

**Dowagiac Area Federal Credit Union**

**Members Quarterly**

**www.dafcu.net**

## Credit Union Staff spreading Christmas Cheer!



Were you one of the brave souls that made it to the Dowagiac Christmas Parade? Temperatures were very, very cold but it did not freeze the fun everyone had at the event. The Credit Union Staff once again pulled together and had a great time coming up with ideas on how to decorate the float that was entered by the credit union for all to enjoy. Not only did we have fun with it's construction but we were honored to receive our 2nd Award of Excellence trophy for the efforts of the staff's decorating skills.

## Credit Union Adopt a Family a Great Success!!

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Every year during the holiday season the Dowagiac Area Federal Credit Union's family helps make the lives of another family in our area more enjoyable. With the help of the membership we really made an impact on the lives of a young Mother and her two children. We were able to collect enough food to prepare a great feast for Thanksgiving and had extra to feed the family for many, many days.

Then our efforts turned to Christmas and once again the Membership would not let this family down. The donations came pouring in; toys, clothing, household items, non-perishable food items, crayons, construction paper and so much more. We had two members donate a \$100 gift card from Family Fare and a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart.

There is no doubt that the true holiday spirit of giving is alive and well in our community. A great big thanks goes out to all who were able to make donations to help make the lives of our Adopt a Family a lot happier during this special holiday season.

*Thank You*

## New Saturday Hours

With the changes taking place in the financial industry we have been evaluating the services provided to the membership of the credit union to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our members in the most cost effective manner. We have seen an increase of Direct Deposit, Online Banking, Online Bill Pay, Online Loan Applications, use of the Touch Tone Teller and an increase in the use of Debit and ATM cards, which means the foot traffic in the office has changed. This is a positive change because it indicates that the membership is taking full advantage of the services being provided by the credit union to make your life easier when it comes to managing your finances.

After reviewing the types of transactions being performed on Saturdays it has been decided that we will no longer offer lobby access on Saturdays. We still will provide Drive-up window service from 9:00 am until 12:30 pm on Saturdays and you will be able to access your account in the same manner that you always have. This change will take effect beginning January 3rd, 2009.

For our members who borrow from the credit union we will be offering loan service by appointment on Saturdays because we do recognize that work schedules do not always allow you to come into the office during the week to close your loan. Also, if you wish to submit a loan request there are a number of ways you can do this, go to our website at dafcu.net and click the loan application icon and apply online, if you have a current application on file with us you will be able to call us and after we update some basic information we can process your request or we can fax an application or drop one in the mail to you.

If you have any questions or suggestions on how we can better serve you please let us know. We appreciate your input and as a Member owner of your credit union you do have say.

## Paperless Receipts on the way

What are paperless receipts? Paperless receipts save on the cost of paper that is needed to record your transactions by providing an imaged (copy) receipt that is stored on a file server (computer storage). This also saves on storage space by eliminating packing receipts away in a storage box that must be kept for seven years.



The change for you is we will be asking you to sign a signature pad that have been installed at each Teller window (except the Drive-up window) and we will ask if you would like a copy of the receipt, if you don't need a copy your transaction is complete, if you want a copy of the receipt we will print a copy of it and you are done. At any time we will be able to recall these copies with a few keystrokes if needed.

Another cost savings process for the credit union. Saves on paper, saves on storage and saves money.



## Dowagiac Area Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting

Can you believe a year has pasted already which means it is time for Your Credit Unions Annual Meeting. This year the meeting will be held on the 16th of February 2009 starting at 5:30 pm at the credit union office located at 473 East Division Street in Dowagiac. Reports from the Credit Union Chairman, Supervisory Committee, Loan Officers, CEO and Financial Report will be provided. Also an election of Officers will be held and the results of that election will be reported at the meeting.

As a Member Owner of the Credit Union you are invited to attend the meeting and participate in the election of Officers. If you have an interest in running for one of the two positions please contact the credit union office or one of the Nominating Committee members; Leon Dodd, Joe Underwood, Diana Kingsley, Tim Dowsett or Paul Kitchen by January 9th, 2009 as voting will begin on the 12th of January with ballots available at the credit union office. Also, if you have an interest in becoming a member or our Supervisory Committee please contact the credit union office. Supervisory Committee members are appointed by the Board of Directors at its reorganizational meeting held after the Annual Meeting.

## Share Insurance Coverage Increased

Safe and strong through troubled times. With reports in the news recently of some financial institutions facing losses and other problems, you may be wondering about the financial stability of your credit union. We'd like to reassure you that Dowagiac Area Federal Credit Union remains strong, safe and secure. We continue to provide you with excellent financial products and continue to follow sound lending practices and service-oriented policies which allow us to continue to prosper even during troubled economic times.

Federally backed security; you can enjoy peace of mind knowing that your deposits are federally insured through the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a U.S. government agency. The NCUA is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Not one penny of insured savings has ever been lost by a member of a federally insured credit union. Each account holder's funds are insured to at least \$250,000, temporarily increased from \$100,000 through December 31, 2009 and retirement accounts such as individual retirement accounts are insured up to \$250,000.

If your savings exceeds the amount covered by the basic insurance limits, you can extend your NCUA coverage by establishing different types of accounts. The NCUA insures accounts in different ownership categories separately. You can get up to \$250,000 of additional insurance for your interest in accounts owned jointly with someone else and for trust accounts of which you are a beneficiary.

Detailed information about NCUA insurance, as well as a calculator that you can use to estimate your coverage, is available at the NCUA web site, [www.ncua.gov](http://www.ncua.gov). You may also call the NCUA Consumer Assistance Center toll free at 800-755-1030.

We invite you to stop by the credit union office with any questions you may have about your account with the credit union and we will help you explore ways to increase your NCUA coverage on your accounts.

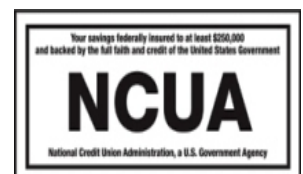
## Bits & Pieces

**Skip-A-Payment** There's still time to apply for a Skip-A-Payment for January. Forms are available at the credit union office. All loans must be current and loans excluded from this program are Home Equity, VISA and lines of credit.

**Year-end Tax information** When you receive your year-end statement remember that if you have received \$10 or more in dividends your 1099INT form will be included with your statement. Also, if you have paid \$600 or more in interest on a Home Equity loan you will receive a 1098 form which will also be included with your year-end statement. The Fair Market value of your IRA account will also be listed on your statement.

### **MCULLAF Grand Raffle**

Thanks to all our members who helped support our annual Grand Raffle. With all donations received throughout the state we raised \$128,505 for the Legislative PAC. A member from Alpena Alcona Area CU was the lucky winner of the new car.



## Dowagiac Area Federal Credit Union

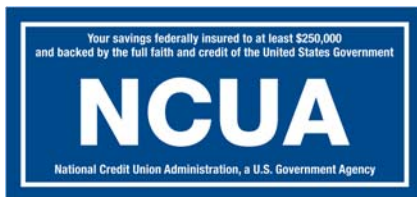
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[www.dafcu.net](http://www.dafcu.net)



Your shares federally insured up to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

Dowagiac Area Federal Credit Union has two **No Surcharge** (for Co-op members) ATM's.

**Locations:**

Inside Foyer at 473 E. Division St, Dowagiac  
Inside KB Village Express at 1101 S. State (M-60), Cassopolis



Look for the CO-OP Network logo or visit [www.co-opnetwork.org](http://www.co-opnetwork.org) and use our "ATM Locator" to find a location near you. Or, call (888) SITE-COOP.

### Mission Statement

To insure the liquidity, stability and growth of our credit union so we will be here to serve the children and grandchildren of our present and future members.