



## President's Message

Robert A. Steensma • *President/CEO*

# Your Teenager's First Car

While we realize not every family has the means to do so, today's parents are far more likely to buy cars outright for their children than their parents were. Recently a well-known online car sales company conducted a survey with parents of recently licensed teenage drivers. It revealed that only 14 percent of the adults reported that their own parents had purchased their first car for them, while 41 percent of this same group reported having bought the first car for their own teenager.

Things have changed a lot in the last generation. Access to credit is generally easier and low interest rates tend to make car payments and other debts more affordable for more working adults. However, this may not be true for teenagers who may be too young to legally enter into a car loan agreement without an adult signing for the loan.



There are also far fewer stay-at-home mothers than there were even a generation ago. Two or three generations ago it was common for most families to only have one car. While this remains true for some families of modest income, there are more families with the means to purchase a child's first car for them. This may be because both parents work and both already own a car but because of the dual working parents there is often nobody to drive teenagers to and from their extra-curricular events or an after school job.

Often a parent will buy themselves a newer car and relegate their former car for the use of their teen driver but parents who can afford to, may also buy (or help buy) somewhat newer and more reliable cars for their teenager for safety and maintenance reasons. No one wants their daughter or son to be stranded on the roadside because of an overheated clunker. And cars aren't nearly as easy for kids to repair themselves as they once were.

The financial ability and decision to purchase a car for a teen driver is one that every person that is raising kids will one day have to consider. There is no one solution that is best for every family.

*Continued on page 2*

## Question & Answer

**My debit card was recently declined for a purchase at a local business. I know I had (just) enough money in my account. What happened?**

You likely had a hold put on some of your checking account balance by the gas station when you purchased gasoline and that caused you to not have enough available funds left for your purchase. We want to make it clear that this is beyond FSCU's (or any other card issuer's) control and is the policy of the individual retailers trying to ensure they are paid by reserving an amount as high or higher than you are likely to pump (larger SUV's or trucks might actually pump close to \$75).

Debit cards are a wonderful convenient invention. For those who prefer to spend money from their checking account, debit cards save you from writing checks for each purchase and avoid many of the steps of paying by check. They are different from a credit card in that debit card purchases take the money directly out of your checking account within seconds or minutes (but sometimes longer) from when you make the purchase.

For many years, hotels and rental car companies have put a hold on credit card purchases when you showed up at check-in to ensure they had reserved enough on each card to cover your use of their car or room and any damages, theft or other additional usage cost that they might incur from each customer.

*Continued on page 2*

## President's Message

*Continued*

Regardless of the path your family chooses, children should have a financial goal. Saving for something as substantial as their education, their first car, car insurance or car maintenance helps children learn the value of deferring consumption and planning ahead. If you do decide to purchase a car for your teenager, try not to short-circuit all those important life lessons completely. It is usually a good idea to tie car "ownership" (usage) by your teen into some combination of things you expect in return - like good (or at least acceptable) grades, participation in school activities, household chores, responsibility for some measure of the car expenses or a savings goal for education or other worthwhile endeavor. Certainly you can be creative in what you think is important for you and as a life lesson for your teen to learn and accomplish.

At Five Star Credit Union we have made many car loans to parents for a car to be used by their teenager. Five Star offers vehicle loans to fit more needs than most other financial institutions and we always strive to offer the best loan rates and more payment options to fit your needs. If you are thinking about buying a car for your teenage driver (or for yourself) call us at 888-619-1711 (option 2 for loans by phone) or visit us online at [www.fivestarcu.com](http://www.fivestarcu.com) or any of our branches and let us help you through the process. We can help make it easy.

## FIVE STAR BUYING A BANK IN CAMILLA GA

Five Star Credit Union has entered into an agreement to buy the assets of Flint River National Bank in Camilla GA. The purchase is still subject to regulatory approval by several state and federal agencies and by the stockholders of the bank.

Once completed, Five Star will operate a new credit union branch at the current bank location and bank customers (and other interested qualifying residents) will become credit union members and able to take advantage of FSCU's many attractive products and services.

We expect the approval process to take several months but believe the location of Camilla in southwest Georgia (Mitchell County) complements the branch network we already operate and will be a great addition to FSCU.

## Question & Answer *Continued*

Since debit cards and credit cards have outpaced checks to become the most popular way to make many types of purchases, gas stations from Amoco to WalMart are now requiring both your credit or debit card company to put a hold on an amount greater than most purchases when you use your debit or credit card with them *at the pump* before you pump the gas. This held amount can vary from as low as \$1 (to ensure your card is active) plus the cost of your purchase, to a fairly common \$75 amount even though you may only have pumped \$40 worth of gas. The hold usually lasts just a day or two until your actual purchase clears the debit or credit card system, however on a debit card purchase this could cause you to inadvertently go into a negative balance or bounce an outstanding check if your checking account balance is too low and you unknowingly try to use the money above your actual purchase amount being held from your debit card by the gas station for something else.

**There are ways to avoid this problem-some more convenient than others.**

- **You can go inside the gas station to pay** for your purchase because only the electronic self service *at-the-pump* purchase will usually generate a "hold". When you pay inside after pumping, the amount of your purchase is known and they put through only the actual amount.
- **You can carry a larger balance in your checking account** so the hold doesn't affect another purchase.
- **You can make your purchases with a credit card** instead of a debit card since credit card purchases are not tied to your checking account and the hold does not affect your month end balance owed.
- **You can make your purchase by entering your PIN** (personal identification number) (if available) as those purchases usually clear immediately and no hold is placed.
- **If you have a smart phone, sign up and use our Mobile Banking App** and check your balances or transfer money from another account into checking (for debit card use) wherever you happen to be when you need to know your available balance (which would have held amounts already subtracted from them until the hold is released).
- **Sign up for Over Draft Privilege (ODP)** on your debit card with Five Star. While there are fees for using this privilege it may be worth it to avoid not being able to make a purchase when you need to (such as gasoline when another car you are driving is empty or at a restaurant you have just eaten at). There are no costs to sign up and no fees if the privilege is not used. If you also sign up for automatic transfers from your savings account to cover shortfalls in checking or debit cards, the fee is only \$5.50 when used.

At Five Star Credit Union we want our members to enjoy the convenience of debit card use, but just want to caution you to be aware of your checking balance when purchasing gasoline with a debit card at the pump.



## Why is the phrase *E pluribus unum* on coins and the \$1 bill and what does it mean?

**E pluribus unum** is a Latin motto that means "out of many, one." Its earliest known usage was in Roman times more than 2,000 years ago. In America, it refers to the creation of one nation, the United States, out of thirteen colonies. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, members of the first committee for the selection of "*The Great Seal of the United States*" suggested the motto in 1776. Since 1873, the law requires that this motto appear on one side of every United States coin that is minted. It also appears on the back of the \$1 bill as part of the official Great Seal.

*Continued on next page*

# BRANCH NEWS

**ATM Update – Changes in Cairo, Bainbridge and Waycross, GA:** Although it only affected 3 FSCU ATMs, we were surprised when all 73 Walgreens in Georgia sold their ATM rights to another company who plans to use them for a different purpose. This change was effective 8/20/13. We are moving our Cairo Walgreens ATM into the Rite-Aid Pharmacy which is right next door to Walgreens. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We will not be replacing the Bainbridge ATM in Walgreens since there are at least 3 other surcharge-free Moneypass® ATMs in the area including inside WalMart. The Waycross Georgia ATM is also not being replaced due to lack of use by members. The 3 Dothan Alabama Walgreens remain FSCU ATMs. And the 3 other Rite-Aid ATMs we announced in the last newsletter (Abbeville and Eufaula AL and Colquitt GA) continue to be there for your convenience. Please see our ATM locations under “locations” on our website for alternatives.

**Changes in Cairo GA, Cottonwood AL and Dothan AL Main Office:**

**Our Cairo GA** new office has started construction. It will be a modern building with a multi-lane drive-thru located just 1 block from the current branch and will have frontage on Highway 84. It is expected to be completed sometime around March 2014.

**Our Cottonwood AL** branch will be moving from our current leased location to just down the street into a former Wachovia/Wells Fargo bank building we purchased. We expect to have completed renovations and be serving members there before year end 2013.



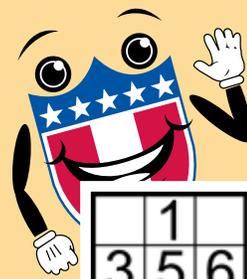
**Our Dothan AL main office** renovation is finally complete inside and outside (see photo) and throughout the entire building and we had our ribbon cutting ceremony on September 16th. The teller lobby was completed several months ago and had been serving members for some time now.

*E pluribus unum continued...*

The Great Seal of the United States is the symbol of the sovereignty of the United States, and was adopted on June 20, 1782. European countries had long used seals, and the new nation of 13 states wanted to signify its equal rank by adopting its own seal which is used on official documents. The American eagle, with a shield on its breast, symbolizes self-reliance. The shield's thirteen vertical stripes came from the flag of 1777. The eagle holds an olive branch of thirteen leaves and thirteen olives in its right talon, and thirteen arrows in its left, symbolizing the desire for peace but the ability to wage war. In its beak is a scroll inscribed *e pluribus unum*. Above its head is the thirteen-star “new constellation” of the 1777 flag, enclosed in golden radiance, breaking through a cloud.

The reverse side of the design is familiar from the back of the one dollar bill, but it has never been used as part of an official seal. A pyramid of thirteen courses of stone, representing the Union, is watched over by the Eye of Providence enclosed in a traditional triangle. The upper Latin motto, *Annuat coeptis*, means “He [God] has favored our undertakings.” The lower motto, *Novus ordo seclorum*, means “the new order of the ages” signifying the changes the American Revolution began in 1776, which is the date on the base of the pyramid in Roman numerals..

Now you know! You may never look at a \$1 bill the same way again.



## Trusty R. Fivestar's sudoku

	1	6	4	3	7			
3	5	6						
			5	3	6	9		
	8	3	2	6		4		9
4		5		7	8	2	6	
	4	2	5	3				
						7	2	4
7	9	4		2			8	

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 only once. Solution on Page 4.

## Just For Grins... Doesn't have a prayer ....

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother. "I don't need to," the boy replied. "Of course, you do" his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

## Five Star Level Member Share Certificate Rates

APYs up to...	\$500 minimum	\$100,000 minimum
12 month	0.80% <sub>APY</sub>	0.90% <sub>APY</sub>
24 month	1.06% <sub>APY</sub>	1.16% <sub>APY</sub>
36 month	1.21% <sub>APY</sub>	1.31% <sub>APY</sub>
48 month	1.36% <sub>APY</sub>	1.46% <sub>APY</sub>

\*APYs shown include a 0.30% APY dividend bump rate if member maintains a Five Star level account



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**DIVIDENDS COMPOUNDED AND PAID MONTHLY**  
A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawals from these instruments. The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) offered as of September 1, 2013 at press time. Minimum Balance Required is \$500. Rates are subject to change. IRA Certificates also available. To achieve Five Star level requires a checking account with 10 or more transactions per month and 3 or more other easy-to-qualify-for services. Some restrictions apply. For more information, call (334) 793-7714 (option 3)

# Call Us For All of Your Loan Needs!



- **New Mortgage**
- **Home Refinance**
- **Car Loans**
- **Personal Loans**

**1-888-619-1711**

(Choose Option 2 for Loans)

Refinance your current mortgage or car loan and **SAVE** money each month!



*"Well, I messed up my finances twice, but since then I've successfully exceeded the limit on all my credit cards and stopped balancing my checkbook."*

Editors note: This behavior is not recommended by us.

### Page 3 puzzle solution

9	1	8	6	2	4	3	5	7
3	5	6	7	8	9	1	4	2
2	7	4	1	5	3	6	9	8
1	8	3	2	6	5	4	7	9
6	2	7	9	4	1	8	3	5
4	9	5	3	7	8	2	6	1
8	4	2	5	3	7	9	1	6
5	3	1	8	9	6	7	2	4
7	6	9	4	1	2	5	8	3

## ACCESS 24 HOURS-A-DAY... 7 DAYS-A-WEEK

**FIVE STAR  
ON★LINE**

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



**FIVE STAR  
PHONE LINK**

**1-800-995-STAR (7827)**  
In The Dothan Area, Call: 836-2050

CALL TOLL FREE **1-888-619-1711** FOR MEMBER SERVICE



### "A FULL SERVICE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION" POINTS OF INTEREST

is published quarterly for the members of Five Star Credit Union. Any suggestions or comments may be sent to: Steve Brown, Newsletter Editor  
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## LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

### ALABAMA

#### DOTHAN OFFICES **ATM**

Gayla Land - *Branch Manager*  
411 North Foster St. · P.O. Box 2028 · Dothan, AL 36302  
Phone: (334) 793-7714 · Toll Free: 1-888-619-1711  
Lobby: M-F 9:00-5:00 · Drive-Thru: M-W 9:00-5:00  
T-F 9:00-5:30

#### Angela Calloway - *Branch Manager* **ATM**

3331 West Main St. · Hwy. 84 West · Dothan, AL 36305  
Phone: (334) 794-8171 · M-F 9:00-5:00  
Drive-Thru: M-W 9:00-5:00/Th 9:00-5:30/F 9:00-6:00

#### EUFULA OFFICE **ATM**

Sarah Bradley - *Branch Manager*  
1905 S. Eufaula Ave. · Eufaula, AL 36027  
P.O. Box 789 · Eufaula, AL 36072  
Phone: (334) 687-8864 · M-F 8:30-5  
Drive-Thru: M-W 8:30-5:00/Th-F 8:30-5:30

#### HEADLAND **ATM ONLY**

16662 Highway 431 S. · Headland, Alabama 36345

#### COTTONWOOD OFFICE **ATM**

Tony Deal - *Branch Manager*  
12769 N. Cottonwood Rd. · Cottonwood, AL 36320  
Phone: (334) 691-7044 · M-F 9:00-1:00 & 2:00-5:00

#### INSIDE WALGREENS **ATM ONLY**

2041 E. Main St. (Ross Clark Cir. & 84E) · Dothan, AL  
2940 W. Main St. (Westgate Pkwy. & 84W) · Dothan, AL  
3574 Montgomery Hwy. (Westgate Pkwy & 231N) · Dothan, AL

#### INSIDE RITE-AID **ATM ONLY**

130 S. Eufaula Ave. · Eufaula, AL  
514 Kirkland St. · Abbeville, AL

### GEORGIA

#### ATTAPULGUS OFFICE **ATM**

Donna Trammell - *Branch Manager*  
111 N. Main St. · P.O. Box 280 · Attapulgus, GA 39815  
Phone: (229) 465-3431 · M-F 9:00-5:00

#### BRUNSWICK OFFICE **ATM**

Kellie Sperring - *Branch Manager*  
4401 Altama Ave. · Brunswick, GA 31520  
Phone: (912) 264-7533 · M-F 9:00-5:00

#### CAIRO OFFICE **ATM**

Vickie Gainous - *Branch Manager*  
818 1st Ave., NE · P.O. Box 794 · Cairo, GA 39828  
Phone: (229) 377-8965 · M-F 9:00-5:00

#### CEDAR SPRINGS OFFICE

Tracey Kirkland - *Branch Manager*  
4637 Georgia Highway 370 · Cedar Springs, GA 39832  
Phone: (229) 372-4586 · M-F 9:00-5:00

#### DONALSONVILLE OFFICE **ATM**

Sherryll Smith - *Branch Manager*  
305 West 3rd St. · Donalsonville, GA 39845  
Phone: (229) 524-2500 · M-F 9:00-5:00

#### ST. SIMON'S ISLAND OFFICE **ATM**

95 Cinema Lane · St. Simon's Island, GA 31522  
Phone: (912) 264-7533 · M-F 9:00-5:00

#### BAINBRIDGE OFFICE **ATM**

Donna Trammell - *Branch Manager*  
1027 East Shotwell St. · Bainbridge, GA 39819  
Phone: (229) 493-0421 · M-F 9:00-5:00  
Drive-Thru: F 9:00-5:30

#### INSIDE GA. PACIFIC CAFETERIA **ATM ONLY**

Cedar Springs, GA (mill employee access only)

#### OUTSIDE RICH-SEAPAK SECURITY GATE **ATM ONLY**

200 Glyndale Drive · Brunswick, GA

#### INSIDE RITE-AID **ATM ONLY**

211 W. College St. · Colquitt, GA  
496 Hwy. 84E · Cairo, GA

