

Directions

For First Northern Credit Union Members
Winter 2011



Love + **Money**
First Northern's Tips to Live By



Contents

Winter 2011



Love + Money

First Northern's Tips to Live By

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Find the Needle!

We have a needle hidden somewhere in this newsletter (the image to the left is not the hidden one). Send an email to marketing@fncu.org (Subject Line: Needle) stating the page and location of where we have hidden it and you could win a \$25 First Northern Visa Gift Card! Good luck!

A Letter from **First Northern**

Dear Valued Member,

Happy New Year from all of us at First Northern Credit Union. We are continually thankful for your loyalty and look forward to another great year serving you and helping you accomplish your financial goals.

In 2011, we are launching First Northern Mobile Banking. This free service will allow you to access your accounts anytime, anywhere – in the palm of your hand. With this great new benefit, having your checking account with First Northern can be even more convenient.



Since you are a partial owner of First Northern, your participation is crucial to our growth and good health. We know and care about you – and to show you that we are committed to earning your business, we have lowered some of our loan rates. I encourage you to contact our Financial Advisors if you are interested in finding out how you can save by refinancing your mortgage or auto loan.

Unlike big banks, First Northern has remained strong, healthy and committed to helping its members without government assistance. Despite the recession that economists have declared over, many of our members are still experiencing hardship. During these difficult times, we are prepared to address your concerns, review your options, and help you make the best financial decisions to improve your well-being.

We are committed to providing you the best in products, services and pricing. I ask that in 2011 you consider moving more of your business to the credit union. I promise we will show you why we are not only better than a big bank, but how much your individual account matters to us. Thank you again for your participation in the credit union.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward C. Berg', written over a light blue background.

Edward C. Berg
President/CEO



First Northern staff, 541 N. Fairbanks staff and construction managers pose after ribbon-cutting ceremony.

First Northern's Streeterville Branch location serving our Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH) members is now located at 541 N. Fairbanks Court, Suite 120, Chicago.

In order to better serve our membership, the new branch is more than double the size of our previous location at 259 E. Erie Street. In addition, increased staff and cash services – including cash withdrawals – are now available at the new location.

"Approximately 30 percent of NMH employees have a relationship with First Northern," said Branch Manager, Jim Esner. "With a larger branch and cash services, we are hoping to increase membership to over 50 percent of employees by December 2011."

In addition to providing ATM services in the Galter Pavilion at 201 E. Huron Street, a new ATM has been installed in the retail concourse of 541 N. Fairbanks Court.

Members in downtown Chicago can also continue to visit us at our Main Branch located at 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite 2850.

First Northern Opens Freeport Branch

After merging with 1st Northwest Federal Credit Union on November 1, First Northern Credit Union officially opened its doors to the Freeport, IL community on November 2. The new branch, located at 2 East Stephenson Street will continue to serve the employees of Newell Rubbermaid and their family members, as well as anyone living, working, worshiping, or attending school in Stephenson County.

“We treat people like they own the place, because they do,” says Bob Folgate former CEO/CFO of 1st Northwest. “First Northern was sought out because our board felt that they have that same philosophy.”

1st Northwest opened in 1961 as Newell Federal Credit Union to serve the employees and families of Newell Rubbermaid Corporation. In 2006, it became 1st Northwest Federal when a community charter was obtained enabling them to serve anyone who lives or works in Stephenson County.

“First Northern is excited about merging with 1st Northwest,” says Jon Pick, First Northern District Sales Manager. “Not only will this allow us to offer the existing members of 1st Northwest more enhanced products but it will also allow our current First Northern members the opportunity to do their business closer to home.”

The grand opening on November 18, 2010 kicked off with ribbon-cutting and a free turkey raffle where 10 turkeys were given away.

First Northern staff and the Freeport Chamber of Commerce at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Love + Money

Tips to Live By



Finding Mr./Ms. Right can be hard enough! In a relationship, couples face many obstacles, but none as trying as their finances. And it starts from day one.

Here's a head start on how to avoid some of these problems.

WHEN YOU START DATING

- While it used to be custom for men to pay for the date, it is becoming more common for women to treat. Talk with each other and try to take turns paying for dates.
- Find creative and fun things to do that don't cost a lot if anything. Take a walk, go hiking, or enjoy a free concert in the park. There are endless activities that couples can enjoy for little to no money.
- When your relationship begins to get a little more serious, it's a good idea to talk about future financial goals. Having a game plan will be helpful in any relationship. Also, learning your partner's financial habits will help to set goals that can be reached by both of you.

MOVING IN TOGETHER

- Don't jump in blind! Discuss it first with your partner. Determine in advance who will be responsible for what finances.
- It might also be a good idea to have a written living-together agreement. Clarifying your intentions will save you on some very costly disagreements later.
- Consider a First Northern joint checking account for rent/mortgage, utilities and other shared living expenses.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

- Pay for most of your wedding in cash and don't put yourselves in too much debt. If you do accumulate some debt, set a timeframe of when you both would like to get it paid off. Devise a plan, and stick to it!
- If you receive any monetary gifts from your wedding, start a First Northern savings account specifically for future purchases like a house, or even a little bundle of joy!
- Figure out your tax situation. When you are married, you can file jointly.
- Determine who will be responsible for paying the bills and balancing the checkbook.
- Make sure you maintain communication with every purchase. It is very difficult if the person paying the bills and balancing the checkbook is not aware of what the other is buying.

BABY ON THE WAY

- If one partner will be staying home and the other working, make sure that you both agree that while one is not "working," they still have the most important job, "raising your children."
- Make sure to start a college fund for your children. Roth IRAs are a great tax-free way to put money towards a child's college education.
- Talk to a Financial Service Advisor about opening a Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) with First Northern.
- Consider opening a 529 Plan to meet the costs of a college education.

OUR MEMBERS



Our average member is male and

49



Our membership's average credit score

735



Our average loan balance (including autos, personal, VISA, and mortgage loans)

\$12,381.66



61032

is the zip code most of our members live in (Freeport)



Average household size

2.1

BEERS

COUNT



Average number of years members have been with First Northern

11



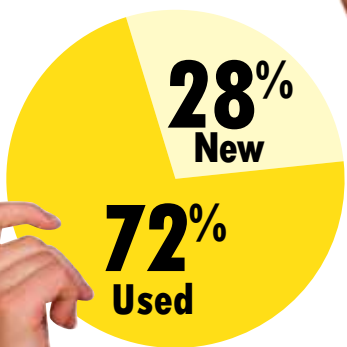
\$12,383
Our average deposit



65%

Members that are Exelon employees or annuitants

Of those members who have a used or new auto loan.



Main Branch

230 West Monroe Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 394-8500
Fax: (312) 853-0588

Lobby Hours:

M/T/Th/F: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
W: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Streeterville Branch

541 North Fairbanks Court, Suite 120
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 394-8500
Fax: (312) 202-1471

Lobby Hours:

M/T/Th/F: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
W: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ATM located in Galter Pavilion, 2nd Floor
ATM located at 541 N. Fairbanks Court
(Lower Level)

Evanston Branch

726 Clark Street
Evanston, IL 60201
Phone: (847) 332-0240
Fax: (847) 332-0244

Lobby Hours:

M/T/Th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
W: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
F: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
S: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
24-Hour ATM

Rockford Branches

104 North Show Place Drive
Rockford, IL 61107
Phone: (815) 332-9898
Fax: (815) 332-8935

Lobby & Drive-up Hours:

M/T/Th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
W: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
F: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
S: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

24-Hour Drive-Up ATM

2235 12th Street
Rockford, IL 61104
Phone: (815) 963-4282
Fax: (815) 963-0030

Lobby Hours:

M/T/Th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
W: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
F: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
S: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Drive-up Hours:

M/T/Th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
W: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
F: 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
S: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Freeport Branch

2 East Stephenson Street
Freeport, IL 61032
Phone: (815) 233-8329
Fax: (815) 233-8328

Lobby Hours:

M/T/Th: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
W: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
F: 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
S: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Phone Hours

M/T/Th/F: 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
W: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
888.328.8677

Can't make it to one of our branches? Find over 6,300 Shared Branching locations worldwide at www.fnacu.org.



First Northern's FINEST
Kristen Anast

What is your job description?

Business Development & Marketing Specialist

How do members interact with you?

Members don't necessarily interact on the phone with me, but we do have events where I get to meet our current members and potential new members.

How long have you been with First Northern?

4½ years

Any advice for members?

We realize that sometimes getting a ton of mail gets a little overwhelming, but we want our members to know that we offer great new products and services and we want to give members all the information they need. So when you see something from First Northern, take a look at it. It might just be what you need.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

We create all of our own campaigns so seeing the media come to life from our ideas is great. Also, being able to offer great products and services and get our message across to our members is very rewarding.

What are a few of your favorite things?

- Playing and watching all kinds of sports.
- Watching my fantasy football team win!
- Listening to music.
- Going to concerts.
- Attempting to train my dog.
- Going out with friends.
- Telling dumb jokes!
- Singing in the car with my husband.
- Taking goofy pictures of myself.
- Scrabble.

see us for all your mortgage needs



FIRST NORTHERN IN THE NEWS



TOYS FOR TOTS

First Northern Credit Union hosted a toy drive in benefit of the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots initiative on Saturday, December 4, 2010. The event was co-sponsored with Lou Bachrodt Auto Mall. Members and non-members spilled into the 104 North Show Place Drive First Northern branch amidst a snow storm to show support for the kids. Over 100 toys were collected for children in the Rockford community during the three hour event. B103's Sean Henry hosted a live broadcast and Rockford's very own Ice Hog Hammy was on hand to help with the festivities. A free raffle for anyone who stopped by was also held. Prizes included an iPod Nano and two \$100 First Northern Credit Union Visa gift cards. Free food and drinks were offered and balloons were given out to the kids.



Hammy the Ice Hog and a generous Rockfordian donating toys.



B103's Sean Henry interviewing a U.S. Marine

Rates

DEPOSITS

All share rates listed in **APY** (Annual Percentage Yield)

All Savings Accounts	(\$25,000 and above).....	0.30%
	(\$2,500 - \$24,999).....	0.25%
	(\$5 - \$2,499).....	0.20%

*Rates are subject to change. Yields for all share savings accounts (above) are decided quarterly by the Board of Directors. Dividends are paid retroactively and are based on earnings for the period. The dividend yield listed is for the period ending 12/31/10. Yields for other deposit products (below) are declared and paid monthly.

Share Draft Checking	(Advantage).....	3.00%
	(Preferred).....	0.10%
	(Value Now Free Checking).....	0.00%†

*Rates are subject to change. For Advantage Checking, an Average Daily Balance between \$.01 and \$7,500 currently earns 3.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) and all portions above \$7,500 currently earn 0.20% APY. Rates effective as of 12/31/10. † Non-interest bearing checking account. Complete checking account features and requirements available at www.fncu.org or speak with a Financial Service Advisor.

Loans

ALL LOAN RATES LISTED IN APR (ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE) AS LOW AS:
APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to credit approval. Rates are subject to Lender's credit criteria, certain conditions, and restrictions. Your rate and corresponding APR may be higher than the published rate. Rates subject to change without notice. Open-end Credit Line Account Agreement loan rates for feature categories vehicle, share/stock secured, and unsecured loans are current as of the time of printing. *Terms listed for loan products originated under our multi-featured, open-end loan plan are approximate and are based on amortizations of the minimum monthly payment assigned to the particular advance.

New Vehicle Loans

24 months*	.....	2.99%
36 months*	.....	2.99%
48 months*	.....	3.49%
60 months*	.....	3.49%
72 months*	.....	4.99%

Used Vehicle Loans (model years 2005 and newer)

Up to 60 months*	.....	3.49%
61 to 66 months*	.....	4.99%

Fixed Rate Visa Credit Cards

Platinum rate; no annual fee	.....	8.99%
Platinum Premier rate; no annual fee	.....	10.25%
Classic rate; no annual fee	.....	12.25%

Share Secured Loans as low as..... **3.99%**

Stock Secured Loans as low as..... **6.79%**

Unsecured Loans

Up to 60 months.....	13.99%
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Home Access Loans

Line of Credit (variable).....	7.00% APR**
7 year fixed.....	8.78% APR

Home Equity Loans**

Line of Credit (variable).....	4.00% APR**
5-year fixed.....	3.99% APR
10-year fixed.....	5.49% APR
15-year fixed.....	5.99% APR

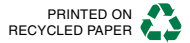
For current mortgage rates, contact a First Northern Loan Officer or visit www.fncu.org.

**Home equity loans available on Illinois residences only. Consult your tax advisor concerning interest deductibility. Fixed-rate repayment example: 5.99% APR for 120 months is \$11.10 per \$1,000 borrowed. Rate Floor = 4.00%. Rate Cap = 18.00%. Regarding home equity lines-of-credit: Interest rates are indexed to the Prime Rate as published daily in the Wall Street Journal "Money Rates" table. As of the time of printing, the Prime Rate was 3.25% APR.

**750 ATMs ADDED
to our network of
over 63,000
surcharge-free ATMs.**

Visit www.fncu.org to learn more.





We've

lowered our loan rates.
Talk to a Financial Advisor today.