



Hi Everyone,

This is our remnant of the big snowstorm we had in Washington, DC. We shoveled and shoveled and then when it started coming off of our roof, we chipped ice off our north-facing wall so it wouldn't leak through our windows into the house. Hopefully next week the remainder of this snow will have melted and the spring planting of beets and salad and all the early crops can begin.

There's a reason I'm showing you a picture of this remnant. It reminds me of some ominous statistics I heard the other night. I had the pleasure of eating with some other credit union folks and Sean Dobson of Amherst Securities. Sean is one of the sharpest people I know when it comes to mortgages and mortgage related topics. The statistics he shared with us were all about defaults on mortgages. Here's the scoop. There are approximately seven million mortgages currently in default in the United States. Another four million are so under water that it's a near certainty that they will be in default soon. That's a total of eleven million mortgages and there are a total of about 55 million mortgages in our country. That means that one in five mortgages in the country will soon be in default. That's the remnant of calamitous events of the past few years and the heck of it is that this won't be melting anytime soon. This is a big problem with no easy answers.

What does all of this mean to all of us? It means the economy will be in the doldrums for a while longer. And that means it's more important than ever to live below your means. Pay down debt. If you have a bunch of high interest credit cards, call us. We may be able to help you consolidate your debt into one of our credit cards. They have low interest rates and there are no fees for balance transfers or cash advances. And by all means continue to save. The single biggest factor in a successful savings program is consistently saving month after month.

Our country faces challenging times as we deal with the remnants of the financial folly of the past decade. Don't let the challenges of these times melt away your resolve to be fiscally disciplined in your personal life.

Till Next Time,

Evan Clark, President and CEO

# LIVE WELL. BELOW YOUR MEANS.



If credit card payments or other loans are sucking the life out of your budget, a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) is a great way to consolidate all of your bills into one easy, low-interest monthly payment. Right now, you can take advantage of our special variable Prime + 0% rate (currently 3.25%\*) with no closing costs on an initial advance of at least \$10,000. Looking for even more ways to save? Check out our Visa® Platinum card with a low, fixed rate of just 8.00%\*\* on all purchases AND cash advances. No annual fees, no balance-transfer fees and you can apply online for quick approval. Helping you save more money each and every month is what we mean by “Live Well. Below Your Means.” Give us a call or stop by any branch to put your plan into action. Apply online today by visiting [www.docfcu.org](http://www.docfcu.org).

\* Variable rate is tied to the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate as published on the last day of the month.  
\*\* ALL RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

## HELOC

- An incredible variable 3.25% APR (Prime +0%)
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## Visa® PLATINUM

- Low fixed rate of 8.00% on purchases AND cash advances.
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- No balance transfer fees
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## WE ARE ON THE MOVE.

Our D.C. branch in the Herbert C. Hoover Building at 14th Street and Constitution is moving to a new location within the building. During the weekend of April 24-25, our main branch office and the two ATMs will be moving down the hall towards the cafeteria to room B-841-A.

During this move, Online Banking, other ATMs and all other DOCFCU services will not be affected.



## LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

DOCFCU's Annual Business Meeting is just around the corner—Wednesday, April 14 at 12:00 p.m. in the Main HCHB Building. We'll be discussing what we accomplished in 2009 and what's in store for 2010 and beyond, so we hope to see you there.



## A BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP: WITH BALANCE COMES FINANCIAL STABILITY.

If you're looking for a free and completely confidential way to put some balance in your financial life, check out Balance—a financial education and counseling service for DOCFCU members. Balance can help you get the most out of your hard-earned money by helping you develop a workable spending and savings plan. There's also assistance available if you're looking for information on getting out of debt, buying a new home or just planning for a better financial future. Get the Balance you need to help you “Live Well. Below Your Means.” by calling 888-456-2227 today.



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