

What's New!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR FINANCES,
YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE AND MANAGING YOUR MONEY.



Victoria Sanchez
Business Services
Representative

Dates to Remember

D.E.R. John Deere Tent Sale

Thursday & Friday, April 16 & 17, 9am – 6pm
Saturday, April 18, 9am – 7pm
Lake Jackson Branch Parking Lot
Go to TDECU.org for more information.

3rd Annual SHRED Day!

YOU READ IT, NOW SHRED IT!
Saturday, May 9, 8:30am – 12:30pm
Lake Jackson & Victoria Mockingbird Branches
Call 800.839.1154 for more information.

NOW OPEN

Our newest branch is located at 2318-B West Main Street, Port Lavaca, TX. For more branch locations visit TDECU.org.

TDECU Lake Jackson Business Services is now located at 208 Oak Drive South, Building 100.

Higher Interest on Checking – We've Got It!

At TDECU we're making your money work harder, and with an interest rate of 0.75% paid on checking accounts, it's only the beginning. An interest-bearing account is just part of the value:

- Unlimited withdrawals
- Overdraft protection
- FREE Visa® Debit Card
- FREE Online Banking and Bill Pay
- Access to over 37,000 ATMs nationwide

Reward your hard work with an account that works overtime. No limits, no strings attached. That's TDECU checking.

TDECU Helping Members Do Away with High Interest Credit Card Debt.

For many, using a credit card seems to be the simple answer to get what you need now. The downside is, of course, that this debt comes back monthly to haunt you and brings with it high interest rates. This is where TDECU is stepping in to help its members keep more of what they earn with these simple tips for getting the most out of using a credit card.

Take the time to read the fine print

Nothing can hurt a user more than being unfamiliar with the ins and outs of their credit card. Basics every user should know include: What's your current APR? How long will it last? Is there a penalty or a late-fee? If so, what's the penalty and the resulting new APR? What may seem small in detail is actually what will end up costing you more financially.

Don't choose a card for its perks or rewards

In most instances, you're paying for these rewards in the form of a higher APR. Instead, look for a credit card that offers a consistently low APR. You'll quickly find that in the long run this will be far more rewarding.

Use your credit card to build a stronger credit history

Using a credit card responsibly can help establish a good credit history and pave the way toward getting loans and other lines of credit later. To make your credit card work for you, be sure to make payments on time, and pay over the minimum amount required regularly.

Doing these simple things over a long period of time will help you establish a history of creditworthiness.

Look for opportunities to consolidate your high-interest debt

Save yourself the monthly headaches that come with having to deal with multiple credit card balances and debt by consolidating your balances into a single payment with a low APR. Here's where TDECU springs into action.

- Through April 30, 2009, members with a TDECU checking account can get 5.9% APR* on balance transfers made to a TDECU Credit Card (good for the life of the balance transferred). New cardholders who have a TDECU checking account can get 0% APR* for 6 months on all new purchases made with their TDECU Credit Card.
- If a low-interest credit card isn't the answer, TDECU's new Freedom Loan will help you to consolidate your high-interest loans and save per month. Let's say your total high-interest debt, from multiple creditors, totals \$16,625 and has an average APR of 10.75%, then your total monthly payments would equal \$826. But, if you refinance with a TDECU Freedom Loan at a low 8% APR** for 60 months, your new monthly payment would be only \$337.

You could be saving \$489 a month!

For more insight into how TDECU can help you manage and eliminate your credit card debt, visit TDECU.org today.

*The promotional APR on balance transfers completed on or before April 30, 2009, is effective until the promotional balance is paid in full. Offers valid February 1 through April 30, 2009. 0% APR for 6 months offer not valid with other 0% APR offers. You must open a TDECU checking account to be able to take advantage of the 0% for 6 months and 5.9% APR balance transfer offers. Account must be in good standing. To enjoy this offer, simply follow the terms in your credit card account agreement; otherwise, your rates may increase. Offer based on creditworthiness.

**Freedom Loan APR is based on creditworthiness and is subject to change. Rate includes 0.25% reduction for automatic payment from a TDECU savings or checking account. Other rates and terms are available.

TDECUCU INSURANCE

TDECUCU INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC

How Much Insurance Do I Need on My Home?



The amount of insurance that you should carry should be sufficient to rebuild your home in the event of a total loss. The cost to rebuild your home is determined using today's building costs and will not include the value of the land. Work with your agent to use replacement cost estimators that can assist in determining the proper values, visit with local builders to determine costs, or hire an outside appraisal company. It's easy to consider what you paid for your home or the appraised value, but you should exclude this from your decision.

When assessing what it would cost to rebuild your home, you need to consider several factors:

- **Material cost**
- **Expense associated with debris removal**
- **Architect fees (design and produce new plans)**
- **Inflation (due to shortage of materials after a catastrophic event)**
- **Change in building codes**

By considering all the factors in rebuilding your home, you can make an educated decision in determining the appropriate amount of insurance necessary to protect, in most cases, your largest investment. TDECUCU Insurance Agency, LLC is here to help you. Call 888.833.7358 or visit us online TDECUCUinsurance.org.

TDECUCU Insurance Agency, LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Texas Dow Employees Credit Union. TDECUCU Insurance Agency, LLC and Texas Dow Employees Credit Union are not affiliates of the insurance companies represented. Insurance products are not deposits; not NCUA insured; and not guaranteed by TDECUCU Insurance Agency, LLC or Texas Dow Employees Credit Union.



Buying a Home in Tough Times

Today's housing crisis may have you thinking twice about buying a new home, leading you to ask — is it a wise decision given the current economy?

The answer just may surprise you.

If you are looking to buy a home as a long-term investment, then the answer is yes. Plus, the benefit of owning a home offers far greater value than just the financial aspect. It is, after all, the place that will shelter and bring comfort to your family for many years to come — a place to call your own.

So before heading out to buy your new home, remember education is the key. Visit TDECUCU.org to tap into tools that can aid your decision. Here you'll find a mortgage calculator and a get-ready mortgage checklist, as well as contact information for our Mortgage Representatives. Also, be sure to inquire about our free homebuyer's seminars which occur throughout the year. Happy house hunting!

When making the decision to buy a home in a declining market, consider this:

- In a weak economy, the demand for homes is far less; this is an advantage, as it makes for a buyer's market.
- Buyers find that they can get more for their money and negotiate additional perks, like upgraded or additional amenities.
- A buyer's market also paves the way for savings. A homebuyer can lock in a low-interest mortgage rate.
- TDECUCU offers members a fixed-payment adjustable mortgage known as the Safe and Sound Mortgage.

Need a Business Loan to Continue Growing Your Company?

Here are four helpful hints to get you on your way.

1. Choose an experienced lender

Our Business Services staff are recognized experts and can help you identify the financial products and services that are the right fit for you and your business.

2. Get personal with your lender

Stop in and visit. Share with us your goals and objectives for expanding or making

improvements to your business.

3. Go local for your loan

TDECUCU Business Services makes its loan decisions locally, based on the local economy and needs.

4. Consolidate your accounts at one financial institution

When it comes to seeking a loan, let us evaluate your total financial profile and provide a loan that is tailored just for you.

So when it comes to your business loans, why go anywhere else? We offer loans ranging from commercial loans and expansion loans to lines of credit and equipment loans — all with low fees and competitive rates.

**Get more info and answers to your questions:
Call us at 800.839.1154 or visit us online at TDECUCU.org**