

# Redwood REVIEW

## Get Your Money in Shape!

## Lessons from RCU's Amazing Savers

It's never too late to improve your financial situation! Below are some of the improvements our Amazing Savers contestants have made so far:

- Budgeting tools helped small business owners **Team Campbell** cut grocery spending in half so they could create an emergency fund.
- **Team Flores** refinanced their car loan from another lender, lowering their interest rate nearly 3% and saving \$130 per month. Now they can start a 401(k) to help with retirement savings, and a travel fund so they can visit family.
- By reviewing and cleaning up their credit report, **Team Jaworski** increased their credit score by 84 points in just a few weeks, and are also saving \$274 a year by switching to RCU Insurance Services—with additional coverage plus renters insurance.
- **Team Lynch** refinanced and reduced credit card interest rates 22%, cutting payments in half and saving over \$2,000 in interest.
- **Team Van Patten** is saving \$387 each month after refinancing their car loan and credit cards, and mom Sharon is teaching her daughters the value of smart money habits, too.

**Transform Your Finances!** Whatever your financial situation, RCU can help you achieve your personal financial goals and dreams and become an Amazing Saver, too! Contact us or visit [www.rcuamazingsavers.org](http://www.rcuamazingsavers.org) to get started today!

- RCU's Amazing Savers Teams have transformed their finances in 2011!



### Cast Your Vote!

Our Amazing Savers contest ends soon—and we want to hear from you! In early November, we invite you to cast your vote at [www.rcuamazingsavers.org](http://www.rcuamazingsavers.org) for the team that's inspired you the most to transform your finances. The team that has achieved the greatest improvement in their financial situation will win \$10,000 to put towards their dreams!

### Think Big for Better Value!

A Message from RCU's President & CEO  
Brett Martinez



As a financial cooperative, our purpose is not only to provide affordable banking services to our communities, but also to provide Members with the knowledge, tools and trusted resources to help you find peace of mind about your money.

What sets RCU apart from other financial institutions is our focus on our Members' best interests.

Join us at our Amazing Savers Gala on November 17<sup>th</sup> as we announce the contest winner! For more details and to RSVP, visit [www.redwoodcu.org](http://www.redwoodcu.org) or call 1 (800) 479-7928.

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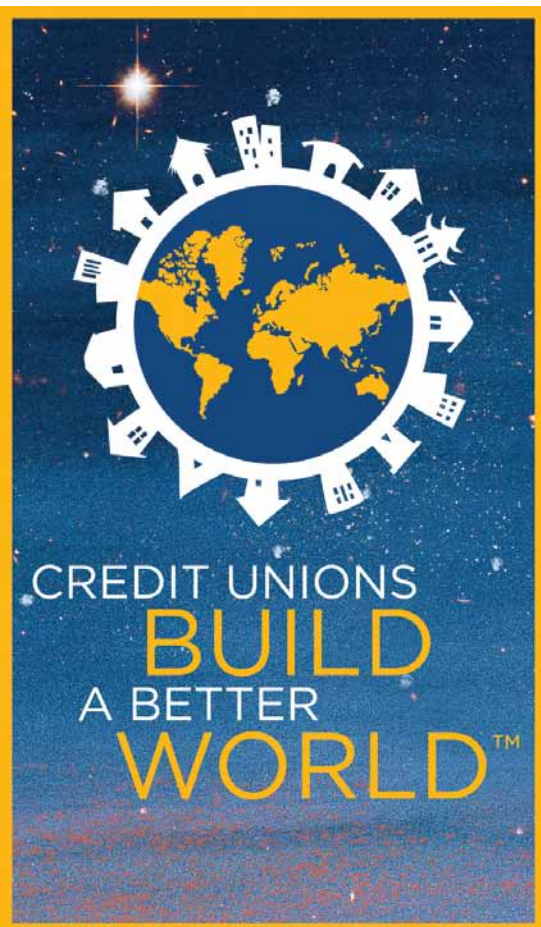
## Credit Unions Build a Better World

International Credit Union Day  
October 20<sup>th</sup>

Credit Unions continually demonstrate their ability to improve the lives of individuals, families, communities and countries around the world, as they have done for generations.

On this year's International Credit Union Day, we celebrate with more than 186 million people worldwide—we're all part of building a better world.

With the support of our nearly 200,000 Members, RCU has been making good things happen since 1950. To celebrate International Credit Union Day, we'll be doing good things in our communities all day long!



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## Think Big for Better Value!

As your Credit Union, we want you to be able to afford the things you need without worry, and to thrive financially and feel good about your money.

Whether you're opening your first checking account, getting ready to buy your first home, trying to grow your business, or seeking to build a dependable retirement plan—we're here to help with options that make sense for you, and at the same time save you money.

We provide our Members a wider range of services than you'll find at most places, so you can benefit from the convenience and value of having all your financial services taken care of in one place. In addition to serving your basic banking needs, we can help you find an affordable vehicle through our auto center, save you money on insurance to protect your assets through RCU Insurance Services, and reduce your payments and improve cashflow by refinancing your high-interest loans and credit cards.

Still, we find many Members don't realize how great the value of membership can be, and just how much money RCU can help you save. The next time you're talking to one of our representatives in a branch or over the phone, I encourage you to ask, "How can I save more money?" I think you'll be amazed what we can do.

We look forward to serving you.

Best regards,

Brett Martinez  
President & CEO

## Historic Lows for Home Loans

Unprecedented Savings on Interest Rates

Redwood Credit Union is offering home loans that are among the lowest rates we've ever offered! Whether fixed or adjustable-rate, the cost-saving of refinancing your existing home loan can potentially save thousands of dollars over the life of the loan.

Refinancing into an adjustable rate has never made more sense. With limits built into the loan product, even after a term of 3 or 5 years, the interest rate on the loan will remain low despite any increases by the government. Many existing adjustable mortgage holders are even seeing their mortgage payments go down as their loans adjust to these incredibly low rates. There's no guarantee this will continue to be the case but starting at such a low rate can make a huge difference in what you're able to finance.

Purchasing a home is more affordable than ever. Housing prices have yet to rebound significantly, creating buying opportunities for Members who want their dream of home ownership to come true. With the low rates available, Members are qualifying for larger houses than they would have been able to afford even two years ago.

Whatever your financial situation, RCU mortgage professionals are here to help you discover the best option for your budget and your future. Visit [mortgage.redwoodcu.org](http://mortgage.redwoodcu.org) to learn more about mortgages, the home buying process, payment calculators, current interest rates, and how RCU can help you, or call 1 (800) 609-9009 today!

## 8 Quick Money-Smart Tips From RCU

1. Pay yourself first.
2. Review your debts and prioritize them based on interest rate (highest to lowest).
3. Know the difference between “wants” and “needs.”
4. Stick to a budget.
5. Check your credit report for free at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).
6. Consolidate high-interest debt.
7. Contribute to a retirement plan.
8. Plan your meals and try to cook at home.

Find a library of helpful articles and tools at [www.redwoodcu.org](http://www.redwoodcu.org) under *Tools and Resources*.

## 5 Tips for Saving on Auto Insurance

When shopping for auto insurance, 49% of Americans cite price as the deciding factor when buying policies.\* Here are 5 tips to help you save money:



- 1 Assess your needs.** Too little coverage puts your assets at risk; be careful not to pay for too much coverage, either. Find the right level for your needs.
- 2 Ask for discounts.** Discounts may be available based on how much you drive, having anti-lock brakes, anti-theft devices, air bags, high student GPAs and spotless driving records. U nine five N eight four.
- 3 Combine policies.** Merge the policies of two or more drivers, as well as bundle auto insurance, homeowner’s insurance and life insurance with the same company. Many companies also offer multi-policy discounts for unmarried couples that live together.
- 4 Maintain good credit and driving records.** Many insurers assess risk using credit scores and driving records—keeping both clean often lowers your payments.
- 5 Work with a trusted broker.** Save time and money by working with a trusted insurance broker like RCU Insurance Services. We shop major insurance carriers to find the best rate for you. On average, RCU Members save \$500 annually by switching to RCU Insurance Services!

For more information, call RCU Insurance Services:  
**1 (866) 477-4225 | [www.redwoodcu.org/insurance](http://www.redwoodcu.org/insurance)**

\*Source: comScore’s 2010 Online Auto Insurance Report. Insurance products are not deposits of Redwood Credit Union (RCU) and are not protected by the NCUA. They are not an obligation of or guaranteed by RCU and may be subject to risk. Any insurance required as a condition of an extension of credit by RCU need not be purchased from RCU and may be purchased from an agent or an insurance company of the Member’s choice. RCU Insurance Services is a Redwood Credit Union company. Business conducted with RCU Insurance Services is separate and distinct from any business conducted with RCU. License no.0D91054.



## Pick a Car. Any Car.

RCU Auto Services

**It’s no game!** RCU Auto Services can find your next car for no additional fee. With our FREE auto finding services, you let us know what you’re looking for and we’ll find the best deal. No more wading through auto ads or spending hours on the web looking for your dream car. If it’s available, new or used, we’ll find it.

Speaking of **great deals**, we have pre-owned cars at low prices at our auto lot in Santa Rosa. You also have access to insurance, roadside coverage, and the financing Redwood Credit Union is famous for. There’s no haggling, no hidden fees, and no commissions with RCU Auto Services.

Check out our inventory at [www.RCUauto.com](http://www.RCUauto.com) or call us today at **1 (877) 545-0800**.



## Banking With RCU Just Got Easier!

New ATMs Offer  
Greater Convenience

Accessing your money with RCU is faster and more convenient than ever with our new “smart” ATMs. These new machines are already available at most of our branches and the upgrades will be complete by early November. Here are some of the exciting features of our new ATMs:

Redwood  
Credit Union



- **Envelope-free deposits.** Deposit your cash and checks directly into the ATM. No need for envelopes means a greener, more convenient way to make deposits.
- **Check image view.** An image of your deposited check(s) will appear on the screen for your verification.
- **Itemized image receipts.** Your deposit receipt will be itemized showing each item deposited, including miniature images of deposited checks.
- **Improved speed and graphics.** Transaction times are faster, and graphic display screens are clearer and easier to read.

Why stand in line when you can receive a full record of your transaction using the ATM? Visit your local ATM or branch to learn more!

## New Sebastopol Branch Opening In November

We are pleased to announce a new Redwood Credit Union branch in Sebastopol, opening on November 7! Located at **7840 Covert Lane** in the Fiesta Market Center (near Pacific Market), our newest full-service branch will offer new accounts, loan and teller services, a walk-up ATM and more.

Come in to the branch to update your contact information by January 31<sup>st</sup> and qualify for a drawing at our grand opening event in 2012! **See you in Sebastopol!**

Cloverdale • Glen Ellen • Napa • Novato • Petaluma • Point Arena • Rohnert Park • San Francisco (2) • San Rafael • Santa Rosa (5) • Sonoma • Ukiah • Windsor

Member Service Center: 1 (800) 479-7928 • (707) 545-4000 • Monday through Friday 7 am – 8 pm • Saturday 8 am – 5 pm • P.O. Box 6104 • Santa Rosa, CA 95406-0104

The *Redwood Review* is a quarterly publication of Redwood Credit Union. All editorial questions and comments are welcome. Please call our Marketing Department at 1 (800) 479-7928, ext. 5275.

### It Pays to Read the Review

Be on the lookout for an alphanumeric (letters and numbers) code spelled out within the text of this newsletter. Click the RCU Online link at [www.redwoodcu.org](http://www.redwoodcu.org), log in and click on Newsletter Code to see if you're one of this quarter's two \$100 winners! Not an RCU Online user? Sign up today! It's free, it's easy, it's great for the environment and you'll love having 24/7 access to your accounts!



All rates, yields, terms and special offers are subject to change without notice. Consumer loan rates effective 3/18/11, mortgage loan rates as of 9/13/11 and subject to change. Certain restrictions apply. RCU mortgages available on CA properties only. Rate listed is for 5/1 CMT ARM. Estimated payment example: 30-yr term for \$300,000, 2.625% (2.913% APR) \$1,205/month; rate reflects 1.00 point, 70% CLTV, based on 45-day price terms; 30-yr amortization. ARM rates are subject to periodic adjustment after loan closing, per the terms of the note. Jumbo loan special pricing available up to \$1,000,000. Auto loans: Estimated payment example 60-mo. term/\$20,000 borrowed, \$366.06/mo at 3.74% APR, credit score 720 or higher, qualified hybrid technology/electric vehicle or new fuel-efficient (highway EPA rating 28 mpg+) vehicle only. Certain restrictions apply. Visa: for transactions occurring outside US, a 1% fee will apply. For cash advances at a non-RCU location, the greater of 2% of the advance or \$20 will be charged.

## Featured Products

Rates and yields are subject to change without notice – please visit [www.redwoodcu.org](http://www.redwoodcu.org) for more information.

### HISTORIC LOW RATES!

#### HOME LOANS

**2.625%** (2.913% APR) 5/1 ARM!

A variety of fixed and variable rate home loans available.

#### AUTO LOANS

**3.74%** APR, new & used

#### VISA CREDIT CARD

**8.99%** APR Premier Plus Rate on our Platinum Visa. No transfer fees!

#### BUSINESS FINANCING

SBA and Commercial Loans!  
Call **1 (877) 545-4100** today!

## Calendar

All RCU locations will be closed:  
Veterans Day • Friday, November 11  
Thanksgiving Day • Thursday, November 24

## Holiday Donation Program

To participate in RCU's annual holiday donation program, you can donate a new unwrapped gift for a needy child or non-perishable food items. Collection bins will be in all RCU branches beginning November 25<sup>th</sup> until Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity and have a happy and safe holiday season!



“Like” RCU on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/redwoodcu](http://facebook.com/redwoodcu)