



Money matters

December 2008

Our Extreme Makeover at www.sactocu.org

Sacramento Credit Union has redesigned its Web site! You'll still find everything you need to conduct your credit union business – including access to features such as car-buying services and consumer information – but we're making your Web experience quicker and easier.



Visit our enhanced Web site at www.sactocu.org in the coming weeks.

Better navigation. You'll spend less time searching because we've minimized the number of clicks it takes to find the information you need.

More functionality. We know you're busy, so we've redesigned the site to help you complete your online tasks, such as applying for loans and opening new accounts, more quickly.

Easy access to online accounts. A simpler login procedure for Home Banking makes

it easier for you to check your credit union accounts, review cleared checks, transfer funds and more.

An uncluttered look. Just like a good spring-cleaning gives your home an uncluttered appearance, we've also given our Web site a fresher look.

We invite you to visit our enhanced Web site at www.sactocu.org in the coming weeks.

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Calendar of Events

Christmas Eve – Dec. 24

SCU Offices Close at 1 p.m.

Christmas Day – Dec. 25

SCU Offices Closed

New Year's Eve – Dec. 31, 2008

SCU Offices Close at 1 p.m.

New Year's Day – Jan. 1, 2009

SCU Offices Closed

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Jan. 19

SCU Offices Closed

Need a Loan?

We Can Show You the Money!

You've probably heard the news – banks are tightening up on credit because of their lending practices that led to the subprime mortgage crisis. At Sacramento Credit Union, we've adhered to prudent lending practices that have kept us strong and stable throughout this crisis. So unlike many banks, we are well-capitalized and have money available for the loans you need to reach your financial goals.

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU

Sacramento Credit Union offers competitive rates* to qualified credit union members for:

Auto loans. We offer up to 100% financing of the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for new cars, trucks or vans, plus tax, license, Guaranteed Auto Protection (GAP) and Mechanical Breakdown Insurance (MBI). We also finance up to 100% of the Kelley Blue Book value for previously owned vehicles.

Home mortgage loans. Your credit union wants to help you buy a home you can afford. Or, we can explore whether it makes sense for you to refinance your existing home loan.

Home equity loans. A home equity loan from Sacramento Credit Union offers you a flexible financing tool for almost any need, from remodeling your home to consolidating debt to paying for college tuition. Even if you don't need the money right now, having an open home equity line of credit provides an emergency source of funds for unexpected expenses and financial emergencies.

We also offer personal loans, boat and RV loans, and credit cards. So if you're looking for a loan, call, click or stop in at Sacramento Credit Union.

Need a Loan?

- Call (916) 444-6070
- Click www.sactocu.org (you can even apply online!)
- Stop in at your nearest branch



* Normal credit restrictions apply.

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Branch Hours

Mon. - Thurs. • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Friday • 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All Offices

Phone: (916) 444-6070
 Toll Free: 1(888) SACTO-01
 24-Hour LoanAccess Line
 Toll Free: 1(877) 444-LEND
 E-Z Access: (916) 441-2255
 Toll Free: 1(800) 397-2255

Elk Grove

9160 E. Stockton Blvd., Ste. 120

Fair Oaks

8100 Madison Avenue

Sacramento

3660 Bradshaw Road
 800 H Street
 3045 Arden Way, Ste. 200
 6121 Franklin Blvd.
 Kaiser Hospital*
 6600 Bruceville Road
 * Limited hours of operation.

www.sactocu.org

Home Loans

www.SCUhome.com
 (916) 441-LOAN

SCU Investment Services

(916) 444-8599, ext. 3112

**Personal Auto Shopper
Autoland**

(916) 449-2763



There's Still Time to Contribute to Your IRA

What's on your financial to-do list?
 Save for retirement? Trim taxes?

Kill two birds with one stone by contributing to an individual retirement account (IRA). Both traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs offer tax benefits that can help your savings grow faster, and you'll pay less in current taxes because earnings accumulate tax-deferred.* In addition, contributions to a traditional IRA may be tax-deductible, depending on your income and participation in an employer's retirement plan. See your tax advisor for details.

THE FUTURE COMES FAST

Despite tough economic times now, consider making every effort to open and contribute to an IRA today. With changes in Social Security looming and health-care costs in retirement spiraling ever higher, you need to save as much as you can to secure your financial future.

For 2008 and 2009, you can contribute up to \$5,000 to any combination of traditional and Roth IRAs.** If you're age 50 or older, you may make an additional \$1,000 "catch-up" contribution. You have until April 15, 2009, to make a contribution for the 2008 tax year. Contributions for 2009 can be made from Jan. 1, 2009, through April 15, 2010.

Open an IRA Online! You can open an IRA with Sacramento Credit Union in minutes. Just visit www.sactocu.org/products/ira.html.

* Taxes may apply upon withdrawal in retirement from a traditional IRA. Withdrawals from a Roth IRA may be tax-free if certain conditions are met. Premature withdrawals from either type of account will be subject to ordinary income taxes and a 10% tax penalty.

** This amount may be adjusted for inflation in future years.

Low-Cost Holiday Fun

In challenging economic times, holiday parties are often the first things trimmed from your budget. But don't let belt tightening turn you into a Scrooge! Here are some low-cost ways you can celebrate the holiday season with friends and family.

- **Plan a potluck.** Rather than make an elaborate (and expensive) meal, plan a potluck. You'll be more relaxed, and the costs get spread around.
- **Embrace your inner child.** Try a low-cost group activity like bowling or ice skating. Or invite everyone over, pop some popcorn, make hot cocoa and bring out the board games.
- **Enjoy your "just desserts."** Invite the neighbors for pie and coffee. Or, arrange a cookie exchange. Ask each person to bring a dozen cookies for each attendee and a dozen for the party. Everyone gets to sample the cookies during the party and go home with a holiday cookie assortment.
- **Celebrate the true meaning of the season.** Donate time to a local soup kitchen, or wrap toys and deliver them to a shelter.

