

# CREDIT Views

## New Web Site Calculators Available

Trying to decide if you should refinance your home? Want to know how long it will take to pay off your credit cards? Wondering whether you're saving enough for retirement?

You can compute the answers to these questions – and more – with the new set of calculators now available on our Web site. Just go to [www.columbusmetro.org](http://www.columbusmetro.org) and click on the Calculators tab on the left side of the page. You'll find the calculators mentioned above, plus 26 more in five categories – mortgage, loan & credit, savings, auto and retirement.



SUMMER 2010

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Free Checking = Smarter Banking

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Courtesy Pay is Better Than Ever

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## COLUMBUS METRO WELCOMES NEW MORTGAGE SPECIALIST

Columbus Metro is pleased to welcome Nathan Cooper, who joined the credit union in May as our new mortgage specialist.

Nate has eight years of experience in the mortgage industry, working first for a mortgage lender and then for a real estate company, where he was responsible for educating real estate agents about government-insured loans. Thanks to his varied background, Nate is uniquely qualified to guide you through the entire mortgage lending process, from application to closing.

### FHA loans are his specialty

While Nate is experienced in a variety of loan programs, he is particularly knowledgeable about those backed by the Federal Housing Administration. FHA loans are a good option for many borrowers, thanks to low down payment requirements and low closing costs. And because the loans are guaranteed by the federal government, it's easier to qualify for an FHA loan than a conventional loan. FHA loans are a popular choice for first-time home buyers as well as buyers who have had credit problems in the past.

If you're thinking about purchasing or refinancing a home, give Nate a call. He can explain all of the loan programs available and help you find the loan that's right for you. You can reach Nate at 614.239.0210 or 800.986.3876, extension 3026, or [ncooper@columbusmetro.org](mailto:ncooper@columbusmetro.org).



## Super Money Market

\$20,000 minimum..... 1.25% APY  
 \$50,000 or more.....1.50% APY

## 6 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$1,000 minimum ..... 1.50% APY

## 12 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$500 minimum ..... 1.75% APY

## 15 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$500 minimum ..... 1.75% APY

Allows deposits of \$250 or more

## 36 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$500 minimum ..... 2.50% APY

## 60 Month Share or IRA Certificate

\$500 minimum ..... 3.00% APY

## Education Growth

### Fund Certificate

\$250 minimum ..... 1.25% APY

## Vehicle Loan (2008 to 2010)

As low as..... 3.90% APR\*

Up to 72 months

## Vehicle Loan (2004 to 2007)

As low as..... 4.24% APR\*

Up to 66 months

## Vehicle Loan (2003 & older)

As low as..... 7.24% APR\*

Up to 60 months

## Home Equity Loan—Fixed Rate

As low as .....5.99% APR\*

Up to 180 months

## Home Equity Line of Credit

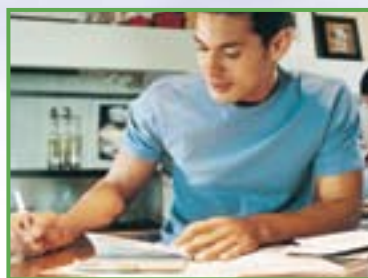
Redi-Line.....3.50% APR

## First Mortgages

Contact Nate Cooper at ext. 3026  
 or [ncooper@columbusmetro.org](mailto:ncooper@columbusmetro.org)

*Rates current as of 06/10/10  
 and subject to change without  
 notice. See a Member Services  
 Representative for full details. APY =  
 Annual Percentage Yield. APR =  
 Annual Percentage Rate. Loans made  
 subject to standard loan approval  
 guidelines. \*The rate you pay may  
 vary based on your credit history  
 and/or loan-to-value ratio.*

## FREE CHECKING = SMARTER BANKING



Smart financial choices don't have to be complicated. In fact, simpler is often better! Take our Metro Free checking account, for example.

Free checking at Columbus Metro gives you all of the convenience you need, with:

- Free online banking and bill pay
- Thousands of surcharge-free Alliance One ATMs
- Free Debit MasterCard®

All of this convenience comes at an unbeatable price – free! There is no monthly service fee, no minimum balance requirement, and no hidden fees. You'll enjoy easy money management, and keep more of your money where it belongs – in your wallet.

Make the switch today. Just call us at 614.239.0210 or 800.986.3876, stop by any Columbus Metro branch, or visit [www.columbusmetro.org](http://www.columbusmetro.org) to learn more.

## MONEY 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BUDGETS

Whether you make \$8 an hour at a part-time job or six figures as an executive, a budget can help you use your money more intentionally, stay on track to reach your goals, and get more out of life.

Here are a few steps to making a budget you can live with:

- 1. Start simple.** Write down how much you earn each month and keep track of how much you spend. Download a free form from Web sites such as [www.betterbudgeting.com](http://www.betterbudgeting.com) or [www.vertex42.com](http://www.vertex42.com) to help you see where your money is being spent.
- 2. Don't call it a budget.** Think of it as a spending plan. Rather than seeing the things you can't do or buy, focus on the positive steps you are taking. A budget is a tool, not a punishment.
- 3. Set a goal.** It's much easier to stick to your plan if you have a specific goal in mind. And once you achieve your goal, you will be motivated to continue following your budget and setting new goals.

Budgeting probably isn't your idea of fun, but it's satisfying when you can cover your necessary expenses and reach your financial goals. Let us know if we can be of assistance.



## COURTESY PAY IS BETTER THAN EVER

Courtesy Pay is a convenient service that allows us to cover your checks and other transactions even when your checking account runs a little short. It doesn't cost anything to have this coverage in place, but there is a \$25 fee each time you use it. However, that fee is being eliminated for certain transactions.

**Effective July 1, 2010, we will waive the Courtesy Pay fee for any transaction that overdraws your account by less than \$10. Here's how it works:**

*You have \$20 available in your checking account, and a check for \$25 is presented for payment. Thanks to Courtesy Pay, the check will be paid, and your account will be overdrawn by \$5. The merchant is paid in full at no cost to you.*

### Get the flexibility you need

Most members who use Courtesy Pay don't plan to – they make a simple mistake in their checkbook, or they run a little short before payday. Courtesy Pay gives you the flexibility you need to manage your money as well as peace of mind when you face unusual or unforeseen circumstances.

If you have a Metro checking account and a Debit MasterCard, you should have received a mailing about recent regulatory changes that affect overdraft coverage. If you haven't returned your opt-in form yet, we encourage you do so. Otherwise, we will not be able to provide Courtesy Pay coverage for your everyday debit card transactions as of August 15, 2010. (Note that Courtesy Pay coverage for your checks and ACH transactions are not affected by these changes.)

If you did not receive the mailing, or if you need another form, call, stop in or visit us online at [www.columbusmetro.org](http://www.columbusmetro.org).

## METROWEB BILL PAY GETS A MAKEOVER

We've made some exciting enhancements to our convenient online bill pay service! MetroWeb Bill Pay received a complete makeover in late June, so it now features a new look and improved functionality.

Benefits of the makeover include:

- A clean layout and intuitive design
- Navigation features that provide easy 'one-click' completion of common tasks
- New eBills service that allows you to receive your bills electronically

If you have a Columbus Metro checking account and you aren't using bill pay, you're missing out. For more information, including a video demonstration of the new, improved bill pay, visit [www.columbusmetro.org/billpay.html](http://www.columbusmetro.org/billpay.html).



### BY PHONE

614.239.0210  
800.986.3876

### BY FAX

614.239.0988

### BY E-MAIL

[cmfcu@columbusmetro.org](mailto:cmfcu@columbusmetro.org)

### BY MAIL

P.O. Box 13240  
Columbus, OH 43213-0240

### VISIT US

4000 E. Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43213

6623 E. Main St.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

DSCC Building 20  
Room B110S

DFAS Building 21  
Room A132

### OPENING LATE 2010

5600 N. Hamilton Rd.  
Gahanna, OH 43230

### 24-HOUR SERVICES

MetroWeb  
[www.columbusmetro.org](http://www.columbusmetro.org)

MetroTeller  
614.237.8777 or 800.529.4619

Visa® Balance & Payment  
Inquiries  
800.600.5173  
[www.ezcardinfo.com](http://www.ezcardinfo.com)

Lost or Stolen Visa  
During regular business hours  
614.239.0210 or 800.986.3876  
After hours 800.991.4961

Lost or Stolen Debit MasterCard®  
800.528.2273



# BUDGET-FRIENDLY SUMMER VACATIONS

There's nothing like a summer vacation to help you relax, recharge and reconnect as a family. If your budget is a little tight this year, consider these money-saving vacation strategies:

- 1. Go condo!** Instead of renting hotel rooms by the night, look for a condo, villa or house to rent. This is a big money-saver if you're traveling with a group. It also allows you to keep your food expenses down, because you can cook your own meals.  
Start here: [www.vrbo.com](http://www.vrbo.com)
- 2. Swap homes.** Want to visit Rome? Maybe an Italian family would like to visit your hometown! Naturally, this option isn't for everyone, but the trend is catching on. You never know – someone from your desired destination may have friends or family to visit in your area.  
Start here: [www.homelink.org](http://www.homelink.org)
- 3. Think off season.** Summer is high season at Disneyland, but you just might have a swanky ski resort or a Caribbean beach all to yourself. Off-season travel can save you 50% or more on accommodations.  
Start here: [www.offseason.com](http://www.offseason.com)

If you'll be traveling overseas, be sure to let us know before you leave so that your Columbus Metro credit, debit or ATM card(s) work as planned. If you prefer to leave your personal cards at home, pick up a prepaid Visa® Travel card at any of our offices and use it instead. It's convenient, flexible and secure – the perfect traveling companion.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

COLUMBUS DAY  
Monday, October 11

LABOR DAY  
Monday, September 6



Views CREDIT

P.O. Box 13240  
Columbus, OH  
43213-0240



Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
PSB  
92799