

## How to Amuse a Child

I grew up at a time when parents and grandparents did not worry about how to amuse their children. Adults would say, "Go outside and play," but somehow children found ways to entertain themselves.

I learned to braid hair by combing the tall grass that was too close to the house to be tamed by a lawnmower's blades. Petroleum jelly became my styling gel, and I coiffed that grass to my heart's content. I also used to make mud pies and bake them in a little cake pan that my mom let me have. I'll never forget the day that the little boy next door actually sampled my baked goods.

I can remember eventually getting a doll with rooted hair (a novelty in those days) that I combed until she was bald. When I was about seven, I got Wanda the Walking doll, which was powered by a windup key on her back. I loved her so much that when my little sister was born, I convinced my mom to name her Wanda. She would be worth about \$600 today, but, alas, she was a casualty of my growing up and leaving home.

When I was in elementary school, my mom sent away for a "Winkie Dink" kit for me. Consisting of a flexible plastic green sheet that adhered to the front of the TV and magic crayons, this toy allowed me to draw things to help Winkie Dink complete his adventures. I still wonder if sitting that close to the TV caused any permanent damage.

Those were the good old days when amusing children was easy. Instead of spending money on the latest gadgetry, try maintaining a cardboard box filled with found objects such as magazines, paper grocery bags, paper plates, crayons and markers that children may use to make their own creative toys and to entertain themselves. Most importantly, give your little ones the gift of your attention. Have a great summer.

*Vivian Daughtry, a retired school teacher, is the mother of three adult children and Nana to grandsons Kairon and Cameron.*

## Our Web Site Has Changed!

The new web site is organized by subject to make it easy to find links. For example, under our loan tab you can find access to our home mortgage site, a posting of our loan rates, a link to our loan calculator or you may apply for any of our consumer loan products. Give the new site a try. We're sure you'll like it.

## Your Credit Union Is Your Best Bet

Summer is the time when many folks start thinking of a new or used vehicle. Score your best deal by visiting your credit union first and let us pre-qualify you for a vehicle loan. Knowing how much you can afford and knowing you have the financing in place puts you in the best possible position to bargain with the dealer. Stop by or call your credit union today and let us help make your next vehicle purchase as pleasant as a trip to the beach.

### Hampton V. A. Federal Credit Union

P. O. Box 37  
Hampton, VA 23669  
(757) 723-8842 (voice)  
(757) 723-5493 (fax)  
(757) 723-8922 (audio response)

#### Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
and 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Closed daily from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
[www.hvafcu.org](http://www.hvafcu.org)

## Scorecard

*(As of May 31, 2010)*

Assets .....	\$8,316,261
Shares .....	\$6,719,795
Loans .....	\$4,125,387
Members .....	2,137

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# NEWS REVIEW

Hampton V. A. Federal Credit Union

Summer 2010



## Dear Members,

On July 1, 2010, we must change how we do business to comply with the new Truth in Lending regulations. The new regulation makes a distinction between closed end credit and open end credit. To ensure we are complying with the regulatory change, we have purchased new software for the staff, rewritten our lending guidelines and purchased new forms. The regulation requires more information to print on the statement and we've been working with programmers at our data processor so we can meet the compliance date.

Additionally, the new regulation details how we must manage our Open End Lines of Credit (loans 15 & 16). For this reason, we have decided to give each of our existing lines of credit an expiration date of December 31, 2010. This means you will not be able to draw or advance your credit line after the expiration date until we have had a chance to "update" your account information. We'll contact you individually to let you know what information we will require to renew your credit line. After your credit line has been updated, it will be renewed until the next, future expiration date.

The purpose of the regulatory change is to make all lines of credit conform to the Credit Card Act. You may remember that in February of this year we had to make all loans have a contractual monthly payment. Now all open end loans must have a predetermined "term" that "expires" and must be "renewed."

We hope you'll bear with us in the next few weeks as we make the necessary changes to our lending practices to conform to the new law.

*Wanda F. Bach*  
Manager/CEO

## Cash To Go With Travel Money Cards

Financial counselors advise if you want to control your spending, pay with cash, not a credit card. But if you're traveling, a wallet stuffed with cash can signal would-be thieves. That's why before you embark on your trip, you'll want to make the credit union your first stop so you can purchase a prepaid Visa Travel Money Card. They are safer than cash and accepted at all Visa locations. They can be used to withdraw cash at ATMs and you can reload the card up to three times after the initial purchase. Call or stop by your credit union for more information on the Travel Money Card.

## Please Pass the Word

Do you know someone who could benefit from belonging to the credit union? Because you are a member of the credit union, your immediate family is eligible to join! Don't forget to tell your coworkers the benefits of belonging, too. Please pass the word about the credit union difference. As a financial cooperative, our earnings don't land in the pockets of a few shareholders. Instead, they are returned to member/owners in the form of lower rates on loans and credit cards, higher rates on savings, or improved services. The more members who join the credit union, the stronger we become. So do yourself and your family a favor and direct them to the credit union. They will thank you for it, and so will we!

## Privacy Notice

Hampton V. A. Federal Credit Union is committed to providing financial products and services to meet your needs and reach your financial goals. We are equally committed to protecting our members' privacy. You can be confident that your financial privacy is a priority of this credit union. We are required by law to give you this privacy notice to explain how we collect, use and safeguard your personal financial information.

## How We Protect Your Information

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees who have a specific business purpose in utilizing your data. Our employees are trained in the importance of maintaining confidentiality and member privacy. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with Federal regulations and leading industry practices to safeguard your nonpublic personal information.

## Information We Collect and Disclose About You

We collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications and other forms;
- Information about your transactions with us or others;
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency;
- Information obtained when verifying the information you provide on an application or other forms. This may be obtained from your current or past employers, or from other institutions where you conduct financial transactions.

We may disclose all the information we collect, as described previously and as permitted by law, to companies that perform marketing services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with whom we have joint marketing agreements. To protect our members' privacy, we only work with companies that agree to maintain strong confidentiality protections and limit the use of information we provide. We do not permit these companies to sell the member information we provide to third parties.

In order to conduct the business of the credit union we may also disclose nonpublic personal information about you under other circumstances as permitted or required by law. These disclosures typically include information to process transactions on your behalf, conduct the operations of our credit union, follow your instructions as you authorize, or protect the security of our financial records.

If you decide to terminate your membership with Hampton V. A. Federal Credit Union, we will not share information we have collected about you, except as permitted or required by law.

## Dates to Remember

Hampton V. A. Federal is moving its credit card portfolio to a new service provider. During the week of July 18, 2010, we will start to mail the new Visa cards. You have been assigned a different account number, so be sure to notify any company that bills your old Visa card regularly of your account number change. Your new card cannot be activated before Monday, July 26, 2010.

The credit union will move your Visa balance to the new database over the weekend of July 24 & 25. Once our old database has been moved to the new server, your old Visa credit card will not work. This will affect all cards whose account number begins with 4112 2000, 4112 2010 and 4242 5950.

We suggest you plan to use an alternate means of payment over the weekend of July 24 – 25, 2010 in case we are unable to process your request for a purchase authorization. Our system will be back up and running on Monday, July 26; however, we will only be able to process authorizations from the new card. The old card data base will have been completely shut down and cannot be re-activated.

If you have a credit union Visa card and you are not sure you understand this message, please give us a call at 757-723-8842 before July 23, 2010.

## Credit Scores and You

Everyone is talking about credit scores. Songs have been sung to them, web sites have been devoted to them and “fix it” companies are springing up like daffodils. Are credit scores really that important? The answer is: Yes!

What exactly is a credit score? A credit score is a lot like a school exam. Everyone starts the class with a score of 100%. However, for each wrong or incomplete answer, a value is deducted. A credit score works similarly. Each time you pay an account late or a company has to file an action to collect, points are deducted from your credit score. A potential creditor can read the score and determine how well you pay.

What's the best way to improve a credit score that may be low? The answer is simple: pay all bills on time and as agreed. What is “paying as agreed?” Say you have a loan and the contract requires you to pay \$200 on the first. Do you pay your \$200 on the (a) first day of the month; (b) first half of the month; or (c) just before the month ends? If you answered (a), your score is 800. If you answered, (b) your score is 650 and if you answered (c) your score is 580.

Think of paying bills as an appointment for a cruise. If your ship sails at 7:00, you'll be disappointed if you arrive at the dock at 7:30. Good paying habits will be reflected in your score and will ultimately lower the financing cost of items you buy on credit.

How can you tell if your credit score is good or whether you need improvement? Most lenders consider a score in the 650-700 range as normal. Very good is a score in the 701 – 750 range and excellent is 751 and above.

What should you do if your score is below 650? You should probably review your spending habits to see where you can make improvement. Remember a credit score is a numeric expression of your payment behavior so it will improve if your behavior improves.

Read statements as soon as they arrive. Write payment reminders on a calendar. Prepare a budget so money intended for a bill doesn't get used for another purpose.

What should you do if your score is “bad?” Improving a credit score is a lot like losing weight. It won't happen overnight, but with perseverance and determination, you can improve. If you feel you need professional help, call Consumer Credit Counseling, a division of the United Way Agency, at (757) 826-2227. Their office is located at 2021 Cunningham Drive, Ste 400, Hampton, Virginia 23666.

## Are You Traveling This Summer?

When adding all the expenses for a vacation (air travel, hotel, food, and attractions), it's easy to just say “charge it” and put it on the credit card. Let your credit union suggest a more sensible alternative: Apply for a vacation loan and save the credit card for emergencies.

With a credit card, your vacation gets rolled into other purchases, and if you make only partial payments, you're never sure when you're finished paying for that vacation. With a vacation loan, you pay fixed payments on a fixed amount, and you know when you're done paying for it.

Don't get us wrong; you should take your credit card with you on your vacation. In certain instances – like renting a car for example – a credit card is a necessity. But don't use the credit card to float the whole vacation cost. It's great if you've saved for the trip, but if you need to borrow, stop by or call the credit union today and let us help you with a vacation loan.