



Community BANK NEWS

A newsletter of banking advice and services...from people who know you, people you know.

Identity thieves, your credit report, and why you should read this!

Identity theft can occur anytime, anywhere, to anyone. Wherever you pay by credit card, your credit card number can be stolen, or a hacker can break into the financial database of a national merchant and steal it, or you could unknowingly provide a phisher with personal information that can be used to steal your identity. The schemes are endless and you may not know until months later that car loans, credit cards, even home mortgages, have been opened in your name. To monitor identity theft, obtain a copy of your credit report.

Effective September 1, 2005 the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act gives you *free* access annually to your credit report from three reporting agencies. Stagger your requests over the year and check these key areas when you receive it:



Community Guaranty Savings Bank
People who know you. People you know.

Timeliness: Does it show late payments when you always pay on time? Could be an error that needs to be corrected... or an identity theft.

Accounts: Are all the accounts yours? Thieves using stolen information could open new accounts.

Dormant Accounts: Are there accounts you don't use? Close them. Thieves prefer existing accounts rather than newly-opened ones.

If you think you're a victim of identity theft, contact your bank and credit card issuer instantly and cancel the affected cards. The FACT Act gives you specific rights:

- Ask your credit card agencies to place "fraud alerts" on your file, alerting lenders that an applicant for credit may be an identity thief.
- Request free documents specific to fraudulent transactions or on accounts opened using your personal information.

- You have the right to obtain information from a debt collector. You can request a consumer reporting agency to block information in your personal file if you feel it resulted in identity theft.

If you're vigilant in monitoring your credit history, you can minimize your financial damages and credit standing and possibly help law enforcement agencies apprehend these criminals.

To obtain a credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll-free 877-322-8228. Your credit report is free after September 1, 2005.

The three credit reporting agencies are:

Experian
P.O. Box 2002 • Allen, TX 75013
www.experian.com • (888) 397-3742

Trans Union
P.O. Box 4000 • Chester, PA 19016
www.transunion.com • (866) 887-2673

Equifax
P.O. Box 740241 • Atlanta, GA 30348
www.equifax.com • (800) 685-1111



New online banking services at cgsb.com

By June 1 our customers will be able to make loan payments, account transfers, check realtime (current) account balances and pay bills online. You'll also be able to download your account information to your personal accounting software. And there are more online services to come. Look for our next announcement on corporate online banking.

Got a need? Check out our new fixed-rate home equity loan now!

We've just introduced a brand new home equity loan with a fixed interest rate, set at the loan inception, of 1/2% over *The Wall Street Journal* Prime Rate for the life of the loan (maximum term of 10 years). The sooner you act, based on rising rates, the better your rate. Home improvement, education, vacation, taxes, etc., whatever your need...we've got your loan.



Meet our new Director

Michael F. Conklin, Esq.
Conklin and Reynolds P.A.
North Woodstock, NH



CDARSSM - A new CGSB service for larger-deposit investors

Our new CDARSSM program means you can safely invest more than \$100,000 in CDs that are fully-insured and offer competitive rates of return.

It's the easiest, safest, most convenient way to invest larger sums of money with one bank.

- CDARS earns you competitive CD returns. Rates compare favorably with those of other fixed-income investments, such as Treasury bills and money market mutual funds.
- With CDARS investments you'll have the security of FDIC insurance coverage up to \$10 million.
- With CDARS you have the convenience of one local bank, one interest rate, and one monthly statement.
- CDARS offers local community investment. The full value of your money can support lending opportunities in the Plymouth area community.

CDARSSM is Certificate of Deposit Account Registry ServiceSM.
CGSB is one of the few banks in New Hampshire offering this service.

ALERT!

Please report lost or stolen CGSB
ATM or VISA cards immediately!

Call us 8:30 am - 4:30 pm at 536-0001.
Between 4:30 pm - 8:30 am, call 1-800-523-4175.



Tips on shopping for an auto loan

By Ron Sibley

The spring/summer season is a popular time for auto shopping. But whether you're buying a new or used vehicle, there are a few important things to keep in mind that could save you significant money and make that ultimate purchase more satisfying.

It's very easy to be caught up in the excitement of auto hunting while taking more lightly the reality of auto financing. For years car dealers and car companies have promoted "0% financing" or "no money down," advertising designed to attract buyers. But auto loan financing impacts your household income on a monthly basis and involves significant debt. Ignoring the details of an auto loan could cost you an extra \$10-20 a month. Over a three-year loan, that's \$360-720. Over a five-year loan, it's \$600-1,200!

Keep in mind that the responsibility of the auto purchase belongs to you, the buyer. So *buyer beware!* Do your homework. Begin by finding the car you want. Once you've identified the car, ask the dealer to give you his best cash price (it may include a rebate). Then ask about the special auto financing option. In many cases, you may be better off taking a rebate or a discounted price on the car and financing it with a traditional car loan rather than taking 0% financing on the loan. Don't be afraid to ask questions. The important issue is to understand all the details.

Then you'll need to compare the dealer's financing package with other financing options. As a CGSB customer we hope you'll feel comfortable coming to us for an objective comparison of financing options, regardless of where you eventually finalize your loan. As your local banker, we want you to be able to make an informed decision that best suits your financial needs.

Remember that no one can afford to give you something for nothing. It's possible that 0% financing could cost you more for the car. That's why we encourage getting an objective financial opinion from your bank. Dealers want to sell cars. Banks make loans. If you do your homework you'll end up feeling very good about your new car and even better about your new auto loan.