

# The Store Front



Just for you

## Treat yourself to a sweet deal on auto financing

Are you looking to buy a car, or do you currently have an auto loan? Well, check out this sweet deal from TruGrocer FCU:

**Now through January 31, 2010, you can get a TruGrocer auto loan with a rate as low as 4.45% APR! Plus, you won't have to make any loan payments for the first 60 days, and you'll receive a FREE Auto Shade (while supplies last)!<sup>1</sup>**

You may use the loan to buy a new or used vehicle or to refinance an existing auto loan from another lender. (A fee may apply to refinance an existing TruGrocer loan under these terms.) You'll enjoy favorable rates and terms, and TruGrocer generally will finance up to 100 percent of the vehicle purchase price.

For even greater savings, apply online to receive our maximum discount for usage of credit union services. Visit any TruGrocer branch location or [www.trugrocer.com](http://www.trugrocer.com) for more information and to apply.

<sup>1</sup>On approved credit. Your individual rate may vary based upon credit quality, usage of credit union services, term selected and, if applicable, age of vehicle.

## Don't overlook these tax-saving opportunities

As you prepare to file your 2009 federal income tax return, ask yourself the following questions. They may help you spot potential tax-saving opportunities that you might otherwise overlook.

**1. Did you buy a home?** You may qualify for a tax credit of up to \$8,000 if the home purchased in 2009 is your first home, or if you have not owned a home in the previous three years. Or, if you owned and occupied your previous residence for at least five of the last eight years, you may be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$6,500 for your new-home purchase.

**2. Did you make home improvements?** Certain energy-friendly improvements, such as insulation, new windows and doors, or a

new roof, made in 2009 may qualify for a tax credit of up to 30 percent of the cost of the improvements (maximum credit is \$1,500).

**3. Did you buy a new car?** You generally may deduct the state and local sales and excise taxes paid on as much as \$49,500 of the purchase price of a qualifying vehicle bought in 2009.

**4. Did you pay any college costs?** You may qualify to claim the American Opportunity Credit for up to \$2,500 of eligible higher education expenses paid per student in 2009.

**5. Did you contribute to an IRA (or will you soon)?** You generally may deduct up to 100 percent of your annual contributions to

a traditional IRA. The maximum contribution for 2009 is \$5,000 (\$6,000 if at least age 50), and you have until April 15, 2010 to contribute for the 2009 tax year.

These tax breaks barely scratch the surface of what's available. Consult a tax professional for more information and assistance. Also contact any TruGrocer FCU branch or visit [www.trugrocer.com](http://www.trugrocer.com) to take advantage of IRAs, mortgages, auto loans, home equity lines of credit (to help fund home improvements or virtually anything else) and other tools to help you make the most of your money.



# New credit-scoring changes may affect your credit record

A newly updated credit-scoring model (called FICO 08) has modified how credit scores are being calculated. Used by the major credit bureaus and many lenders, the new system may affect your score, which may in turn affect your access to credit and favorable rates.

What's changed? Minor blemishes such as an occasional late or missed payment generally won't lower your score as much as before, while patterns of problematic credit activity, such as making late payments, may drag your score down more than in the past.

What hasn't changed? As always, credit scores are still based primarily on five factors: payment history, amount(s) owed, length of credit history, new credit and types of credit used. More importantly, you still have the power to improve your credit score. Consider the following tips:

- ✓ Pay bills on time. If you are currently behind on any payments, catch up. If necessary, contact your creditors or a legitimate credit counselor for assistance.
- ✓ Keep balances on credit cards at manageable levels. High outstanding balances may lower your credit score.
- ✓ Don't open credit accounts you don't need. Opening several accounts over a short period may harm your credit score.
- ✓ Monitor your credit record regularly for accuracy. Visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) to check it annually for free.

And when you need financing, turn to TruGrocer FCU for an array of programs with favorable rates and terms. From auto and RV loans to personal loans, home equity financing, pay advances and more, TruGrocer can help you with a variety of financial needs. Contact any branch or [www.trugrocer.com](http://www.trugrocer.com) for information or to apply.



## Changing jobs or retiring?

### Let your retirement money keep on rolling in an IRA

Retirement or a job change could put you on the receiving end of a lump-sum distribution from a 401(k) or other company retirement plan. What will you do with the money? Weigh the options carefully, and consider the potential advantages of an IRA rollover.

Without a rollover to an IRA (or to your new employer's company retirement plan), you'll owe current income taxes on the distribution. Plus, if you're under 59½, you'll generally incur a 10-percent federal tax penalty for early withdrawal as well. (Certain exceptions apply.)

With an IRA rollover, you avoid those current taxes and penalties. Every penny of the lump-sum distribution may continue to grow tax-deferred in the rollover IRA until you withdraw it.<sup>1</sup>

TruGrocer offers an IRA with a competitive rate to help you save for your future. To learn more about our IRA and its benefits, contact any TruGrocer branch location or visit [www.trugrocer.com](http://www.trugrocer.com).

<sup>1</sup>Withdrawals are subject to ordinary income taxes. Withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10-percent federal tax penalty. Certain exceptions apply. Minimum required distributions generally must begin by April 1 of the year after you reach age 70½. Consult a tax professional.

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(as of October 31, 2009)

Members . . . . .	35,417
Assets . . . . .	\$221,831,100
Loans . . . . .	\$76,515,700
Shares . . . . .	\$176,901,561



[www.trugrocer.com](http://www.trugrocer.com)