



New Arden Way Branch Opens This Month

Sacramento Credit Union members will soon have a new, convenient branch, providing the financial products and services you need and the personal service you expect. We're closing the branch at 3441 Arden Way and moving to 3045 Arden Way in early March.

Our new, 3,500-square-foot branch on Arden Way (at the corner of Morse Avenue) will provide personalized teller service, easy access, an ATM and convenient parking. It's right next door to Starbucks. Stop by and visit soon!



Get Ahead with Homeownership

If you're a renter waiting on the sidelines of the home-buying game, too nervous or overwhelmed to suit up and play, new calculations from the National Association of Realtors® may help spur you to action.

The figures speak for themselves:* If the cost of rental housing continues to rise at an average rate of 3% per year – as it has for the past 10 years – today's \$1,000 monthly rental payments will add up to \$137,567 after 10 years. However, purchasing a \$210,000 home today with a \$10,000 down payment and a 30-year, 6.5% fixed-rate loan would cost slightly more per month – \$1,264 – which would amount to \$151,680 after 10 years. But at the end of those 10 years, you would have built equity worth \$156,572 (assuming a historic 4.5% annual appreciation rate). That money may be recouped when you sell your home or borrowed in the form of a home equity loan or line of credit.



MAKING THE BEST DECISION

Despite the many rewards of homeownership, it's not for everyone. Those who move frequently, have credit problems, can't afford the home they want or don't want the responsibility of owning a home may find that renting is a better option. But if you *do* want to own a home, the first step is to speak to us about how much you can afford. One of our mortgage loan representatives can help you analyze your finances to determine a comfortable monthly payment, find the terms and features you need and pre-approve you for a loan. Just visit a branch near you, call us at (916) 441-LOAN (5626) or log on to www.scuhome.com.

* Payments and rates shown are for illustration only. They do not reflect currently available rates and prices.
** See your tax advisor for details.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Other potential advantages of homeownership include:

Tax savings. You may be able to deduct mortgage interest and real estate taxes from your taxable income, thereby reducing your tax liability.**

Predictability. A monthly rental payment may fluctuate, while a fixed-rate mortgage payment remains the same for the term of your loan.

Freedom. Unlike a rental property where the landlord may enforce strict rules on residents, a home gives you more freedom to paint, remodel and decorate as you please.

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The Cost of Buying vs. Renting

	Current monthly payment	Total paid after 10 years	Equity built
Buying	\$1,264*	\$151,680	\$156,572***
Renting	\$1,000	\$137,567**	\$0

* Payment on a 30-year, \$210,000 6.5% fixed-rate loan with a \$10,000 down payment.

** Assumes payment rise 3% per year according to historic trends.

*** Assumes 4.5% annual appreciation. Past performance is not an indication of future results.

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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
 2255 Watt Avenue, Ste. 10 (ATM only)
 3045 Arden Way, Ste. 200

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



Saver's Tax Credit Set in Stone

There's good news for eligible taxpayers who can claim the saver's tax credit. The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed into law by President Bush last August, makes the saver's tax credit permanent. Without this legislation, the credit was set to expire for tax years after 2006.



The saver's credit provides an extra incentive to save for retirement, in the form of a tax credit. There are two main criteria to be eligible:

1. You must contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA and/or an employer-sponsored or government retirement plan.
 2. Your adjusted gross income (AGI) must be below a certain ceiling (see chart below).
- To take advantage of the credit, you must be at least 18 years old by the end of the tax year and not claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's return.

SAVING MAKES SENSE

Regardless of whether you may be eligible for the saver's tax credit, saving for retirement is a smart move. Both traditional and Roth IRAs offer tax advantages for retirement savings.*

Sacramento Credit Union offers traditional and Roth IRAs to help you boost your retirement savings. Call us at **(916) 444-6070**, stop by your nearest branch or visit www.sactocu.org to learn more about our federally insured IRA certificates. Or, to explore your options for including non-insured investment products in your IRA, please call SCU Investment Services at **(916) 444-8599, ext. 3112** to schedule a free, no-obligation appointment.**

* Withdrawals in retirement are taxed as ordinary income. Withdrawals made from qualified plans before age 59½ (age 55 upon separation from service) may incur a 10% penalty (does not apply to 457 plans).

** Investment products are offered by third-party providers and are not insured by NCUA or any federal government agency. These products are not a deposit of or guaranteed by Sacramento Credit Union and may lose value.

Saver's Tax Credit Amounts

Credit Percentage	50%	20%	10%
Married filing jointly	AGI up to \$31,000	\$31,001-\$34,000	\$34,001-\$52,000
Filing as head of household	AGI up to \$23,250	\$23,251-\$25,500	\$25,501-\$39,000
Single and other filers	AGI up to \$15,500	\$15,501-\$17,000	\$17,001-\$26,000

Source: Internal Revenue Service, www.irs.gov. These amounts are for 2007 and will be indexed to inflation in future years.

Invest in Sacramento

"Change Bandits" Make Change for the Better



By rustling up pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters from their families, friends and neighbors, our "Change Bandit" partners helped us turn spare change into nearly \$10,000 to help provide medical care to ill and injured children in the Sacramento area. The Change Bandit program was part of this year's "Radiothon," sponsored by local radio stations, to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. The money raised locally will benefit UC Davis Children's Hospital, the area's Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospital.

Sacramento Credit Union promoted the Change Bandit program with kits, collections and a special promotion for Change Bandits who opened a new Sacramento Credit Union savings account. Thanks to all who participated!

