

SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS

CREDIT UNION

Everything we do, we do for You!

Winter 2012



1102 South Cascade Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 249-5319 or 1-800-301-5129
Fax (970) 249-1377

www.sjmcu.org

24/7 Audio Response Number:
866-489-5570

Branch Hours
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Drive Up Hours
Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Holiday Closings
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 16, 2012
President's Day
Monday, February 20, 2012



Save the Date...

Mark your calendar to attend San Juan Mountains Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Elk's Lodge.

Join us to learn about San Juan Mountains growth, success, and plans for the future. You'll have the opportunity to visit with fellow members, meet the staff, enjoy some great food and be entered to win some fabulous prizes.

Interested in helping shape the future of San Juan Mountains? As a not-for-profit cooperative financial institution, credit unions elect officials who volunteer their time and talent to serve the credit union.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and expertise as a San Juan Mountains Board Member, send a letter of interest and/or your resume to our nominating committee at the address below by **March 1, 2012**.

San Juan Mountains CU
Attn.: Nominating Committee
1102 S. Cascade Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401

Your support is the key to our success, now and in the future.



Notice to All Members...

Has your Contact Information Changed?



When was the last time you updated your information with the credit union? For your account security, it's important that we have your current information on file.

We are asking you to contact us if you have had any information change, for example, beneficiaries and identifying information, current address, phone number, etc. Please call us or stop by and speak with one of our staff to update your account information.

At San Juan Mountains CU, we are working hard to provide you with the best service possible.

Home Loans Aren't "One Size Fits All"

Your home loan needs aren't like anybody else's. When it comes to home loans or refinancing, there are so many variables - different terms, down payments, special circumstances, fixed or adjustable rates, just to name a few.

And the good news is, all those variables mean we can tailor a home loan that's a perfect fit for you and your budget.

For all your mortgage needs, talk to Cindy at 970-249-5319 ext. 2004.



Treasury to End Over-the-Counter Savings Bond Sales

The Bureau of the Public Debt has announced that as of January 1, 2012, paper savings bonds will no longer be sold at financial institutions. This action, which supports the U.S. Department of the Treasury's goal to increase the number of electronic transactions with citizens and businesses, will save American taxpayers approximately \$70 million over the first five years.

But savings bonds are not going away. Electronic savings bonds in Series EE and I will remain available through purchase in TreasuryDirect®, a secure, web-based system operated by Public Debt – where investors have been purchasing savings bonds, available 24/7, since 2002.

Opening a TreasuryDirect account is free, and, once it's established, investors can:

- Buy, manage, and redeem Series EE and I electronic savings bonds.
- Convert Series EE and I paper savings bonds to electronic through the SmartExchange® feature.
- Purchase electronic savings bonds as a gift.
- Enroll in a payroll savings plan for purchasing electronic bonds.
- Invest in other Treasury securities such as bills, notes, bonds, and TIPS (Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities).

Those currently holding paper savings bonds can continue to redeem them at financial institutions. Bonds, which have not matured, but were lost, stolen or destroyed, can be reissued in paper or electronic form. Series I paper savings bonds remain available for purchase using part or all of one's tax refund. For more information on this feature, visit www.irs.gov.

For more information about the elimination of paper savings bonds and how to enroll in TreasuryDirect, contact San Juan Mountains or visit www.treasurydirect.gov.

TreasuryDirect®

Celebrate Valentine's Day without Breaking the Bank!

February 14th can be the most romantic, and for some, the most expensive day of the year. Here are some Valentine's Day gift ideas that will cost you little or nothing, and your Valentine will love you for them!

A private picnic. Instead of going out to an expensive crowded restaurant, have an indoor picnic right on the living room floor. Light candles, play some music, spread out a blanket, and open the picnic basket.

A special dessert. If you feel you must go out, eat dinner at home then go to a restaurant for dessert. Going out on Valentine's Day is not always fun, but if you must go, make reservations. Even if it's just for dessert, the wait is bound to be long.

Spend time together. Look for free activities in your area like festivals or art shows, or get out for a hike or bike ride.

Make a CD. Think back to the days of high school and the mixed tapes/CDs we made. Do you remember how appreciative we were to receive one. Well why not make your significant other a CD. Choose their favorite tunes or go strictly romantic.

Clean the house. Really! Any man or woman would love to walk in to a sparkling, clean-smelling home on Valentine's Day (or any day).

Make a Valentine's card. Pull out the construction paper and make homemade Valentine's cards. Or cut out little paper hearts and sprinkle them all over the bed.

Showing someone you care does not have to be expensive. Put some thought into it and be creative!



Are you getting a tax refund?

If the answer is yes, two things come to mind:

1. You need to adjust your withholding or take a hard look at your tax situation. Remember, a tax refund isn't a gift; It's an interest-free loan that you gave to Uncle Sam, and now he's paying you back. You may want to consider adjusting your withholding so that your paycheck will be bigger, and you'll break even next tax time.
2. If you are getting a sum back that is large enough to make you think about what you should do with it, consider an investment in your future. Set up an emergency savings plan, Invest in an IRA or put your money into a Share Certificate. Whatever you do, make your interest free loan to the government work for you!

Contact us for more information on how we can help you invest in your future.

This article is general information only. It is not intended as financial advice and should not be relied upon as such. Contact your tax advisor for more information.

Ring in a Money Savvy 2012

Five Smart Suggestions to Get You Started

What better time to make powerful financial changes than the New Year? A money-savvy 2012 begins with a few smart suggestions.

1. Use, don't lose, those gift cards

Chances are you received at least one gift card this past holiday season. If you did, make sure you spend it. Consumers forget about millions of dollars in unused gift card cash every year.

2. Get your free credit report

Every consumer has the right to view his or her credit report for free once a year. Begin monitoring what your creditors are reporting about you. Simply log onto www.annualcreditreport.com, fill in the information and request a report. It's fast and easy.

3. Read all your statements

If you are like most people, you swiped your plastic with greater frequency in November and December than you did in previous months. Increased activity can make it easier to overlook errors and sometimes even fraud. So, inspect your statements carefully and dispute problems immediately.

4. Benefit from your employee benefits

If you're an employee, your company probably offers some benefits that can reduce the amount you owe in taxes. You may be able to set aside pretax dollars for health care, dependent care, and all sorts of transportation expenses. Find out what's available and sign up today.

5. Start saving

Saving even a few bucks is an immediate mood booster. If you owe money, put a little aside anyway. Doesn't seem possible? Then start saving your change. You'll be amazed at how quickly it adds up!

Make 2012 your best financial year ever!

