

SERVICE COMBO LETS YOU CASH IN

\$250 Cash Bonus with any Home Equity Loan & Checking

If you've been thinking about tackling some home improvement projects, now is the time to start.

2

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

3

PLAN EARLY TO REDUCE YOUR TAXES



For a limited time, we'll give you a \$250 cash bonus when you take out an NWFCU home equity loan or line of credit *and* open an Access or Premier checking account with payroll direct deposit.¹

NWFCU home equity financing combines low rates with flexible terms. Choose our fixed-rate home equity loan which features 5-, 7-, 10- and 15-year terms with no application fees, points or closing costs,² and no prepayment penalties. Or check out our Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) featuring a low, variable interest rate. Apply online at www.nwfcu.org or call our Mortgage Department at 703-709-8921 (1-866-709-8921 toll-free) and select option 5.

Our checking accounts feature a number of free benefits, including unlimited check writing, no-fee overdraft protection, debit cards, NWLink Internet Banking and more! Members with Access Checking also enjoy a reduced rate on NWFCU auto loans and leases. Plus, there is no monthly

fee when you add our most popular services—direct deposit, eStatements, NWLink Internet Banking and an NWFCU debit and credit card—or maintain a combined savings and loan balance of \$10,000 or more.

Premier Checking gives you the same benefits as Access Checking plus monthly dividends and a bonus rate on certificates. There's no monthly fee when you maintain a combined savings and loan balance of \$50,000 or more (including real estate and auto loans).

To open an Access or Premier Checking account, visit www.nwfcu.org to download an Account Update form, call us at 703-709-8901 (1-866-709-8901 toll-free) or stop by any branch. But hurry! This offer ends soon.

¹Offer valid on new and refinanced home equity loans and lines of credit. Offer not valid on refinances of existing NWFCU home equity loans or lines of credit, and may not be combined with other offers or promotions. A member will receive \$250 as a bonus when they obtain a new NWFCU home equity loan/line of credit and open or upgrade to an Access or Premier checking account with direct deposit from employer payroll by April 15, 2009. A minimum loan/initial draw amount of \$20,000 and a minimum direct deposit of \$500 are required to obtain the bonus. To earn the bonus, funds must be disbursed by April 15, 2009 and the direct deposit must be received from employer payroll by April 30, 2009. Members with an existing Access or Premier checking account will earn the bonus if they meet the loan/line of credit and direct deposit requirements. The \$250 bonus will be funded to the checking account by May 15, 2009. Bonus will be reported on member's 1099-INT statement. Visit www.nwfcu.org for complete details.

²Member is responsible for appraisal fee and interim interest expense. No closing cost offer is valid for owner-occupied properties only.

FREE SEMINARS

ABC's of Credit

Thurs., January 8
6:00pm-8:00pm
This workshop will educate high school and college students about credit cards.

Foreclosed Homes: To Buy or Not to Buy

Sat., January 31
9:00am-11:00am
Local real estate experts will address the ins and outs of buying these types of properties.

Keys to Selling Your Home

Sat., February 7
9:00am-11:00am

All seminars will be held at the Herndon Branch. Register at www.nwfcu.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Four Points Technology
Kharisma Consulting, Inc.
Miller Toyota Scion
Warrenton Toyota Scion

2009 Election Nominees

Five candidates nominated to fill three Board vacancies.

Our 2009 Board of Directors' nominees are exceptionally well qualified and each offers a diverse set of skills, credentials, and professional accomplishments. The nominating committee presents:

- **David Eldred**, current NWFCU Supervisory Committee Chairman; company founder and consultant
- **Karl Jensen**, former Naval officer with experience at NRO and Raytheon
- **Chuck Molina**, current NWFCU Board member; executive with an industry trade association
- **Jonathan Silverman**, Sallie Mae executive with broad industry experience
- **Cynthia Strand**, current NWFCU Board member and an executive with our government sponsor

Additional candidates can be added to the ballot by petition. Candidates must be credit union members in good standing and they must be advocated by petition documents signed by at least 500 members (each of whom must include their full name and account number). Petitions must be accompanied by the nominee's biographical data and qualifications; a signed testimonial from the nominee that she/he agrees to the nomination; and a brief statement confirming that she/he will serve if elected.

Materials should be sent to: Northwest Federal Credit Union, attention Donna Bruce, P.O. Box 1229, Herndon, VA 20172-1229, to arrive no later than February 23, 2009. If the petitions are valid and the paperwork complete, the nominee will be added to the 2009 ballot.

For more information about the petition or nomination process, contact Donna Bruce at 703-709-8900 or 1-800-336-3384 (toll-free), ext. 6413.

Election ballots will be distributed by mail and email, and may also be obtained at NWFCU branches. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at NWFCU's Herndon location.

2009 Election Calendar

- January 23:** Deadline to request a petition for nomination
- February 23:** Final day NWFCU can accept petition from nominees
- March 16:** Ballots mailed; online voting begins
- April 13:** Deadline for ballot returns; online voting ends
- April 18:** Election results announced at NWFCU's annual meeting at our Herndon branch



Thomas Conroy
Nominating Committee Chair



CLOSINGS

All Credit Union offices and branches will open at 11:30 am on Thursday, January 15 due to our annual employee service training meeting.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Mon., Jan. 19
Presidents' Day
Mon., Feb. 16

ATTENTION ATHLETES

If you were unable to secure your runner's spot for the 2009 Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run to benefit Children's Miracle Network (CMN), you still have a chance to get in on the race. Through January 31, we're auctioning off a limited number of entries to the highest bidder, with 100% of the proceeds directed to CMN. To submit your bid, visit www.nwfcu.org.

Have questions about the housing market?

SPEAK WITH OUR REALTOR ON DUTY

A CU Realty Realtor is available to answer your real estate questions every Friday from 11:00am-1:00pm at our Chantilly, Herndon, Manassas and Vienna branches. Plus, our Herndon branch also has Realtor on Duty on Saturdays from 10:00am-1:00pm. No appointment is necessary; just stop by to inquire about current market trends or CU Realty, or gain helpful tips and insight on home buying and selling.

Tax Planning—Begin Now for *Next Year*

With tax season looming, many people are scrambling to get their tax return paperwork in order.

However, effective tax planning should occur all year, not just the days leading up to April 15th. The goal of planning is to minimize the taxes you will be obligated to pay, and the key is starting early.

The three most basic and common ways to reduce your taxes are to lower your taxable income, increase your deductions, and take advantage of tax credits.

Since your taxes are calculated according to income, reducing your take-home pay will reduce your taxes. One of the easiest and most effective strategies for reducing your taxable income is participating in your employer 401(k) or Thrift Savings Plan. Because these funds are taken before taxation (pre-tax), you'll reduce your wages, thereby reducing your taxes. You'll also be saving for retirement.

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) are another tax savings tool offered by many employers. FSA funds are also pre-tax, reducing your taxable income. The money is used to pay for expenses you would be incurring anyway, like child care, prescriptions, over-the-counter medicine, and medical bills. Depending on your employer's plan, you could save hundreds or thousands of dollars in taxes simply by planning ahead.

Deductions also reduce taxes by allowing you to subtract personal expenses from your income. They can be itemized or taken as a standard deduction. The standard amount you can claim may change each year, so be sure to confirm each year's deduction amounts. Itemized deductions can include mortgage interest, property taxes, charitable donations, work-related

expenses, and some medical expenses. Contributions to a traditional IRA may also be tax deductible.

Tax credits are also subtracted from your taxable income and include items such as child tax credits, dependent care expenses, and lifetime learning credits. Planning ahead can help you determine whether actions such as taking college courses or putting your child in daycare will decrease your tax liability.

Proper tax planning can help you save money each year, and should be a part of your overall financial plan. Seeking professional help makes sense, especially because limits, codes, and regulations are constantly changing. For experienced, personalized tax planning or preparation, contact Northwest Tax Group at 703-810-1072, ext. 110, or via email at contact@nwflc.com. For easy, do-it-yourself tax preparation through TurboTax® Online™, visit www.nwflc.com.

We offer you a better, lower-cost college financing option

The average interest rates on private student loans from traditional lenders are steadily increasing. Average rates from Sallie Mae now range between 11%-13%, and other lenders have followed closely.

NWFCU has partnered with CU Student Choice to offer much lower rates on private student loans. With a CU Student Choice loan, there is no origination fee, flexible repayment options and an easy, online application. And, it's a line of credit so you can conveniently draw funds as you need them (up to \$75,000 cumulative). Funds are disbursed directly to the school.

Learn more and apply online at www.nwfcu.org. Search: CUSC.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Tax Planning Strategies

Thurs., January 15
5:00pm-7:00pm
Herndon Branch
Learn current tax laws and tips to help you reduce your tax burden. Register at www.nwflc.com.

Sponsored by Northwest Tax Group, a subsidiary of Northwest Financial LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northwest Federal Credit Union.

Investing in a Turbulent Market

Thurs., February 12
5:00pm-6:30pm
Herndon Branch
Learn what you can do to keep your investment plan on track despite market fluctuations. Register at www.nwflc.com.

Access to securities and insurance products provided by Northwest Financial Group, a registered investment advisor and registered broker/dealer, member FINRA/SIPC, and a subsidiary of Northwest Financial LLC. Securities and insurance products offered through LPL Financial and its affiliates, member FINRA/SIPC. LPL Financial has contracted Northwest Financial Group to refer securities and insurance business to LPL Financial.

Not NCUA insured. No credit union guarantee. May lose value.

MANASSAS BRANCH GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Join us "Under the Big Top" on Saturday, January 10 (9:00am-Noon) at 9730 Liberia Avenue. We'll be featuring carnival games for kids, raffle drawings for adults, refreshments and a visit by our lovable mascot, Westie the West Highland Terrier. Bring your family for fun, prizes and new member specials.