



RTP Federal Credit Union

THE SCOPE

Winter 2011

INSIDE VIEW...

Why Aren't You Maxing Out Your 401(k)?

Contributed by Jack Short, Financial Planner

What You Need to Know Before Buying and Financing a "Handyman Special"

Join Our Supervisory Committee

Funds Availability Policy Change

3rd Quarter Spotlight Winner

BRANCHES:

Research Triangle Park
21 Park Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30
(lobby and drive-thru)

Raleigh
7560 Creedmoor Road
Raleigh, NC 27613
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30
(lobby and drive-thru)

Cary
915 North Harrison Avenue
Cary, NC 27513
Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30
(lobby and drive-thru)

Downtown Raleigh
Terry Sanford Federal Building
310 New Bern Ave # 107
Raleigh, NC 27601
Mon-Fri 10:00-2:00

Member Call Center –
919.941.5700
Website: www.rtpfcu.org



Looking to Buy a New Car? Convenient, One Stop Online Shopping is Coming Soon to RTP Federal Credit Union

RTP Federal Credit Union is making shopping for an auto as easy as 1, 2, 3. Beginning in February, the online auto shopping experience will be easier and more convenient than ever. We have partnered with CUDL, the nation's largest credit union owned auto lending network, to bring our members their next generation vehicle research and shopping website.

The state-of-the-art CUDL AutoSMART website provides credit union members with a great one-stop resource to research and shop for their next vehicle. Using the CUDL AutoSMART site supplies you with an ideal opportunity to secure both a great deal and low credit union financing on your purchase by using the tools and resources you need to make informed car buying decisions.

The CUDL AutoSMART website will be easily accessible through a link on our homepage thus giving you, our members, easy access to the many exciting benefits designed specifically to provide you with a streamlined, enjoyable and information-rich experience. Simply visit our website at www.rtpfcu.org! The AutoSMART website offers members user-friendly navigation, strong vehicle research capabilities and an unmatched library of automobile shopping resources, including the very latest car reviews, helpful articles, buying tips and advice to assist you with your vehicle shopping.

Further, with CUDL AutoSMART, you will have the ability to connect with auto dealers in our community that welcome credit union financing, giving you the opportunity to get both a great deal and a great finance rate. You can easily and conveniently search vehicle inventories of our local dealers, influencing them to compete for your business.

Some of the many features members will have at their fingertips include:

- In-depth comparison of prices and features of up to three vehicles at one time
- Inventory search for new and used vehicles available from dealers in our area
- Vehicle value guides from Black Book, Kelly Blue Book and NADA
- Obtaining free inspection reports and history checks on used vehicles from Title Guard, AutoCheck and CarFax
- Extensive automobile reviews
- Loan calculators to help members compare the value of loans based on dealer incentives and special offers
- The real facts about low interest rate financing

Look for this exciting new feature beginning in February. So, when you are ready for your next vehicle, remember to take advantage of the many resources and features of RTP Federal Credit Union and CUDL AutoSMART.

RTP Federal Credit Union will be closed for the holiday:

January 17th:
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Coming Soon...

One-stop online resource for your auto buying needs.

www.rtpfcu.org

Life is full of possibilities. Get your share.



Join Our Supervisory Committee

We currently have one vacancy on our Supervisory Committee. This committee is charged with assuring safety and soundness in day-to-day operations of the credit union. Candidates for this position will be asked to oversee the credit union's annual audit, review periodic account verifications and verify that internal controls are being followed as required by credit union regulations. The position also attends monthly meetings of the Board of Directors whenever possible. We are seeking HR, accounting or legal professionals who would like to join this committee and take a more active role in the operation of the credit union.

If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact **Doug Wilkerson** at (919) 941-5700 x 114 or Wilkerson@rtfpfcu.org.

RTP Federal Credit Union 2011 Annual Meeting and Election of 2011 Officers

March 30, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Located at **Cato Research**, in the
Westpark Corporate Center.

4364 South Alston Ave.
Durham, North Carolina

Why Aren't You Maxing Out Your 401(k)?

It may be the best retirement planning tool you have.

by Jack Short, Certified Financial Planner®

Do you have a million dollars? At the moment, probably not. But if you invest and save diligently and let your assets compound, who knows? You may be a millionaire someday. In fact, you may need to be a millionaire someday. If you stay retired for 20 or 30 years – which could happen – it could take well over \$1 million to fund that retirement. In fact, a recent study of Registered Investment Advisors recommended retirement assets of \$1.5 million or more for baby boomers.¹ This is why you should contribute the maximum to your 401(k) plan.



Your 401(k) is your friend. For years, employers have wondered: why don't people contribute more to their 401(k)s? At the typical large company, the majority of employees contribute too little. Most people don't speak "financial" and don't look at financial magazines or websites. It's "boring." So they mentally file "401(k)" under "boring." But the advantages of a 401(k) should not bore you; they should motivate you.

Tax-deferred growth and compounding. The money in your 401(k) compounds year after year without tax penalties. The earlier you start, the more compounding you get. You can put up to \$16,500 into a 401(k) in 2010, and if you are 50 or older, you are allowed up to an additional \$5,000 in "catch-up" contributions. These amounts are indexed to inflation, so they may stay the same for 2011.

Potential matching contributions. Who would turn down free money? Big companies will often match an employee's 401(k) contributions. Usually, the corporate match is 50¢ for each dollar up to 6% of your salary.²

Reducing your taxable income. Many employees don't recognize this benefit. Your 401(k) contributions are pulled out of your wages before taxes are withheld (pre-tax dollars). So you get reduced taxable income and tax-free growth; you pay taxes on 401(k) assets when you withdraw them from the plan. With the new and increasingly popular Roth 401(k), the contributions are after-tax (no reduction in taxable income), but you can enjoy both tax-free compounding and tax-free withdrawals.

Why not take advantage? If you don't contribute greatly to your 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plan, you are ignoring a great retirement savings opportunity. Talk to your financial advisor about your 401(k) and other great resources to save for retirement.

Jack Short is a Representative with Securities Service Network and may be reached at RTP Federal Credit Union's RTP Financial Center. He can be reached directly at (919) 406-1818.

Citations.

1 - financial-planning.com/news/Garrett-retirement-scottrade-2665994-1.html [3/1/10]

2 - money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/money101/lesson23/ [10/22/10]

Discover the Convenient, Accurate, Money-Saving Way to Have Your Taxes Prepared Right Here at the Credit Union

20% Discount to RTP FCU Members

On-Site Preparation by Accutax — Serving Members since 1996

Accutax will once again be at our RTP Financial Center offering tax preparation services including current year, multi-state and prior year returns. Fees can be automatically paid from your refund, so no up-front cost is required. Accutax, offers RTP Federal Credit Union members a 20% discount on tax preparation services.

To make an appointment, call Jack or Denise at (919) 406-1818.

What You Need to Know Before Buying and Financing a “Handyman Special”

Are you buying a home and looking for a “bargain”?

If real estate prices seem high to you and you’re looking for a special deal, one thing you might want to look into is what real estate agents call a “handyman special.” What this means is that you’re buying something that is not ready to move in to because it first needs the loving touch of a handyman.

You really can get a reduction in price with a handyman special, but be careful: If you don’t know what it costs to make the required repairs and even worse, if you don’t know the full scope of repairs that will be required, you may end up spending more on the total price (the cost of acquiring the home in addition to the cost of repairs) than you would on a home you could just move into as-is.

Financing a home that requires repairs is somewhat more complex, so look into the details before you get started. Typically, you can buy a home with as little as 3% down or sometimes even zero down! However, a loan for a home that requires repairs is typically 90% of the total cost, which means you’ll have to come up with 10% of the cost on your own as a down payment.

When you look at a home that will need some help, it’s important to differentiate between the two types of repairs: structural and cosmetic.

Structural repairs are serious. They’ll come up on home inspections, and you may not get the approval to move into the home until those repairs are completed. Structural repairs can be anything from termite damage to a supporting beam that needs to be replaced, or even a sagging roof.

Cosmetic repairs, on the other hand, are skin-deep. A kitchen that needs remodeling, an old bathroom, carpet that should be replaced . . . In short, they’re the final touches that make your house a home.

While you might want to finance both the costs of cosmetic and structural repairs, you’ll find that structural repairs are more pressing and will be required before cosmetic repairs can begin.

It’s not always easy to look at a “dump” and visualize your dream home, but many people have done it and were happy with the results.

Before you make a decision, be sure to call Scott Kesselman at (919) 248-9325 for a free consultation. We’ll help you figure out what to ask when buying a home and tell you exactly what to look for.

Happy house hunting—and house fixing!

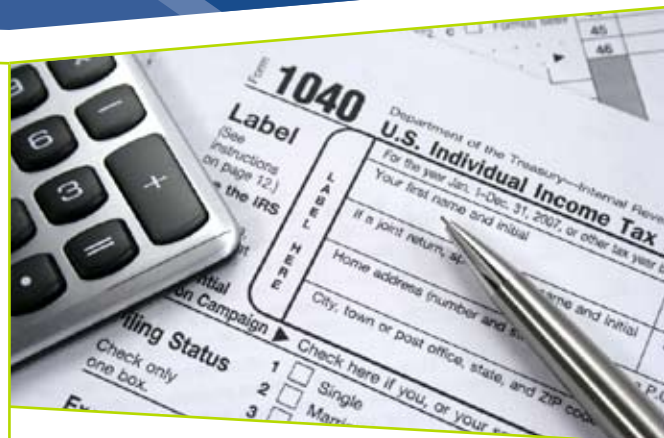
Want to learn more? Contact our Mortgage Loan Officer, Scott Kesselman at (919) 248-9325 or scottk@homeloancu.com to learn more about this offer. Rates won’t be this low forever, now is the perfect time to buy!



MORTGAGES
There is no better time than
NOW to buy a home.

**Don't Wait!
Rates Are Great!**

Contact Scott Kesselman at (919) 248-9325



TurboTax® Online at www.rtpfcu.org

We’ve teamed up with Intuit—makers of the trusted tax preparation software—to make TurboTax® Online available to members from our homepage www.rtpfcu.org. TurboTax® Online lets you organize and complete your taxes easily and correctly with step-by-step help and updated tax law information to simplify your tax return and help you get the maximum refund you deserve.

Drive Away Happy



Rates as low as 2.4%*

**Auto Loans — New, Used,
and Refinances.**

Get approved today!

Call a loan officer at (919) 941-5700





Important Notice:

Regarding Your Debit Card

Your RTP Federal Credit Union Visa Debit Card allows you to conduct transactions on the Visa, PLUS, and STAR debit networks, which generally require you to enter your PIN. Some merchants are authorized to accept non-Visa debit transactions without requiring you to enter your PIN. RTP Federal Credit Union has enabled non-VISA debit transaction processing and does not require that all such transactions be authenticated with your PIN. These non-Visa transactions are enabled through the STAR network. Please be advised that the terms and conditions of your agreement with us relating to Visa debit transactions do not apply to non-Visa debit transactions. For example, the additional limits on liability (referred to as Visa's zero-liability program) and any provisions of our cardholder agreement relating only to VISA transactions are not applicable to non-Visa debit transactions.

Examples of non-Visa types of transactions include, but are not limited to, situations where you initiate a payment directly with the biller via phone or Internet (i.e. Sprint) and situations where you respond to a logo displayed on a payment site and choose to pay directly through that network (i.e. PayPal payments). PINs are also not required for Bill Pay debits and credits for specific merchant types such as utility, property management and government payments.

Spotlight on ... Tori Browning, Assistant Branch Manager

3rd Quarter Spotlight Award Winner

Tori Browning was selected as the 3rd quarter Spotlight Award winner for exceeding the management team's expectations by going above and beyond the call of duty to demonstrate RTP Federal Credit Union's core values. Within the 1 year and 5 months that Tori has been at the credit union, she has made a positive impact on the members and co-workers she works with. She started out as a teller supervisor and within a short period of time, she was promoted to Assistant Branch Manager of the RTP Branch. Her consistent dedication to the members and the credit union values is seen day-in and day-out.

Amy Moore, Branch Administrator commented:

"Tori exemplifies RTP FCU's core values each and every day by consistently offering superior, personalized, friendly service to our Members by recognizing their needs and often shortening her lunch or going out of her way to help both members and co-workers alike."



2011 Fee Changes effective March 1, 2011

Non-Sufficient Funds (each item)	\$26.00
Courtesy Pay (each item)	\$24.00
Uncollected Funds (each item)	\$26.00
Travelers Checks for One	\$5.00 per hundred
Travelers Checks for Two	\$7.50 per hundred
Domestic Wire Transfer	\$15
Foreign Wire Transfer	\$35

For any questions regarding these fee changes, please contact your nearest branch location or the member call center at (919) 941-5700.

Is Jack Frost Nipping at Your Wallet?

**Holiday Loan
starting at
9.99%***



*Restrictions apply. Rate and terms may vary based on credit history and profile. For a limited time only.

Hurry for a limited time only!

Call a loan specialist today at (919) 941-5700.

Visit our website for more information.

www.rtpfcu.org