

• A publication of Vantria Federal Credit Union

# impact

## system upgrade set for july 2006

To grow with our members into the future, we are preparing to upgrade our primary computer processing system. The updated technology will give us more options, allowing us to add new services and operate more efficiently for you.

We began preparing for the conversion in November 2005 to make this transition as smooth as possible. Service to you is our priority, and we are trying very hard to minimize the inconvenience to you.

We have prepared a FAQ section on page 4 which should answer most of the questions you may have about the conversion. We'll offer more information as we approach our conversion date.

## VANTRIA NEWS 4.2006 options and impacts

Every day we have options. What to eat. How to spend our time. What chair to sit in. Which tie to wear. Some of these options are important. Some, well, not so much. Is your life significantly altered if you choose the Oxford stripe tie instead of the regimental stripe? Or choose the red tulips instead of the yellow?

But some decisions you make do have a lasting impact in your life. Your finances, for instance. The decisions you make can have dramatic impacts—whether you know about them or not—now, and for years to come.

What does taking out a \$30,000 car loan do to my credit score? (What is a credit score, anyway, and why do I care?) Is there a way to get my banking done that doesn't involve battling traffic? How can I get a home

equity loan without having to leave my home or office? Is there a way to get cash without being eaten alive with ATM fees? How do I make ends meet with the high cost of living here?

At Vantria, we work to show you not only the impacts of your choices, but we go one step further—to show you other options you may not have considered. Options that get you where you want to go, and which may have better impacts on your financial life.

Throughout Vantria Federal Credit Union, and our new newsletter, we'll work diligently and earnestly to help you make the best possible decisions for your financial life. To provide information that will illuminate your options, and help lead you on a path toward a better financial life.

# EVENTS

## APRIL

- 3/25-4/9 . . . . . Cherry Blossom Festival
- 4/11 . . . . . Life Planning: End of Life Issues  
Fairfax Public Library,  
Sherwood Branch, 7:30 p.m.
- 4/17 . . . . . White House Easter Egg Roll
- 4/23 . . . . . March of Dimes  
Springfield WalkAmerica,  
Lake Accotink Park, 9 a.m.

## MAY

- 5/16 . . . . . Diabetes Drug Treatment Seminar  
Fairfax County Public Library,  
Sherwood Branch, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/19-5/21 . . . . . Mount Vernon  
Spring Wine Festival
- 5/20-5/26 . . . . . Northern Virginia  
Fine Arts Festival,  
Greater Reston Arts Center

## JUNE

- 6/1-6/4 . . . . . Springfield Days  
Community Festival
- 6/1-6/4 . . . . . Herndon Festival
- 6/9-6/11 . . . . . Celebrate Fairfax!  
Community Festival
- 6/17 . . . . . Taste of the Town Greater Reston  
Chamber of Commerce

## \$1,000 scholarship available

Vantria FCU, in conjunction with the McGiffin family, will award a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to a credit union member who has shown scholastic excellence and is interested in advancing their education. This scholarship fund commemorates the contributions of James G. McGiffin. He served this credit union and the credit union industry for over 30 years. For more details and an application, visit our web site or call (703) 913.0700. Completed applications and supporting materials must be received by May 31, 2006.

## what do you think of impact?

We've redesigned our newsletter with an eye toward creating a more informative, community-oriented publication. Let us know what you think at [www.vantria.org](http://www.vantria.org) by completing the online survey.



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## garfield elementary school

since 1998, Vantria FCU has partnered with Garfield Elementary School for the purpose of improving student achievement and serving as a financial education resource for Garfield families.

Vantria supports Garfield in many endeavors, including its Mini-Walk for the Homeless, Community Safety Education Seminars, and its annual Book Fair Family Event. Garfield is always in need of support and volunteers for its many programs and activities. If you'd like to become a Garfield volunteer, please contact Garfield's volunteer coordinator, Gloria Coon at 703.923.2900.

## weta public broadcasting

pledge your support. Vantria FCU's staff and management have pledged their support of public broadcasting by regularly volunteering at WETA's pledge drives over the past few months.

WETA is the public television and radio station for the Greater Washington Area. As a public broadcaster, WETA relies on the support of a dedicated corps of volunteers to ensure the successful operation of its stations. Hundreds of volunteers help the station each year by answering phones during membership drives, assisting with special events and performing key administrative tasks and more. WETA invites you to volunteer, too! To learn more call 703.998.2726 or send an email to [volunteer@weta.com](mailto:volunteer@weta.com).

# OPTIONS & IMPACTS

## Avoid fees electronically

As a member-owned credit union, we charge fees when it costs us an exceptional amount to provide a service. The good news is, we almost always have a lower-cost, or fee-free alternative. Some examples:

- 1 Vantria's ATM and 32,000+ AllPoint network ATMs are surcharge-free alternatives to high-surcharge bank ATMs. Visit our website for locations.
- 2 ToneLine Automated Telephone Teller and HomeLine Online Banking let you transfer money between accounts to avoid Courtesy Pay and overdraft fees, plus set up automatic payments to your Vantria credit cards and loans to avoid late fees.
- 3 Vantria Bill Pay lets you set up automatic payments to your other loans and credit cards to avoid late fees.
- 4 Shared Branching through CU Service Centers is a convenient way to make deposits to avoid bank ATM surcharge fees, overdraft fees and the like. You can also make loan payments. Visit [www.cuswirl.com](http://www.cuswirl.com) for a location near you.

## Credit reports and credit score

Your credit score is a measurement created by the credit bureaus, used by lenders and others, to make decisions as to whether or not to extend credit to you. Not only that, many lenders use your credit score to determine what rate you'll pay. The higher your credit score, the less you'll pay in interest. The lower your credit score, well, you can take a guess what that means.

These days, credit scores are used for things other than lending, as well. Your ability to get auto or homeowner's insurance, or the rates you pay, may depend on your credit score. So may your ability to get a job, as many employers pull credit scores on job applicants.

What can you do to maximize your credit score? Here are a few tips:

**pay on time.** Late payments and delinquencies are the biggest single component of your credit score.

**correct mistakes.** Get your free credit report from each of the major bureaus at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). If you find mistakes, correct them.

**reduce your credit card balances.** One of the components of your credit score is the percent of capacity you've used. If you max out even one credit card, your score goes way down.

**don't necessarily close credit card accounts.** This one is surprising, but if you close credit card accounts, you're actually decreasing your borrowing capacity relative to what you have outstanding in balances!

For more information, and links to the three major credit bureaus, visit our website.

## Planning for your retirement...it's easier than you think

Day after day we're bombarded with choices. Sometimes, too many.

Remember when you could simply order a cup of coffee? Now you have to select the type of bean, the kind of milk, and the size of the cup. How many times have you seen someone standing at the counter, paralyzed by the options and unable to order?

Of course those choices on the menu are there so that everyone can get exactly what they want. The same holds true for the investment options available to you when choosing your retirement plan. So, how do you choose which investment vehicles are best for you? Meet with a financial representative at Vantria FCU to discuss your investment options and which vehicles best suit your needs.

Call 866.CUSERVE to schedule your appointment or visit [www.vantria.cuserve.org](http://www.vantria.cuserve.org) for additional program information.

Registered representatives of and investments offered through Financial Network Investment Corporation. Member SIPC. Program made available through UniTrust Financial Services located at 4875 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 220, Alexandria, VA 22304. UniTrust Financial/Credit Union and Financial Network are not affiliated. Investments are NOT NCUA/NCUSIF INSURED, NOT A DEPOSIT, NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY, NO CREDIT UNION GUARANTEE, MAY LOSE VALUE.

# QUICK IMPACTS

*In every issue of Impact, we offer Quick Impacts... ideas from our staff to show you options and impacts in your everyday financial life. This issue's Quick Impacts come from Agnes Delima in our Loan Department.*

## CASH FLOW

**option** Rather than taking out a separate loan to pay off credit card balances, consider using a home equity loan.

**impact** With a home equity loan, you may be able to receive a better rate, a lower payment resulting in increased cash flow, and possible tax savings.\*

## CONSOLIDATE AND SAVE

**option** If you have 3 or more loans, it can often be a good idea to consolidate your loans into a home equity or auto loan, and pay off the original loans.

**impact** A single loan and loan payment is much more convenient to manage. Also, you're likely to have a better rate than the separate loans... resulting in lower total payments.

## USE YOUR HOME TO BUY A CAR

**option** An auto loan may not be the only way to buy a car. If you have equity in your home, a home equity loan or line of credit may be a better option.

**impact** Using your home's equity offers the potential for better rates, greater versatility, lower payments and potential tax savings.\*

## CREDIT INSIGHT

**option** Take a look at your credit report.

**impact** Seeing what is listed can help you understand your credit score. Your credit score is vital because it affects how much you pay for loans, auto and homeowner's insurance, even whether or not you get a job.

\*Consult your tax advisor regarding deductibility of interest

# NOTICES & CLOSINGS

*Our office will be closed as noted below. However, ToneLine phone account access, 24/7 Lending Center and HomeLine online account access are all available as usual.*

## Wednesday, April 19

Lobby closes at 12 noon for training

## Wednesday, May 17

Lobby closes at 12 noon for training

## Monday, May 29

Closed—Memorial Day Holiday

## Wednesday, June 21

Lobby closes at 12 noon for training

## Friday, June 30

Lobby and drive-up close at 5:00 p.m. to prepare for conversion

## Saturday, July 1

Credit union closed for system conversion and upgrade

## Tuesday, July 4

Closed—Independence Day Holiday



# EXTRA

## annual meeting 2006

This year's Annual Membership Meeting will start at noon, Thursday, April 27, 2006, in the Vantria boardroom located in our branch at 6708 Backlick Road, Springfield, Virginia. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served. Please join us, meet some of the staff and learn about our latest developments. No reservations are needed.

The Nominating Committee has been appointed to present a slate of nominees to fill two board positions. The committee has nominated the incumbents listed below to fill two 3-year terms. There will be no nominations from the floor and no voting at the annual meeting.

### candidates

**Mark Cunningham.** Mr. Cunningham has been a credit union member for 17 years and currently works as a budget analyst for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). He served as a team leader in the Comptroller for the DLA. Mr. Cunningham has led teams of budget analysts to formulate and submit a \$20 billion budget for the DLA to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).

**Alex Erhard.** Mr. Erhard has been a credit union member for 20 years and currently serves on the Board of Directors. He works for the Prince William Public School System as a 7th grade mathematics teacher at Rippon Middle School.

## conversion FAQ

As we embark on our upcoming system conversion (see article on Page 1), here are answers to a few questions you may have.

**Q** Will my account number change with the conversion to the new system?

**A** No, member numbers/account numbers and suffixes will not change after the conversion. Account numbers on your checks, direct deposits and automatic deductions will not change. However, you will notice your account numbers will have a minor change in their format, and your statements and teller receipts will look different.

**Q** Will I have to order new checks?

**A** No, account numbers on your checks will not change.

**Q** Will Vantria's routing number change?

**A** No, Vantria's routing number will remain the same.

**Q** Will any of Vantria's automated services change?

**A** If you use our Toneline Automated Phone Banking or Homeline Online Banking services, you will notice some major changes in those services, including enhanced menus and increased functionality.

**Q** Are there any special hours related to the conversion?

**A** Yes, on **Friday, June 30**, lobby and drive-up close at 5:00 p.m., and on **Saturday, July 1** the credit union is closed for system conversion and upgrade.

We appreciate your support and patience as we adapt to this new system. If you have questions or if we can help you in any way, please call 703.913.0700 x 134. Thank you for using your credit union. Our goal is to always offer you more options for your busy lifestyle.

# CONNECT

[www.vantria.org](http://www.vantria.org)  
WEBSITE

703.913.0700  
TELEPHONE

800.657.9359  
TOLL FREE

703.913.5895  
FAX MEMBER SERVICES

703.913.3276  
FAX LENDING

888.922.4328  
FAX TOLL FREE

703.913.8192  
TONELINE

800.526.1404  
TONELINE TOLL FREE

866.201.5615  
24/7 LENDING CALL CENTER  
(APPLY FOR A LOAN ANYTIME  
OVER THE PHONE)

888.771.0281  
MORTGAGES

866.563.1335  
LOST/STOLEN VISA CREDIT CARD

800.554.8969  
LOST/STOLEN VISA CHECK CARD

[lending@vantria.org](mailto:lending@vantria.org)  
FOR LOAN OR VISA CREDIT CARD INQUIRIES

[memberservices@vantria.org](mailto:memberservices@vantria.org)  
FOR AUTOMATIC DEBITS/CREDITS, DIRECT DEPOSITS/ALLOTMENTS, BILL-PAYMENTS/VANTRIA BILL PAY, HOMELINE ONLINE BANKING, CHECK CARDS/DEBIT CARDS AND GENERAL INQUIRIES

[marketing@vantria.org](mailto:marketing@vantria.org)  
FOR PRODUCT OR SERVICE SUGGESTIONS, SEMINARS, COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS, AND PARTNERSHIPS TO OFFER CREDIT UNION MEMBERSHIP TO LOCAL SPRINGFIELD BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

P.O. Box 5098  
Springfield, VA 22150  
MAILING ADDRESS

6708 Backlick Road  
Springfield, VA 22150  
STREET ADDRESS

9-4 MON - THURS\*

9-5 FRI

9-12 SAT

LOBBY HOURS

\*3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, THE LOBBY CLOSES AT NOON FOR STAFF TRAINING TO PROVIDE YOU WITH BETTER SERVICE.

7-6 MON - THURS

7-7 FRI

9-12 SAT

DRIVE-UP HOURS

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
**VANTRIA**