

TowerLine

Tower Federal Credit Union | May 2010

Thinking of Moving Into a New Home? Check with Tower first

There are many good reasons for owning your own home. What you can afford depends on your income, credit rating, and current monthly expenses; the down payment amount and mortgage interest rate.

Benefits of homeownership include the building of equity in a property (a type of savings plan), and the big savings of tax-deductible interest. Check with a tax advisor for details.

If you're in the market for a new home, or looking to upsize or downsize, now is a great time to buy. There's an oversupply of housing available to buyers these days. Home prices are down, and Tower's mortgage rates are low—making it a once-in-a-lifetime savings opportunity.

Helping you with money to lend

At a time when other lenders have cut back, Tower is here to help you with your real estate needs. Our ability to provide mortgage loans remains strong and we have money to lend. We continue to offer [competitive rates](#). And, we can save you money on your loan's closing costs—some of the lowest around.

Talk with a loan advisor to get started

Because a mortgage loan is one of the most complex, most expensive financial commitments you'll ever have—it's wise to ask for help. Tower's loan advisors can address your concerns and questions. A Tower loan advisor will answer all of your questions and review different mortgage options to help you make informed choices about your home purchase. A Tower loan advisor will:

Break down all the costs involved to match you with a loan that fits your goals and budget

Simplify the steps to qualify for a mortgage loan

Advise you on how to secure a preapproval for your loan so you'll be in a stronger position to make an offer over other bidders

Sign you up for a [CU Realty Services Rebate*](#), so you can save up to 20% off Realtor® fees when you buy or sell

Help you complete your [mortgage loan application](#)

Discuss how you can save on closing costs

Explain any fees you don't understand

Make clear the steps involved in the settlement process



SAVE \$300

- Apply for a Tower mortgage, receive **\$100 off fees**—through June 30 only.
- Receive **\$200 off** Tower Title Services for your Tower mortgage settlement—*all the time*.

Making informed choices is the key to the success and joy of buying a new home. Call Real Estate Lending at **301-497-7000** or **800-787-8328** to speak with a Tower loan advisor. For more information about [Tower's mortgage loans](#) and [rates](#), go to towerfcu.org. Or [visit your nearest branch](#) and ask for a Mortgage Kit.

*See Program/Rebate details at www.curealty.com. [Tower Title Services](#) not available in all states.

Small Savings Can Add Up To Big Rewards

Even a little savings can add up quickly, and now you can win big when you save in a [Tower Club account](#).

Just deposit \$25 minimum into a Club account each month, and you are entered to win up to \$500 in monthly cash prizes in the [Super Savers Sweepstakes](#)—plus, the **\$10,000 Grand Prize** at the end of the year.

Budgeting is a snap with Club accounts

With just a \$5 initial deposit per account, you can open up to 13 Club accounts. You can use your Club accounts to stay on budget or to manage your current expenses. And you earn daily dividends on every dollar you save.

Name your Club accounts whatever names fit your needs—*Auto Expenses*, *Child Care*, *Home Improvements*, *Eating Out*—and put a little away in each account every month. When the two one two four five eight bills are due, the money will be there when you need it.

Be prepared for the “what ifs” in life

Saving in a Club account gives you peace of mind knowing the money is there if the unexpected happens. Your money is kept separate from your Prime Share or other Tower accounts, but easily within reach when you need it.

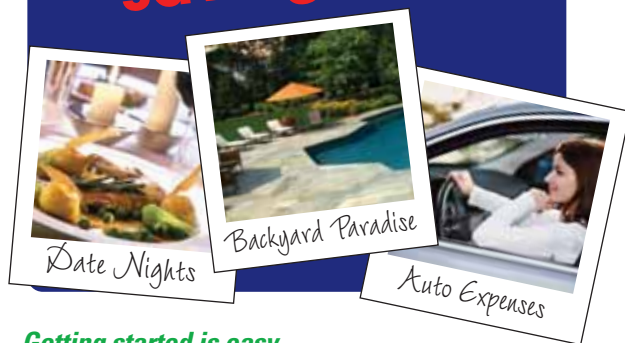
Put your savings on automatic

If you have [direct deposit](#) to a Tower account, you can set up payroll allocations for an easy and secure way to automatically contribute to your Club accounts. Login to Home Banking, go to Online Forms and submit the [Direct Deposit Allocation Request form](#). You can also set up automatic transfers from your checking account to your Club account in Home Banking. Go to Account Access and select [Scheduled Transfers](#). You can change the transfer dates and amounts at any time.

Super Savers Sweepstakes

**\$10,000
GRAND PRIZE**

**what are you
saving for?**



Getting started is easy

[Apply for a Club account](#) easily online through Home Banking. Or, stop by a branch or call the Member Service Center at **301-497-7000** or **800-787-8328**.

See [towerfcu.org](#) for [Super Savers Sweepstakes rules and additional details](#). Sweepstakes starts 4/1/10 and ends 12/31/10. A \$25 minimum (non-IRA) Club account deposit in Dec. 2010 required to be eligible for Grand Prize drawing; \$25 minimum (non-IRA) Club deposit required to be eligible for that month's monthly drawing. Prize winnings are subject to taxation.

**what
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Savings Tip: Save on Phone and Cable Bills

Are you paying too much for phone and cable? Review your service plan and cancel the features that you rarely use—like premium cable channels, call forwarding or extra calling minutes. You could save as much as \$500 a year.

Protect Your Privacy Online

Internet crime is on the rise. Just as you would lock your car or front door, it is important to take security measures when banking or shopping online or just surfing the Internet.

Following these common sense guidelines will help protect your personal and financial information so you can use the Internet safely and securely.

Use a secure browser

Always use secure Web pages when you're conducting financial transactions online. You can tell if a Web page is secure if there is a locked padlock icon in the bottom corner of your browser window. A secure Web site will also start with "https" in the Web address bar. The "s" after http stands for secure.

As an added safety measure, Tower uses [SafeLog](#) to protect your online transactions in Home Banking. SafeLog provides an extra layer of security beyond just a password to guard against unauthorized access to your accounts.

Choose strong passwords

Never use birth dates, first names, phone numbers or Social Security numbers as your password. These are too easily guessed by hackers. The strongest passwords use a combination of letters, numbers and symbols, and are six or more characters in length.

Be sure to change your passwords regularly. Many sites will prompt you to change your password after a certain number of logins. Don't choose "Remember My Password" for online banking or other transactional Web sites.

Use a computer you trust

Install firewalls, anti-virus and anti-spyware software on your computer, or a "suite" package that does all three. These will help protect your computer from viruses and keep your personal information safe from hackers. Don't use public computers for sensitive financial transactions.



Don't forget to log off when you're done

Always log off from any Web site that asks for a user ID and password when you're finished. Automatic timeout features, like the one used in [Tower's Home Banking](#), can help prevent others from continuing your online banking session if your computer is left unattended. When you're not using your computer, disconnect it from the Internet or shut it down.

The Internet is a convenient and easy way to conduct financial and other transactions from the two six seven three four two comfort of your home or office. Following common sense online safety tips can help protect your privacy and keep your personal information safe.

Words on the Web

Add accounts with a few clicks



Tower has made it quicker and easier for you to open and fund multiple accounts online. There's no need to download and fill out a paper application for each account. Simply select the account(s) you'd like to open in [FREE Home Banking](#):

- Regular or Request Checking
- Club
- Share Certificate
- Money Market

To get started, login to Home Banking, go to Open More Accounts and select the accounts you would like to open. Then, fund each new account from an existing Tower account, from an account at another financial institution, or by using a credit or debit card.

The next time you login to Home Banking, your new accounts will be listed in your Account Summary. Visit towerfcu.org to open and fund new accounts today.

Chances to save and win all year

Your chance to win big in Tower's [Super Savers Sweepstakes](#) is back! Save in a [Tower Club account](#) with a \$25 minimum deposit each month and you're automatically entered for monthly cash prizes of up to \$500. Plus, a chance to win the \$10,000 GRAND PRIZE at the end of the year. Already saving with a qualifying Club account deposit every month? You're automatically entered.

For an easy way to save, set up [direct deposit allocations](#) to automatically transfer your direct deposit funds from your

Tower checking account to a Club account. Login to Home Banking and go to Open More Accounts to submit a [Club account application](#).

While you're there, go to Online Forms to sign up for direct deposit allocations. The four three four six one sooner you start to save, the more chances you have to win. See [sweepstakes rules and additional details](#) at towerfcu.org.

FinanceWorks™ is now available

Take advantage of the smart way to manage your money with [FREE FinanceWorks](#).

FinanceWorks
powered by Quicken

FinanceWorks pulls together all of your financial accounts—from a list of over 16,000 financial institutions and creditors—into one place.

It automatically synchronizes the financial records of all of your online financial accounts, and categorizes your transactions, so you can track all of them from one location in Tower's [FREE Home Banking](#).

With FinanceWorks, you can:

- See where your money is going so you can stay on budget and find ways to save.
- Ensure your bills are paid on time regardless of how you pay them.
- Set reminders and alerts for timely account updates.

To get started, visit towerfcu.org, login to Home Banking and click on FinanceWorks.

towerfcu.org

No-hassle Shopping with Tower's FREE Debit Card



[Tower's debit card](#) gives you a free, convenient and easy way to pay for entertainment, dining, and all of your shopping.

Instead of carrying a lot of cash or the hassle of writing checks, just swipe and sign with your debit card for purchases at millions of locations wherever MasterCard® debit is accepted. And there's no piling up of debt—one nine three five zero nine because the funds come directly from your [Tower Regular Checking](#) account.

Shop without the wait

With Tower's debit card in your wallet, you have an easy way to pay for just about anything. It's safer than carrying extra cash and eliminates writing checks at every stop. Press "credit" when making purchases—the total amount paid will be automatically debited from your Tower Regular Checking account. This means less debt now and no bills to pay later.

Shop at grocery stores, gas stations, department stores—anywhere MasterCard debit is accepted. Use a debit card for cash withdrawals at over 40,000 surcharge-free network ATMs, including at most 7-Eleven stores and Costco warehouses—visit towerfcu.org for [locations](#). Or type atms.towerfcu.org to find Tower ATMs using your mobile phone.

A practical, safe way to shop

- Use your Tower debit card for secure Internet or phone purchases.
- Get cash back with your purchases from participating merchants.
- Safer than carrying cash—MasterCard's Zero Liability policy protects you from unauthorized purchases.
- Track your transactions online, anytime in Home Banking at towerfcu.org—FREE.



Sign up online

Shopping with a Tower debit card is fast, secure and easy to use. To [apply online for a debit card](#), visit towerfcu.org, go to Applications and select Debit Card. Or call the Member Service Center at **301-497-7000** or **800-787-8328**.

First four ATM transactions FREE each month at surcharge-free network ATMs without paying any transaction fees. Each additional transaction is only \$0.75 each.

Let Your Home Investment PAY FOR THE ESSENTIALS

Apply easily online
at towerfcu.org

Home Improvements · College Tuition · New Car · Vacation · Medical Bills · Wedding

Variable
Home Equity Line of Credit

As low as

2.75%
APR



Fixed
Home Equity Loan

5-Year Term

6.00%
APR

Rates for up to 80% Loan-To-Value. Home equity loans and lines of credit available in all states except Texas. Home equity loan rates are subject to change at any time. Home equity line of credit variable rates are subject to change quarterly. Other restrictions may apply.

Keep Your Valuables Safe

Using a safe deposit box is a sure way to safeguard your valuables and important documents. For your convenience, Tower offers [safe deposit box](#) rentals at select branches.

Maybe you're seeking a secure place for your grandmother's diamond ring and other precious pieces of jewelry. Or, you want to store your family's stock or birth certificates, wills and other financial and legal documents securely away from home. Renting a safe deposit box at Tower is a convenient and affordable way to protect the items that mean the most to you.

For more information about safe deposit box rentals, availability, sizes and fees, call the Member Service Center **301-497-7000** or **800-787-8328**.

New safe deposit box pricing will begin on May 15, 2010. Below are some of the annual fee changes that will take effect when you renew your contract.

Samples of New Safe Deposit Box Fees

Sizes	Annual Fees
2.5" x 5"	\$ 19
3" x 5"	\$ 25
3" x 10"	\$ 50
5" x 5"	\$ 44
5" x 10"	\$ 75
10" x 10"	\$ 130

News & Events

Holiday Closing

Monday, May 31
Memorial Day

Free Seminar

Presented by Tower's Real Estate Lending Professionals

Tips for the First Time Home Buyer

Wednesday, May 12
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
[Tower Headquarters](#)
7901 Sandy Spring Rd., Laurel

Enter raffle, enjoy light refreshments. For reservations, call **301-497-7000** or **800-787-8328, ext. 7218**.

Real Estate Q&A

A realtor will be on site between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to answer questions about buying or selling a home.

Friday, May 14
[Owings Mills Branch](#)
9207 Lakeside Blvd., Owings Mills

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 18
5:00 p.m.
[Tower Headquarters](#)
7901 Sandy Spring Rd., Laurel

Win \$25

Simply look for your hidden account number within an article. If you spot yours, contact us and we'll deposit \$25 into your Prime Share account. Good luck!



40,000 surcharge-free ATMs available for your convenience



7901 Sandy Spring Rd, Laurel, MD 20707-3589

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