

January, 2012

Celebrating 70 Years  
of Serving our Members

RMECU

ROCKFORD MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES  
CREDIT UNION

[www.rmecu.net](http://www.rmecu.net)

# Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1



RMECU wants to find out from **YOU** how we can better serve your needs. Coming in **February** you will be given a chance to complete our custom **Member Survey** available **on-line**. Tell us your honest thoughts about how you view — and use — your credit union and our services. Watch for a **letter** with more details **coming soon**. We'll make it worth your time to participate, so **don't miss out**.



## Inside this issue:

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- ⇒ Congratulations
- ⇒ Buying a Car Online
- ⇒ Annual Meeting
- ⇒ Board Candidates Needed
- ⇒ CUpondeals
- ⇒ Giant Teddy Bear Winner

## 2012 Office Closings

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
Monday, January 16
- Presidents Day**  
Monday, February 20
- Good Friday**  
Friday, April 6 Close at 12:30 pm
- Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 28
- Independence Day**  
Wednesday, July 4
- Labor Day**  
Monday, September 3
- Columbus Day**  
Monday, October 8
- Veteran's Day Observed**  
Monday, November 12
- Thanksgiving Day**  
Thursday, November 22
- Day after Thanksgiving**  
Friday, November 23
- Christmas Eve**  
Monday, Dec 24 Close at 12:30 pm
- Christmas Day**  
Tuesday, December 25
- New Year's Day**  
Tuesday, January 1, 2013

## CONGRATULATIONS

To our members

Benjamin Boeke, Joel Givens,  
John Hoeksema



On Your Promotion  
To Sergeant

& Thank You FOR KEEPING US ALL SAFE

## Buying a Car Online?

### Read This First



You can buy almost anything over the Internet—including clothes, a pizza, music, a hotel room, even a car. And while most transactions are conducted lawfully and securely, there are instances when criminals insert themselves into the marketplace, hoping to trick potential victims into falling for one of their scams.

Recently, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) issued an alert about a specific type of cyber scam that targets consumers looking to buy vehicles online.

**How the scam works:** While there are variations, here's a basic description: consumers find a vehicle they like—often at a below-market price—on a legitimate website. The buyer contacts the seller, usually through an e-mail address in the ad, to indicate their interest. The seller responds via e-mail, often with a hard-luck story about why they want to sell the vehicle and at such a good price.

In the e-mail, the seller asks the buyer to move the transaction to the website of another online company....for security reasons....and then offers a buyer protection plan in the name of a major Internet company (e.g., eBay). Through the new website, the buyer receives an invoice and is instructed to wire the funds for the vehicle to an account somewhere. In a new twist, sometimes the criminals pose as company representatives in a live chat to answer questions from buyers.

Once the funds are wired, the buyer may be asked by the seller to fax a receipt to show that the transaction has taken place. And then the seller and buyer agree upon a time for the delivery of the vehicle.

**What actually happens:** The ad the consumer sees is either completely phony or was hijacked from another website. The buyer is asked to move from a legitimate website to a spoofed website, where it's easier for the criminal to conduct business. The buyer protection plan offered as part of the deal is bogus. And the buyer is asked to fax the seller proof of the transaction so the crooks know when the funds are available for stealing.

And by the time buyers realize they've been scammed, the criminals—and the money—are long gone.

### Red flags for consumers:

- ⇒ Cars are advertised at too-good-to-be true prices
- ⇒ Sellers want to move transactions from the original website to another site
- ⇒ Sellers claim that a buyer protection program offered by a major Internet company covers an auto transaction conducted outside that company's website
- ⇒ Sellers refuse to meet in person or allow potential buyers to inspect the car ahead of time
- ⇒ Sellers who say they want to sell the car because they're in the U.S. military about to be deployed, are moving, the car belonged to someone who recently died, or a similar story
- ⇒ Sellers who ask for funds to be wired ahead of time

**Number of complaints.** From 2008 through 2010, IC3 has received nearly 14,000 complaints from consumers who have been victimized, or at least targeted, by these scams. Of the victims who actually lost money, the total dollar amount is staggering: nearly \$44.5 million.

If you think you've been victimized by an online auto scam, file a complaint with IC3. Once complaints are received and analyzed, IC3 forwards them as appropriate to a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency.

The logo for the Annual Meeting features the word "ANNUAL" in a large, thin, blue-outlined font above the word "MEETING" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a dark blue rectangular box.

**The 69th Annual  
Meeting of Members  
will be on  
Thursday  
March 22, 2012.  
Watch for more details  
in the coming weeks.**

**CELEBRATING 70 YEARS  
OF SERVING OUR MEMBERS  
IN 2012**

Watch for special promotions and activities throughout the year.

Take the opportunity to give us your opinion on our products and services through a survey coming next month. (See page 1)

Let us know if you would like to help run the credit union by serving on the Board of Directors. There are currently 2 vacancies on the board which will be filled by a vote of the members at the annual meeting on March 22, 2012. Contact the credit union office at 815-316-4655 or one of our current board members (listed on [rmecu.net](http://rmecu.net)) to submit your name to the nominating committee.

**THANK YOU, MEMBERS, FOR YOUR PAST AND CONTINUING SUPPORT OF  
YOUR CREDIT UNION.**

## OFFICE

**634 N. Church Street  
Rockford IL 61103  
Phone: 815-316-4655  
Fax: 815-316-4717**

Website: [www.rmecu.net](http://www.rmecu.net)

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Friday**

**Drive-up 7:30 AM — 5:30 PM**

**Lobby 9:00 AM — 5:00 PM**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wally Parson	Chairman
Chuck Doyle	Vice Chairman
Brenda Foote	Secretary
Karen Mohr Powers	Treasurer
Shirley Foltz	
Anthony Graceffa	
Erik Gulbrantson	
Charlie McDonald	
David Said	

## STAFF

Sara Sheahan – President  
Donna Seitz – Vice President  
Lorrie Berg — Sr. MSR  
Sandra Grimm-Vance — Sr. MSR  
Nicole Gully — MSR  
LuAnn Jones — EFT Specialist  
Beverly Richmond — MSR

## The Real Deal on Deal Sites

You'd have to be living under a rock not to have seen the newest online craze—deal sites! From Groupon to LivingSocial to Woot to countless other local and national deal sites, there seems to be new deal sites cropping up everywhere.

The prices are remarkable. The merchandise is what you want. Is there a catch?

Usually, there isn't. Most deals are for restaurants, spa services, or other high markup products and services where the company feels it's worth their while to cut their profits because they're getting so much added business. Plus, they're hoping you'll come back for more, although of course you're under no obligation to do so.

Since most deal sites offer a deal for one to three days, there's a feeling of not wanting to miss out. People will then grab the deal, whether or not it's something they'd have bought anyway. As we all know, a bargain is only a bargain if you needed the item in the first place. So, rather than get caught up in the frenzy (gotta buy quickly before the deal sells out! Need to grab this NOW!) take a minute and ask yourself a simple question: do I really need this? And, even if you don't need it, it's sometimes nice to splurge on something fun. The question then becomes: can I afford this? And, is this where I want to spend my "fun" money?

Keep that in mind and you can't go wrong on deal sites. In fact, we've got a deal site for you, exclusive to credit union members! Go to [CUpondeals.org](http://CUpondeals.org) and sign up to get a free hotel voucher. You'll also be one of the first to know when a new weekly deal is posted!

## GIANT TEDDY BEAR AND FRIEND



Dennis Vance was the winner of the Giant Teddy Bear and Wagon of gifts in our Christmas drawing. He won with his entry for opening a new account. Congratulations, Dennis.



Where people are worth more than money.™