

## Beacon Breaks Ground in Logansport

**T**he Board of Directors of Beacon Credit Union approved the addition of a new branch facility to be constructed at 1405 W. Market Street on the West Side of Logansport. Since the merger with Sagamore Community Federal Credit Union in January of this year, the current Beacon location at 216 Mall Road experienced a large increase in member traffic. The credit union also has several agricultural related borrowers in Pulaski and White Counties who will benefit from the new location.

"We are extremely excited about this opportunity to expand in Logansport and Cass County," said President Bruce Ingraham. "This new facility on the West side of Logansport will provide added convenience to our members in Cass County and the surrounding area. The need for a second branch facility in Logansport demonstrates the strong support from our membership and another level of growth in our financial cooperative."

The 2,600 square foot building is being constructed by Romary and Associates of Fort Wayne. The

lobby area will have a teller area with 3 stations, an internet terminal for members desiring to access their accounts online, 4 enclosed offices, a conference room, and a Member Service and Information Station. The office will also have a drive-up with 4 lanes that will include an Automated Teller Machine.

Carol Sue Hayworth, Loan Officer at the current Logansport Office has been promoted to Branch Supervisor of the new office. Joining her will be Agricultural Loan Specialist Karen Holcomb, who will relocate from the existing Commercial Loan Center on Mall Road. Other staffing is yet to be determined.

The facility is anticipated to be opened in November of 2005. The current service office at 216 Mall Road will remain open. However, the Commercial Loan Center (formerly Sagamore Community FCU) will become permanently closed.



### Small Business Owners - Expand Your Payment Options

Beacon Credit Union has partnered with NPC to provide a full range of solutions to expand your customers' payment options.

*See Inside for Details*

## How to Contact Beacon Credit Union

### Wabash

(260) 563-7443

### North Manchester

(260) 982-7551

### Rochester

(574) 223-4871

### Peru (N. Broadway)

(765) 472-3472

### Peru (W. Old Key Drive)

(765) 472-1022

### Logansport (216 Mall Road)

(574) 722-2161

### Marion

(765) 664-9537

### Huntington

(260) 359-9680

### Warsaw

(574) 268-1276

### Grissom Aeroplex

(765) 689-9181

### Department Extensions

ATM/Check Cards..... ext. 2240

CD/IRAs..... ext. 2230

Collections..... ext. 2215

Human Resources..... ext. 2270

E-Services..... ext. 2260

Consumer/Ag Lending..... ext. 2200

Real Estate Lending..... ext. 2205

Beacon Inv. Services..... ext. 2245

New Accounts..... ext. 2235

Account Research..... ext. 2280

VISA..... ext. 2225

Operator..... "0" or "3"

Email: [beaconcu@beaconcu.org](mailto:beaconcu@beaconcu.org)

Send all mail inquiries to:

Beacon Credit Union

PO Box 627

Wabash, IN 46992



Each account insured up to \$250,000 by American Share Insurance and an additional \$250,000 of coverage per account is provided by Excess Share Insurance Corporation, for a maximum of \$500,000 per account. By members' choice, this institution is not federally insured.

## News You Can Use

# Credit Scores: Take Time to

In its August 2005 edition, *Consumer Reports* discusses how credit scores are used to determine the rate you receive on a car loan, the premium you pay on your insurance, and even whether or not you get that new job you applied for.

As you can see, having a good credit score is important to your financial well-being. But how do you find what your score is? And what can you do to improve your score? Here are a few tips from *Consumer Reports*:

### Obtaining Your Credit Score

The three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion)



use a system to create what they call a FICO score. The score, developed from a formula involving 22 pieces of data, ends with a final figure from 300 to 850. This final figure gives lenders a simple scoring system, as *Consumer Reports* writes, that is much like the five-letter grading system used in schools. Most members will fall in one of the five follow-

ing categories: above 800; 750 to 799; 700 to 749; 650 to 699; and 600 to 649.

It is recommended to obtain a copy of your credit report and FICO score once a year. Each credit bureau will sell you a copy of all three credit reports, but to obtain your FICO score you'll have to pay a fee (starting around \$5.95).

You're entitled to free annual credit reports from all three bureaus - although as *Consumer Reports* states - it can be tricky to obtain these free reports. Many sites try to sell additional services or add on monitoring services which require an annual or monthly fee.

Visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), a site sponsored by the three major bureaus, to obtain your free reports. Once you receive your reports, review for errors. If you find mistakes, contact your lender.

# Review Credit Reports, FICO Scores

## Improving Your Score

*Consumer Reports* suggests five ways to keep your financial report card in good shape:

**1. Sign up for automatic payment.** Generally, you won't be penalized for being a few days late on a bill, but if you're 30 days overdue, your score can drop as much as 100 points. Avoid late payments by automating the process.

**2. Watch the timing of your spending.** If you're planning to apply for a loan in the next few months (which means a lender is going to check your score), keep a lid on spending and try to reduce debt. The lower the balance, including any credit card payments pending, the better your credit rating.

**3. Limit credit card applications.** Each time you apply for credit, a lender's inquiry to view your report is noted, which can reduce your score. But don't be afraid to shop around for a mortgage. Multiple lender inquiries made in a short period for the same type of loan count as one inquiry.

**4. Think twice before cancelling cards.** The more companies you owe money to, the worse it looks for you. But if you close accounts to boost your score, you'll end up making things worse. That's because you gain points if you're tapping only a small percentage of the total credit available on all your credit cards. Eliminating accounts can reduce that ratio. Also, if you bail out of older credit cards, you will reduce the average account age, which makes up a good portion of your credit score.

**5. Make sure credit limits are posted.** When creditors don't report your available credit, as some retailers and credit-card companies do, the FICO system might assume that those cards are maxed out no matter how much you borrowed - and your score can be slashed by as much as 50 points. So ask lenders to report your credit limit if it's missing on any accounts.

For more tips, visit the following websites:

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

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

[www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/repair.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/repair.htm)

Also, obtain credit reports from financial partner TrueCredit by visiting our website at [www.beaconcu.org](http://www.beaconcu.org) (service fees apply).

## Please Note: Address Change Policy

In order to protect your information and identity, Beacon Credit Union will not forward your mail if requested by the US Postal Service. If you move or are relocating for the winter, please change your address directly with the credit union by visiting any branch location, via Beacon Online, or by phone.



# Credit Unions for Kids Campaign



For the seventh consecutive year, Beacon Credit Union has joined "Credit Unions for Kids", a nationwide credit union campaign to raise funds for children's hospitals throughout the country. Every penny we raise through "Credit Unions for Kids" will go to Riley Hospital. Last year, our credit union raised \$5,398.72 while credit unions across Indiana combined raised more than \$100,000. Our goal this year is to raise \$7,000.

You can help by purchasing a Miracle Balloon for \$1 each at any of our branch locations during the month of September. The balloons will be displayed with your name on them in our lobbies. To tempt your sweet tooth, we'll also be selling candy bars in the branches for \$1. ALL DONATIONS are tax deductible.

## Scholarship Winners



Beacon Credit Union recently awarded \$500 scholarships to several college-bound graduates. Applicants were asked to complete a short application form and submit a 200 to 300-word essay on "Describe how financial services will be delivered in the year 2020. How will people access these services?" This year recipients, pictured above with Bruce Ingraham, President (left) are: Joyce Immel (Manchester High School), Nicholas Hippensteel (Manchester High School), Derek Weaver (Warsaw Community High School), and Jennifer Keifer (Purdue University).

Also awarded scholarships but not pictured are: Amanda Gable (Manchester High School), Dominic Vernon (Logansport High School, Kyle Bowman (Southwood High School, and Stacey Yoder (Peru High School).

# Ag Lending Operations in Peru Move to Old Key Road Office



Kate Miller and Ted Comerford



Kyle Kuehnert



Jeremy Jones

Changes have taken place at the Peru Office of Beacon Credit Union. Agricultural Lending Specialist Ted Comerford and Loan Clerk Kate Miller have relocated to the new Commercial Lending Office on Old Key Road, just north of State Road 24. Joining Comerford and Miller will be Jeremy Jones and Kyle Kuehnert, two new Agricultural Lending Specialists just recently added to the Beacon staff.

The Old Key Road office was acquired by Beacon during the merger with Sagamore Community Federal Credit Union. The lobby was closed on July 1 in anticipation of it becoming a new Commercial Loan Center. The drive-up currently remains open for all member deposits and withdrawals. The Commercial Lending Center hours will be Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Commercial Lending Center

324 W. Old Key Drive •Peru

**(765) 472-1022**

Ted Comerford, ext. 2633

Kate Miller, ext. 2634

Jeremy Jones, ext. 2635

Kyle Kuehnert, ext. 2636

## Main Lobby

**(Lending Services)**

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Saturday - Closed

## Drive-up Window

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(M,T,Th, F)

8:30 a.m. - Noon (W)

Saturday - Closed



## eStatement Contest Winner Announced!

Cathy Doherty presents Mitch Geesaman with an iPod mini at the Grissom Aeroplex office. Mitch signed up for eStatements and was entered in our contest for the iPod. Want to reduce your paper clutter? Sign up for eStatements at [www.beaconcu.org](http://www.beaconcu.org).

# Fraud Prevention & Awareness Day

Fraud is on the rise. What can you do to protect your finances and your identity? Hopefully you've been reading our fraud tips in previous editions of this newsletter or online at [www.beaconcu.org](http://www.beaconcu.org) and are putting them to use in your day-to-day activities.

At Beacon Credit Union, we want to be sure our members have as much information as possible to protect themselves and their finances. In an increased effort to provide that information, Beacon Credit Union is planning a fraud prevention and awareness day set for **October 20, 2005**.

Beacon Credit Union staff will be available in the lobby of our Wabash main office and the Grissom, Huntington, North Manchester, Rochester, Peru, Logansport, Marion and Warsaw branches. At that time, members can take advantage of the opportunity to pick up useful information on preventing Identity Theft and other types of fraud. Also, local law enforcement will be available at some of the branches to offer useful information and to answer questions.

*Please join us in this effort to prevent fraud.*



## Current Rates



Equal Housing Lender

### SAVINGS RATES

#### APY

6 Month Certificate (\$10,000 min.).....	3.25%
1 Year Certificate (\$10,000 min.).....	3.56%
18 Month Certificate (\$2,500 min.).....	3.66%
2 Year Certificate (\$2,500 min.).....	3.87%
3 Year Certificate (\$2,500 min.).....	3.97%
4 Year Certificate (\$2,500 min.).....	4.18%
5 Year Certificate (\$2,500 min.).....	4.49%
IRA Account (18 Month Cert.).....	3.65%
Passbook Savings.....	1.21%
Interest Advantage Checking.....	1.01%

### SAVINGS PLUS

#### APY

\$100,001 +.....	2.09%
\$1,001 - \$100,000.....	1.85%
\$0 - \$1,000.....	1.85%

### LOAN RATES

#### APR

#### Primary/Secondary Real Estate

Primary Resident 15 yr. fixed (20% down).....	5.500%
Primary Resident 30 yr. fixed (15% down).....	6.000%
Primary Resident 1 yr. ARM (25 yr. amort./20% down).....	5.000%
Primary Resident 3 yr. ARM (25 yr. amort./20% down).....	5.250%
Primary Resident 5 yr. ARM (25 yr. amort./20% down).....	5.500%
1st Time Home Buyer 3 yr. ARM (25 yr. amort./10% down).....	5.500%
Second Mortgage.....	by quote

### Agricultural Loans

Farm Equipment.....	6.500%
Farm Operation (1 year max.).....	6.250%
Farm Real Estate 15 yr. fixed (35%down).....	6.250%
Farm Real Estate 5 yr. ARM (20 yr. amort./35% down).....	6.250%

### Commercial Loans

Commercial 15 yr. fixed (30% down).....	6.750%
Commercial 2-7 year fixed (30% down).....	6.750%
Commercial 3 yr. ARM (20 yr. amort./30% down).....	6.500%
Commercial Line of Credit ( 1 yr./30% down).....	6.500%

### Investment Properties

Investment Property 12 yr. fixed, 30-40% down.....	7.000%
Investment Property 3 yr. ARM, 15 yr. amort./30-40% down.....	6.500%

### Other Loans

New Cars as low as.....	as low as <b>4.90%</b>
Used Cars (NADA Finance) as low as.....	as low as <b>5.00%</b>
Mobile Homes New or Used (30% down).....	<b>11.00%</b>
Miscellaneous Loans.....	by quote
Unsecured Signature.....	by quote
Co-Signed Loans.....	by quote
Platinum Equity VISA (Home Equity Line-of-Credit).....	6.750%

APY is Annual Percentage Yield · APR is Annual Percentage Rate  
ARM is Adjustable Rate Mortgage  
Rates effective August 9, 2005 · Rates Subject to Change

## Merchant Card Processing

# Small Business Owners - Expand Your Payment Options

Keeping your business in top form is no simple task. With staff to train, customers to please and budgets to stretch, you need a payment processor that shares your commitment to superior service. Which is why Beacon Credit Union has partnered with NPC to provide a full range of solutions that expand your customers' payment options, which means expanding your opportunities for sales.

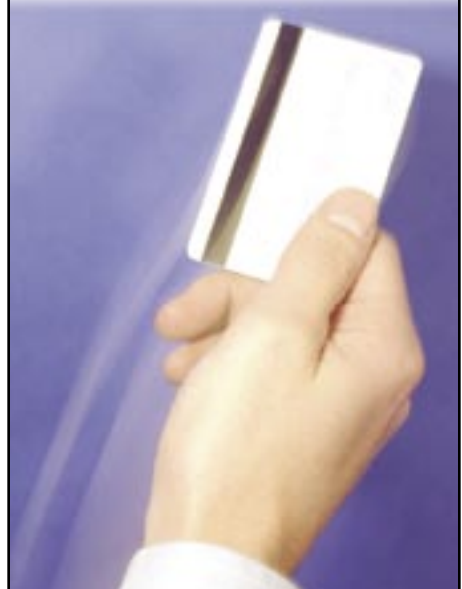
Grow your revenue by expanding your payment possibilities:

- NPC supports all payment types
- Point-of-Sale solutions
- Developed to work in almost any type of POS environment
- Customized Reports
- Chargeback and Retrieval Handling
- Internet Processing
- Electronic Check Processing

NPC has been developing secure, reliable ways for merchants to stay ahead of the competition for over 35 years. NPC currently provides processing services for some of the largest, most sophisticated and demanding national retailers. Their diversified merchant processing product mix, coupled with a superior financial services program, enables NPC the ability to offer exceptional service as your partner and provider.

For more information on NPC Credit Card Processing contact your nearest Beacon Credit Union office.

**NPC Processes All Major Credit and Debit Cards.**





# Free Checking

- Free VISA Check Card\*
- Free eStatements
- Free e-LERTs
- Free Online Banking
- Free TouchTone Teller Access
- Free Online Check Images
- Surcharge-Free ATMs
- ...and much more!

*Open your  
account today!*

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PLYMOUTH, IN  
PERMIT # 29

**ASI ESI**

\*A Beacon Checking Account or Savings Plus Account is required before applying for the Beacon Credit Union Check Card. Subject to credit requirements verification using the Empirica Credit Score. Each account insured up to \$250,000 by American Share Insurance and an additional \$250,000 of coverage per account is provided by Excess Share Insurance Corporation, for a maximum of \$500,000 per account. By members' choice, this institution is not federally insured.