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BRANCHES:

Research Triangle Park
1005 Slater Road
Durham, NC 27703
Mon-Th 9-5/Fri 9-6
Drive-thru open at 7am Mon-Fri

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)

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



The Truth About Identity Theft

By Doug Wilkerson, President

It's difficult to pick up a newspaper, turn on the news or go online without seeing or hearing a warning about identity theft and fraud. It's one of America's faster growing crime sectors - if not THE fastest growing. There are many, many schemes today - with more being developed every day.

A lot of attention is being focused on electronic crimes, and it's true, there have been some instances recently where someone hacked into a computer system and obtained card numbers of thousands of consumer credit cards. But, the most common and successful of all crimes involving the illegal use of people's private information comes from the simplest of places. You may be surprised to know that the theft of private information isn't through sophisticated computer programs and it isn't from hackers breaking into computer systems. The biggest source of personal, private information is - now get this - the victims themselves! Can you believe it?! In most cases it's the victim themselves that gave away the information.

Last year, we added a new section to our web site to help alert our members to the most popular and recent schemes being run on people to trick them into giving away their private information. It seems that progressively, the schemes are becoming smarter and bolder, and that people are falling victim to schemes that trick them into giving away information that causes fraud, financial losses, and most importantly, damage to your good name and credit history, which is very difficult to correct.

The personal computer, the internet and email have compounded this situation and made it easier for thieves to appear to be more realistic. It doesn't take a lot of computer skills to go to a

RTP Federal Credit Union will be closed for the holidays:

July 4th:
INDEPENDENCE DAY

September 4th:
LABOR DAY



web site, copy the logo and company information and send out a fraudulent email. A popular trick is when thieves contact you to "verify" your information. The most recent versions of this method involve the perpetrators copying the logo and information from NCUA (National Credit Union Administration) - the regulator of federally chartered credit unions and the provider of deposit insurance for all credit unions in the country. The scheme was simple - they sent fraudulent emails with the NCUA's logo saying that NCUA needed to verify your account information. It contained a realistic looking form to enter your name, address, social security number, credit card number and secret PIN. And, it contained the threat that your accounts would be frozen if you did not reply. In all honesty, it looked legitimate. Except, the federal regulator does not send this type of email. This scheme has also been conducted using VISA and MasterCard's name as well.

Now, let's think about this for a second. If someone legitimately needs to verify your information - they don't ask you to give it to them. In reality, legitimate businesses or government organizations do not initiate contact with you - that is, a real business or government agency would not contact you first - and then ask to verify your personal and private information.

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ASK YOUR MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICER:

My fiancé and I are deciding to purchase a home together. What should we keep in mind?

Whether single or married, a couple needs to learn their mortgage options, understand the financial implications, and make a decision that fits their needs.

Here's what to do:

- » Ensure you have the necessary credit rating. Credit histories are combined when you marry, so check your reports for inaccuracies, as both are reviewed.
- » Determine how much you can afford by asking for a FREE mortgage analysis. This will help to assess your combined financial assets and liabilities, such as steady cash flow, debt and investments.
- » Calculate your down payment. Ask about first-time homebuyer options or consider a down payment gift registry through an account with your credit union.
- » Decide what you value in a home, from space, to location, to style. Decide in advance what you're willing to spend and stick with it.

For more information, give your dedicated Mortgage Loan Officer, Jackie Fore, a call today at (919) 941-5038 or stop by her office at our Slater Road branch in Research Triangle Park.

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For example, we, and that includes all credit union employees, will NEVER call you about your account and then ask you to "verify" yourself by giving us your credit card number - or any other number.

Recently, we have had several members contact us about phone calls that they received. The basis of the call was that the member had won either a sweepstakes or a prize. All that was required of the member was to give their credit card number and agree to a small handling fee. Oh, and did I mention, it was a sweepstakes that the member did not remember entering?!

There are many other schemes that have been around for years and still surface every few months. Probably the most famous of those is known as the Nigerian scam because its first version claimed to be a member of the Nigerian government. In this scam, the person who sent the letter, the good guy, needs to get a large sum of money out of the country and hide it from the bad guys. He is so desperate and the sum of money is so large that he is willing to share some of it with you if you will just let him have your account number so he can put thousands or sometimes millions of dollars in your account for a few days. Of course, it is a scheme to get your account number so that they can start taking money out of your account.

There is another scheme which has become easier to perpetrate with computers. People offer something for sale through internet sales organizations such as eBay or even in the newspaper. The perpetrator sends what appears to be a legitimate postal money order for more than the purchase amount and naturally, they have some reason - usually a sob story - why they need you to send a check or money order back to them with the difference. And, yes, in the end, the original money order is a fraud, and the person that was selling an item lost the money and the item. Sometimes the member is protected and we can get the money back - but many times we cannot.

There are a few simple rules that can help you avoid losses, destruction of your credit rating and countless hours of frustration.

1. Don't hand your account information or your personal information, such as social security information, out to someone over the phone, through the mail or over the internet. This is especially true if the party that is asking for your information contacted you first. If they say that they need to verify your information, chances are they don't really have it and probably shouldn't.
2. If someone contacts you about your accounts at the credit union, you should hang up and call us immediately - don't give them anything. It's very simple - we will NEVER, that's right, NEVER initiate contact with you in any form and ask you to verify your information by giving us private information.
3. Remember - if it's too good to be true - it probably isn't. Don't be tricked into giving out your personal or account information by someone promising to send you money or prizes. If you have legitimately won something, they would have a legal way of notifying you.
4. Be smart. Be suspicious. Don't trust people you don't know with your information. If someone calls you, or emails you, or faxes to you, or sends you something in the mail and wants your account numbers or your social security number, call us first.

Higher Insurance Coverage for Retirement Accounts

Important Information About Your NCUA Insurance Coverage

Effective April 1, 2006, Congress passed a law that increased the limit on federal deposit insurance coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for certain retirement accounts insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The increase in coverage to \$250,000 for retirement accounts is important because many people saving for retirement have accumulated well in excess of \$100,000. There's also the added convenience for people who previously may have opened retirement accounts at more than one financial institution to get full coverage for more than \$100,000.



Certain retirement accounts will now be insured up to \$250,000. The higher insurance coverage applies primarily to Traditional and Roth IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts). Self-directed Keogh accounts, "457 Plan" accounts for state government employees, and employer-

sponsored "defined contribution plan" accounts that are self-directed are also included. Under the new rule, the money in your retirement accounts at each insured financial institution is added together and the total is insured up to \$250,000. Your retirement accounts are also separately insured from any other savings you may have at the same institution.

The basic insurance coverage for other savings accounts is still \$100,000.

The \$100,000 basic insurance coverage applies to Checking Accounts, Money Fund Accounts, Certificates Accounts, and other savings accounts. However, there are ways to qualify for far more than the basic coverage at one insured institution. Please give us a call at 919-941-5700 for additional details.

If you or your family has \$100,000 or less in all of your savings accounts at the same financial institution, you don't need to worry about your insurance coverage. Your funds are fully insured. If you have more than \$100,000 on deposit at any one institution, you should take the time to be sure they're fully insured.

Note: Your credit union accounts are insured by the NCUA. NCUA insurance only applies to deposits, not investments. NCUA does not insure the money you invest in products such as mutual funds, stocks, bonds, life insurance policies and annuities – even if you purchased them from an insured institution.



The Power of Online Banking

But is it really safe?

The most common question we are asked about Online Banking is "Is it safe?" The simple answer is "Yes". When visiting our Online Banking sign-on page, your browser establishes a secure session with our server. RTP Federal Credit Union's servers require the browser to connect at 128-bit encryption.

How strong is 128-bit encryption? Well, it's the highest level of online security currently allowed by U.S. law. The strength of encryption is based on the number of possible combinations a lock can have. The more possible combinations, the less likely someone could guess the combination to decrypt the message. Stealing information at this level is virtually impossible (no matter how easy it might seem when you watch these movies about genius computer hackers).

For more information, please visit our website at www.rtpfcu.org and click on "Security".

Coming this August . . .

Member Appreciation Day

Stay Tuned for More
Details !!



Membership Benefits

Don't forget to take advantage when making your summer plans!

Springmaid Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, SC

RTP Federal Credit Union Members receive a discount of 10% off of all regular prices at Springmaid Beach Resort. To book your beach vacation, call Springmaid Beach Resort's reservation line at 1.800.770.6895 and mention the code "CREDIT".

Biltmore Estate

Vouchers redeemable for discounted 1-day admission tickets to the historic Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC are available to members at any branch location. Each voucher is good for up to 4 tickets at these discounted prices:

Adult (age 17+) = \$36.00

Youth (age 10-16) = \$18.00. (Children

9 & younger are free with paying parent. Some visit dates excluded.)



Hertz Car Rental

Hertz Car Rental offers RTP Federal Credit Union members special year-round discounts on daily, weekly, weekend, and monthly rentals for business or pleasure; traveling in the U.S. or worldwide. Member Discount Cards with our CDP# discount code are available for members in our branches. Once you have your Member Discount Card, call 1.800.654.2210 or visit www.hertz.com to make your rental reservation, and present your Hertz Member Discount Card at the time of rental.

For more information, please visit www.rtpfcu.org.

RTP Federal Credit Union Employees Shine First Quarter Spotlight Award Winners

As a method to recognize employees' outstanding performance, we introduced a new Employee Recognition program on January 3, 2006. The program is designed to acknowledge employees who exceed their supervisor's expectations by going above and beyond the call of duty to demonstrate the core values that define the culture of RTP Federal Credit Union. From providing our members with superior, personalized service to the investment in the community, our core values are the driving force behind our day-to-day activities.

The following employees were selected as the 1st Quarter Spotlight Award Winners by the managers at each location. Thank you and congratulations for your hard work and dedication!



Carol Van Etten
*Loan Officer,
Administrative
Office*



Valarie Tharrington
Teller, RTP Branch



Melissa Smith
*Cormican,
Member Service
Representative,
Cary Branch*



Francine Pinette
*Teller, Stonehenge
Branch*

Shaving the Way to Cure Kids' Cancer

Be Brave, Go Bald!



St. Baldrick's, celebrated around St. Patrick's Day, is a world-wide charity event to raise money to help cure childhood cancer. In honor of the many children who lose their hair during chemotherapy treatments, participants in St. Baldrick's shave their heads to raise money for the cause.

Brent Wilson, Member Service Representative at the RTP Branch, shaved his head on March 23rd at the annual St. Baldrick's event in Raleigh. Through donations from family, friends, RTP Federal Credit Union members and employees, Brent raised more than \$1,200 in donations toward the fight against childhood cancer. This was Brent's second year participating in the St. Baldrick's event. Over the past six years, St. Baldrick's has raised over \$12 million toward the search for a cure.



RTP Federal Credit Union employee Brent Wilson shaves his head for the cause

Brent would like to thank everyone for their support of this worthy cause.