 or 800-232-3642

**601 Union St.\***  
Columbus, IN 47201  
812-372-8811 or 800-451-8185

**2020 26<sup>th</sup> St.\***  
Columbus, IN 47201  
812-378-5962

**2010 W. 450 S.\***  
Columbus, IN 47201  
812-342-4403

**734 W. Main St.**  
Greensburg, IN 47240  
812-663-5807

**2105 N. St. Rd. 3\***  
Greensburg, IN 47240  
812-662-9392

**303 Clifty Dr.\***  
Madison, IN 47250  
812-273-8844

**975 N. Veterans Dr.\***  
North Vernon, IN 47265  
812-346-9596

**281 N. Gardner\***  
Scottsburg, IN 47170  
812-752-3377

**7812 St. Rd. 60**  
Sellersburg, IN 47172  
812-246-0697

**520 Jackson Park Dr.\***  
Seymour, IN 47274  
812-523-3230

**2503 E. St. Rd. 44\***  
Shelbyville, IN 46176  
317-392-2100

**11711 N. Pennsylvania, Ste. #101\***  
Carmel, IN 46032  
317-843-5380 or 800-421-4111

**4562 N. Shadeland Ave.\***  
Indianapolis, IN 46226  
317-541-1960

**4720 Baker St.**  
Lakewood, NY 14750  
716-763-4405

**US Highway 301**  
Whitakers, NC 27891  
252-437-9214

**West (Speedway)\***  
5836 Crawfordsville Rd.  
317-481-0916

**East\***  
10120 E. Washington St.  
317-890-9102

**South\***  
8811 Hardegan St. (County Line)  
317-882-1755

**Northeast\***  
6150 E. 82nd St.  
317-594-0134

\*Indicates a Centra office or Service Center with an ATM.

To report lost/stolen VISA or Mastercard credit cards: 800-449-7728  
To report lost/stolen MasterCard ATM/debit cards: 800-528-2273



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