

# commoncents

A News Publication of AllWealth Federal Credit Union ★ Summer 2009

## Hamilton Joes Baseball

The Hamilton Joes is an amateur baseball team excited to be making their debut in 2009. The team is composed of top collegiate players who are looking to hone their skills over the summer.

The players will use wood bats so professional scouts can get a true measure of these prospects' skills. The Joes are a new member of the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League, a league that has seen dozens of their alumni reach the major leagues. Games will be held at Foundation Field, located at the

corner of Knightsbridge Dr. and Front St. in Hamilton. Fans can expect quality baseball, a family-friendly environment and low prices.

The level of play will be on par with the Dayton Dragons or Florence Freedom. It's good baseball and fun to watch. It is great for the Hamilton-Fairfield area to have the equivalent of a pro team right here in town. AllWealth is proud to be the major sponsor of the Hamilton Joes!

### Remaining Summer 2009 Home Game Schedule

Date	Day	Time (PM)	Opponent
Jul. 3	Fri.	7:05	Chillicothe Capitals
Jul. 7	Tue.	7:05	Cincinnati Steam
Jul. 10	Fri.	7:05	Grand Lake Mariners
Jul. 11	Sat.	7:05	Champions Baseball Academy
Jul. 25	Sat.	4:05	Lake Erie Monarchs
	Sat.	D.H.	Lake Erie Monarchs
Jul. 26	Sun.	7:05	Xenia Athletes in Action
Jul. 27	Mon.	7:05	Anderson Servants
Jul. 29	Wed.	7:05	Lima Locos
Jul. 30	Thr.	7:05	Grand Lake Mariners
Aug. 1	Sat.	4:05	Southern Ohio Copperheads
	Sat.	D.H.	Southern Ohio Copperheads

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets and merchandise are available for purchase at AllWealth.

General Admission	\$5	Children under 12	\$4
Senior 65 +	\$4	Child under 2	Free
Military with ID	\$4	Groups of 20 or more	\$4
Student with ID	\$4		

Ticket Gate opens one hour prior to game time.



Checking, Savings, Lending, Life.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that *Googolplex* – an online guide for student moneymakers is available on AllWealth's web site?

After visiting [www.AllWealth.org](http://www.AllWealth.org), click on Googolplex and turn over the computer to the "under 20" members of your household. Our online guide for youth will help guide high school, middle school, and elementary school students to earn, save, and spend money wisely.

Personal finances are often an overlooked part of education. Sure, kids learn about counting money in school, but how much do they really learn about using money on a day-to-day basis?

With Googolplex®, they'll learn everything they need to know. These financial web sites are geared to kids of all ages, with 5-Spot Clubhouse for elementary schoolers, AJ's Mall for middle schoolers and C-Note University for high schoolers.

Because each level is written by kids, it speaks in a language your children will understand. And with games, stories, blogs and puzzles, they'll find plenty of fun too. Encourage them to come back often – there's a wealth of information and fun in Googolplex, with new stories and games every month.

The sites are a safe, secure web site made possible by AllWealth. There's plenty to learn and laugh about – on Googolplex! Just log on to [www.AllWealth.org](http://www.AllWealth.org) and click on the Googolplex box on the lower left-hand side of the web page.

[www.AllWealth.org](http://www.AllWealth.org)

According to the Federal Trade Commission, approximately 9 million people fall victim each year to identity theft. An easy way for thieves to target you is through your computer and online activities. AllWealth offers these tips to help you secure your personal information:

- ★ Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software along with a firewall on your computer.
- ★ Install software updates and fixes as soon as they become available.
- ★ Never, never enter private (personal) information on public computers (hotel, airport, library, etc.). These computers may be infected with a keylogger or spyware that captures everything you type.
- ★ Protect passwords. Use at least seven characters and have your passwords contain numbers and upper/lowercase letters.



- ★ Never click on e-mail messages that contain hyperlinks to Web sites. Close the e-mail and manually type in the address.
- ★ Be careful about opening any attachments or downloading any files from e-mails.
- ★ Don't e-mail personal or financial information. E-mail is not a secure method of transmitting personal information.
- ★ If you initiate an online transaction that contains personal or financial information through an organization's Web site, always make sure that the site is secure. There should be a lock icon on the browser's status bar and the URL for the Web site should begin with "https:" — the "s" stands for secure.

## Save Before You Go



Save today for tomorrow's adventure with a vacation club account at AllWealth. By putting aside your money, you can relax and leave behind your day-to-day troubles and cares and not worry about how you're going to pay for your vacation when the bills come due.

Tuck away as much as you like every payday or every month. You can make it easy to do by setting up automatic payroll deduction or an automatic transfer. Start saving now for your next vacation adventure. It's easy to sign up. Call or stop by AllWealth today to start your vacation club.

## Used Cars! Lemons Or Lemonade?

There was a time that buying a used car was said to be the same as buying someone else's troubles. But today, vehicles are much more reliable and your chances of finding a good, pre-owned one that fits both your budget and your transportation needs are greatly enhanced. When you buy a new vehicle, the minute you drive it off the lot, it loses thousands of dollars in value. When you buy used, someone else has absorbed that depreciation. In addition, you have several research tools at your disposal to help you make a sound buying decision. Web sites, such as [www.edmunds.com](http://www.edmunds.com) and [www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com) (Kelley Blue Book), can help you compare features and prices. Dealers often offer pre-owned certification, extended warranties, and vehicle history reports on many of the used vehicles on their lots.

Before making your offer on a used car, either to a dealer or a private party, ask to see the service history.

It also may be well worth the money to have a trusted mechanic check over the vehicle to look for obvious problems. Then, see AllWealth for financing, where you will find great rates and terms to fit your budget.

Don't forget that up to three CARFAX Vehicle History Reports™ are FREE\* for AllWealth members when the vehicle is financed Paul Steele through AllWealth!!! Or you can purchase CARFAX Reports for only \$12, that's a savings of \$12.99 (if purchased at [carfax.com](http://carfax.com)). Just note the VIN number of the vehicle and call us at 513-868-5881 and we will be happy to share the CARFAX Vehicle History Report and help you register for the CARFAX Buyback Guarantee once you have purchased a vehicle. Know a car's history before you buy and make us your "one stop shop".

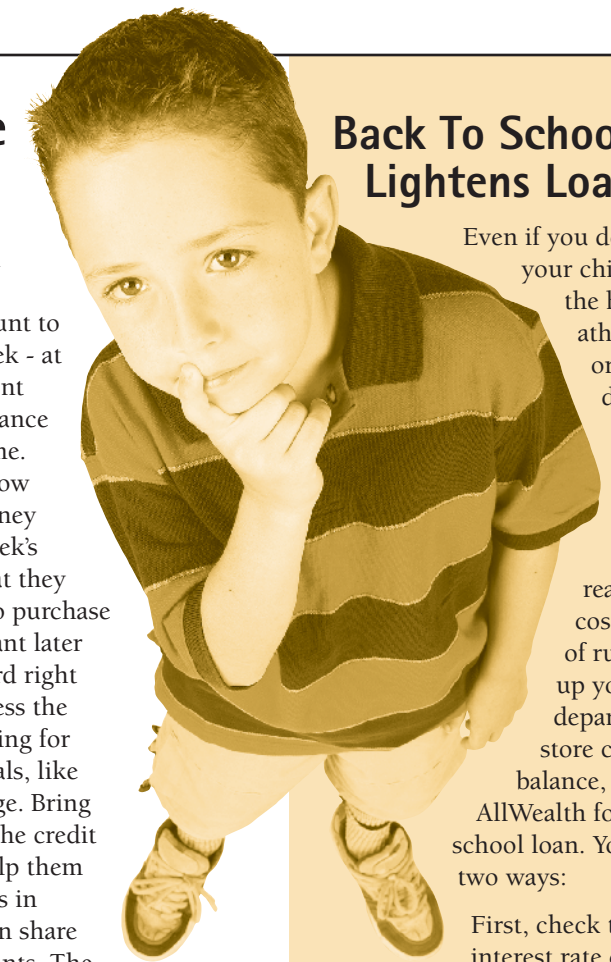
\*Purchase of CARFAX Reports for \$12 each are required and up to \$36 will be reimbursed to the member when the loan paperwork is signed and closed with AllWealth.

## Teach Your Children To Save

It's said that charity begins at home. But as important as it is to teach your kids about sharing with those less fortunate, an equally vital lesson is the benefit of saving. Many money management experts recommend using an allowance as the primary teaching tool. An allowance provides a hands-on method of teaching your children both how to spend and how to save.

An allowance for a child is the same as a paycheck for an adult. Both involve the need for planning and decision-making. By using their own funds, their limit becomes real and tangible to them. When they only get a certain amount each week - rather than treating your wallet like an unlimited cash machine - it will quickly become clear they can't have everything they want. Your kids should understand Joellyn K Diamantes why they are receiving an allowance and what expenses they are supposed to cover with it, including setting some of the money

aside in savings. Help your children decide on a sensible amount to save each week - at least 10 percent of their allowance or total income. Show them how by saving money from each week's allowance that they will be able to purchase items they want later but can't afford right now. Also stress the benefit of saving for long-term goals, like a car or college. Bring your kids to the credit union and help them make deposits in their very own share savings accounts. The sooner you can help get your kids into the savings habit, the better.



## Back To School Loan Lightens Load

Even if you don't outfit your children in the hottest athletic shoes or the latest designer fashions, getting them back to school-ready can be costly. Instead of running up your department store credit card balance, come to AllWealth for a back to school loan. You'll save two ways:

First, check the interest rate on that department store card.

You may be surprised to learn you're paying 22%, 23%, even 25% on your unpaid balances. A personal loan at AllWealth will cost you less.

Second, with an AllWealth loan, you can set your budget and stick to cash. Consumer experts note people who pay cash almost always spend less than those who use a credit card.

Other money-saving tips:

- ★ Inventory current wardrobes. Buy only what you need. Check with friends with children in a similar age group to see if you can trade gently worn, but out-grown clothing.
- ★ Visit used clothing stores and garage or yard sales. You may find many items you need.
- ★ Stores offer loss-leader items such as pencils or crayons as early as July: stock up on these basic items, even if you haven't received your school's supply list.

**It PAYS to read common cents... You Could Win \$25!**

**Read your common cents newsletter carefully and read between the lines! If you spot your name, other than in the appropriate context of an article, contact the credit union by August 31, 2009 and win \$25.**

## Payroll Deduction Helps You Pay Yourself First

When times are tough, it may seem like it's impossible to save. That's why you'll want to use a tried-but-true trick: Pay yourself first. Use payroll deduction to tuck away money from every paycheck. Because you never see the money, you won't miss it. When you get a raise or a bonus, have those funds go directly to savings, too. After all, you have been getting along without it, and this way, you won't be tempted to

spend the money on something you don't really need. Some people set up special savings accounts earmarked for specific goals, such as a down payment on a car, college for the kids, or an once-in-a-lifetime vacation. Using payroll deduction helps them reach their goals with less pain and in less time. To help make your dreams come true, sign up for payroll deduction today.

## Improving Your Credit Score

Having a high credit score can mean the difference of thousands of dollars in saved interest expense compared to others with a lower score. If your credit score isn't as high as you want it to be, take control by following these tips:

1. Always pay your bills on time. Your payment history represents 35% of your credit score.
2. Don't close older accounts you have paid off. The positive factor for your credit score is how much available credit you have at your disposal when compared to your credit balance. Also, 15% of your credit score is based on the length of your credit history - that includes the age of your oldest account as well as the average of all your accounts.
3. Don't apply for credit too frequently. Applying for too much credit too often will decrease your credit score because this is a characteristic of high credit risk groups.
4. Keep your credit card balances low. If you max out your cards, it will affect your credit score negatively. The more debt you pay off, the better your score. A good rule of thumb is to keep your

credit card balances below 25% of your credit limits.

5. Minimize loan applications. Every time you apply for a loan, the potential lender requests your credit report for review. This can hurt your credit score. Make all loan requests within a two-week period. All the credit report lookups are bundled together as one single request - not multiple requests.
6. Ask for a credit limit increase. Increasing your credit limit makes the debt/credit limit ratio look better. Don't use the extra credit or you defeat the whole purpose of improving your credit score. The goal is to have as much available credit and use as little as possible.
7. Remember to check for errors on your credit report. You may receive your credit report free once per year at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). Contact the credit reporting agencies to fix any errors.

It pays to increase your credit score. It also takes discipline and dedication. It's worth it when you reach a good credit standing that allows you to qualify for loans, lower interest rates, and more.

## Home Equity Loan: Still A Smart Way To Borrow

The housing bubble may have burst, but that doesn't necessarily mean you've lost all the equity in your home. While the value of many houses has dropped, if you have lived in your home for a few years and are current on your mortgage payments, you will likely have built up some equity. And if you need money for major home repairs or renovations, a new vehicle, or other productive purpose, tapping that equity can be a smart way to borrow. That's because the interest on your home equity loan may be tax deductible; consult your tax advisor for more information. In addition to potential tax savings, a home equity loan can provide you with more favorable terms than other loans or sources of credit. For example, if you are planning to replace your leaky roof or your drafty windows, a home equity loan will certainly cost you less than running up charges on your credit

card at the home improvement center. If you need cash, a home equity loan may be just the ticket. So stop by or call (513)868-5881 ext. 11 today to find out more.

**AllWealth be providing free popcorn to moviegoers in Hamilton!** The Hamilton Parks and Recreation Department is showing a series of three summer movies on a 15 x 20 foot inflatable screen!

**Madagascar 2** plays at North End Athletic Complex (1150 Joe Nuxhall Blvd.) on Saturday, June 27th at 9:15pm.

**Hotel for Dogs** plays at Marriott Hotel (park on Riverfront Plaza/ Dayton St.) on Saturday, July 18th at 9:00pm.

**Monsters vs. Aliens** plays at Veterans Park (20 New London Rd.) on Saturday, August 14th at 8:30pm.

The festivities begin at 8pm (Monsters vs. Aliens festivities begin at 7:00) with crafts, games, and giveaways! Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the movie!



*Serving all who live, work, worship or attend school in Butler County.*

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Routing & Transit Number:  
242278409

### BUSINESS HOURS

Monday – Friday  
9:30 am to 5:30 pm

### OFFICE CLOSINGS

Friday, July 3, 2009 –  
Independence Day

Monday, September 7, 2009 –  
Labor Day