



Winter 2012



Happy New Year

from the staff at

Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union

Message from the President

Dear Member:

I hope that 2011 was a good year for you and your family and expect that 2012 will be better than the last for each of us. The economic troubles we have been going through for more than three years continue, with small, but significant, signs of improvement. There is still a way to go before this period of economic winter is brought to an end, but all in all, I am looking forward to a brighter new year!

The power of one voice has never been greater and social media influence is growing each day. I am sure that like me, you were impressed by the power of the collective voices that caused the largest financial institution in our country to reverse its decision to charge a monthly fee for the use of a debit card. The megabank's power will no doubt be reduced; as we now have seen, their behavior can be modified if enough people raise their voices in protest. In the same way, the voices of credit union members can and do impact events in our community and country. We need to continue to use our voices to speak of the benefits of belonging to a financial cooperative, and invite our family members and our co-workers to join the credit union. Many positive outcomes will occur with their membership – they will have a supportive financial partner to work with for all of their banking needs, the credit union will be stronger and our impact on the community will be greater.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Michael J. Hinchey
President

Discounted Lake Compounce Tickets for Credit Union Members and a Donation to the Hamden Food Bank

Yes, it was quite the “win-win” situation for all parties involved and was another way Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union continued to support the surrounding community.

During the summer months, Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union employees sold discounted Lake Compounce tickets, with \$1 from each ticket sold going to benefit the Hamden Food Bank. In total, WFFCU contributed \$250 to the Hamden Food Bank. Darlene Butler, Hamden Community Services Coordinator, said the center

services 325 families per month and the size of those families has grown. “So donations of food and cash are always welcome,” she said. The food bank is located in the basement of the M.L. Keefe Community Center, located at 11 Pine St. in Hamden.



WFFCU President and CEO Michael Hinchey was also pleased. “We will continue to give back to the community and

organizations such as the Hamden Food Bank, because they serve such an important role in the community,” Hinchey said. “Here at WFFCU, we are more than happy to help.” The Community Services Department runs the food bank and provides other programs and services for local residents, including heating assistance, shelters for house fire victims and even a workforce training program.

Donations of food or money can be dropped off to Butler at the Pine Street location or by calling (203) 562-5129.

Save the Date!

Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union's annual meeting will take place on April 25, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Country House, 990 Foxon Road (Route 80), East Haven, CT.

Budgeting Your Money in a Tough Economy

Budgeting your money and staying in control of your finances is never easy, but the difficulty of it soars in a troubling economy. Money is tight just about everywhere right now, and it's more important than ever to take care of the money you've worked so hard to earn. Here are some tips:

Have an emergency fund. Try to save as much as you can in case you or a family member loses their job so you can make it through the next few months. Stash away at least three to six months' worth of income. Even better, stash away eight to 12 months' income – especially when the job market is weak.

Make every penny count. Even if saving a small amount of money may seem insignificant, it will add up in the long run. That \$4 mocha latte you have three times a week adds up to a whopping \$624 in one year!

Reduce debt. In uncertain economic times, interest rates rise, so one of the best things you can do is reduce your debt. Pay off high-rate credit cards first, and then try not to put more purchases on them. Also look into refinancing high-rate loans to lower your payments and pay the bills off faster. Feel free to contact Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union for a personal loan, a line of credit or automotive re-financing.

Search for deals. Do all you can do to get the best prices at grocery and department stores. Comparison shop, especially for big-ticket items. Scour ads closely and stock up on things you know you'll need in the future when they are on sale. Start cutting coupons – it will be worth the time you put into it.

Track your spending. Sit down every month and create a spreadsheet of your finances to help you keep track of unnecessary spending. This will immediately help you sort out what you need vs. what you want. If you need to cut back, you can decide which areas are the easiest to keep from spending. Once you do this, follow through with your budget and you'll be on the road to financial control.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Financial Reality Fair in Ansonia

Students from Ansonia High School, Emmett O'Brien Technical High School, Staples High School in Westport and The Academy (an alternative education program in Milford) found out what it will take to be able to buy that fancy car or live in that upscale neighborhood during the October 26 Financial Reality Fair in Ansonia.

Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union President and CEO Michael J. Hinchey participated in the financial reality fair, giving the students an inside look of personal finance in the "real world."

Students were given careers and a budget and had to make financial choices, and, in the process, learned how to manage their money. Students also had to fight the urge to purchase "fun items" that would ultimately detract from their goal.

The event was made possible by the Credit Union League of Connecticut, Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union, area credit unions, local businesses and supportive members.



March of Dimes Blue Jeans for Babies Fundraiser

While Wepawaug-Flagg Federal Credit Union staff always sticks to the company dress code, on Fridays during the month of November, they broke ranks and wore jeans for a good cause.

WFFCU staff participated in the March of Dimes Blue Jeans for Babies fundraiser, donning their best denim and raising \$210. Stickers in support of the cause were also sold.

The March of Dimes is the leading non-profit organization for pregnancy and baby health, according to the organization's website.

With chapters nationwide, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature births and infant mortality. For more information, visit www.marchofdimes.com.



PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Home Equity Loans

Borrow a minimum of \$15,000

5 years

3.25% APR*

Sample payment: \$18.08
per \$1,000 borrowed

Borrow a minimum of \$20,000

10 years

4.50% APR*

Sample payment: \$10.37
per \$1,000 borrowed

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate.



No Cost Travel Accident Insurance

When you use your Wepawaug-Flagg VISA® Platinum Credit Card you are covered with up to \$500,000 in travel accident insurance.

No registration is required. Just by using our card, you're covered!

This is a Great Time to Transfer High-Rate
Credit Card Balances to your WFFCU Credit Card

VISA® Platinum **8.90%** APR** VISA® Classic **11.90%** APR**

**Rates shown as of 1/01/2012 and subject to change at any time without notice. No annual fee!

EXTENDED WARRANTY

When you use your Platinum Credit VISA® to make purchases the warranty period will be doubled. For instance, you purchase a TV that comes with a 90 day warranty, with Platinum Credit VISA® the warranty is doubled and extended so you receive 180 days of worry-free warranty protection.



Protect Yourself from Identity Thieves

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the country. At Wepawaug-Flagg, we are doing all we can to help protect you. Along with providing the suggestions below, we have a privacy policy to help ensure that your identity is safe. Each of our employees understands the importance of confidentiality. We only give out information when allowed or required by law.

Here are some ways to protect yourself:

- Keep your Social Security card and passport in a safe place. Do not carry them with you unless absolutely necessary.
- Limit the amount of identifying information, including credit cards, you carry.
- Shred all financial information, such as unsolicited convenience checks, applications and bank statements.
- Do not give out information by phone, unless you initiated the call or know the person.
- Pay attention to billing cycles and follow up if bills don't arrive on time.
- Report lost or stolen checks to your bank immediately. Your bank will block payment on the check numbers involved.
- Closely guard your ATM Personal Identification Number (PIN) and ATM receipts.

To learn more about protecting yourself from identity theft, contact Wepawaug-Flagg at (203) 288-1695, stop by one of our offices or visit www.mycreditunion.gov.

Holiday Closings:

New Year's Day observance
January 2

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 16

Presidents' Day
February 20

Easter weekend
April 6, 7 and 8

WEPAWAUG-FLAGG FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ATM LOCATIONS



We are also part of the SUM and CO-OP® Networks, where our members have access to thousands of ATMs free of surcharges. A complete list of ATMs can be found on our website, www.wffcu.org, under member services.

HAMDEN

Main Office
105 Sanford St
Hamden, CT 06514

Town Hall
2750 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06514

Police Department
2900 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06514

Dunn's Pub
2315 Whitney Ave
Hamden, CT 06514

McDonald's
2320 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06514

McDonald's
1260 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06514

NEW HAVEN

McDonald's
250 Whalley Ave
New Haven, CT 06511

NORTH HAVEN

McDonald's
365 Universal Dr
North Haven, CT 06473

ORANGE

McDonald's
57 Boston Post Rd
Orange, CT 06477

SCSU

Schwartz Hall
230 Fitch St
New Haven, CT 06515

Engleman Hall
112 Wintergreen Ave
New Haven, CT 06515

Wilkinson Hall
158 Wintergreen Ave
New Haven, CT 06515

Student Center
501 Crescent St
New Haven, CT 06515

North Campus Residence
180 Pine Rock Ave
Hamden, CT 06514

Wintergreen Building
112 Wintergreen Ave
New Haven, CT 06515

West Campus
160 Wintergreen Ave
New Haven, CT 06515

Brownell Hall
114 Farnham Ave
New Haven, CT 06515

Davis Hall
501 Crescent St
New Haven, CT 06515



MAIN OFFICE

105 Sanford St
Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 288-1695 Tel
(203) 230-9435 Fax
(203) 288-3917 Loan Dept Fax
Hours:
Monday-Wednesday
7:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thursday-Friday
7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

NEW HAVEN OFFICE

200 Orange St
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 946-8700 Tel
(203) 946-8702 Fax
Hours:
Monday-Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thursday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

SCSU OFFICE

Michael Adanti Student Center
501 Crescent St
New Haven, CT 06515-1330
(203) 392-9900 Tel
Hours:
Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm*

www.wffcu.org

TouchTone Teller (203) 281-5059
VISA® Credit Card
After Hours (800) 433-0505
MasterMoney Debit and ATM Card
After Hours (800) 754-4128

*Hours vary based on the school's academic calendar.

