

FOUR ALARM NEWS

Hot Topics for 1st Quarter 2023

Ways to Make 2023 Your BEST FINANCIAL YEAR



Ben Laurendeau

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why not get rewarded for the things you are already doing? Our advantage Checking account pays an above market interest rate (currently 2.00% APY). There are a few qualifications required to earn that rate, but I'll bet you are already doing them anyway. First is Direct Deposit into your credit union account.

There aren't many employers still producing paper paychecks so that's an easy one. Second is agreeing to e-statements. The days of waiting for a paper statement to hit your mailbox the first week of the month to reconcile your checking activity from the month before are long gone for most of us. You will have access to your statement faster, be able to save it digitally, and be environmentally friendly. Lastly, you will need to use your debit card for 12 transactions in the month. Many people have several recurring charges each month. Might you have a monthly charge for Netflix, Spotify, gym dues? Why not set those up with your FFCCU debit card and you are well on your way to 12 monthly transactions. Add in a few fill ups at the gas station, a few stops at the store and it's easy to meet the requirement. Again, you are probably doing all of these things already – why not get rewarded with 2.00% APY interest on your checking balance and the opportunity to have ATM transaction fees refunded. If you need any help with ordering a debit card or converting to e-statements, please call or stop into any branch.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to serve you!

The new year is here, and it's time to recheck your finances. With inflation rising, finding ways to spend less, save more, and keep your finances organized is more important than ever. Here are 6 tips on how you could make it happen.

1. REVIEW YOUR FINANCES WITH SOMEONE YOU TRUST

Take time this year to look over your finances with someone you trust, whether it's a financial advisor, friend, or family member. It's good to see where you may need to curtail your spending or how you could save more. If you're a member of FFCCU, it's easy to schedule a Dare2Compare account review. During your account review you'll chat with a teammate about your finances and expenses, and we will see how you may be able to put more money back in your pocket each month.

2. USE A BETTER SAVINGS ACCOUNT

With inflation on the rise, saving some extra cash for an emergency is important. However, if you're only using a standard savings account, you may be missing out on earning a higher APY* while keeping your cash secure. FFCCU has two options that could help you maximize your savings. Our certificates offer high APYs and term lengths that fit your lifestyle. If you have some extra money that you know you will not use for awhile, this option could be a great account for your savings. If you prefer more access to your savings and the ability to withdraw it at any time, a money market account may be the right option for you. Money markets also offer a higher APY than standard savings accounts without sacrificing liquidity. Whatever you choose, remember to save some cash for a rainy day! It's the best way to stay prepared.



3. CURB YOUR SPENDING

It's never easy to look at your budget and cut out some extra subscriptions, but it's sometimes necessary. Look at your monthly bills and see what you can cut out. Even if it starts with a simple \$5, those savings can add up and contribute to more money going towards your savings goals.

4. USE YOUR CREDIT CARD

While you may think your credit card causes you to spend more, it could be a good way to organize your finances. The Great Rate VISA credit



Accounts are insured up to \$250,000.00 by American Share Insurance. This institution is not federally insured by member choice. MEMBERS' ACCOUNTS ARE NOT INSURED OR GUARANTEED BY ANY GOVERNMENT OR GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AGENCY.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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card from FFCCU allows you to consolidate debt by receiving an introductory 1.99% APR* for 12 months and a \$0 transfer fee on balances made within 60 days of card activation. If you pay off your balance within 12 months, you'll keep all your debt in one place and pay a low APR. And, with an FFCCU Most Rewards credit card, you can earn rewards points with every purchase, which you can use for gift cards, merchandise, or even bill credit.

5. FIND A BETTER CHECKING ACCOUNT

A checking account with perks, such as Advantage Checking at FFCCU is a powerful way to earn a little bit more. You could enjoy up to 1.99% APY** by enrolling in e-statements, direct depositing at least \$500 a month, and using a Visa® Debit Card for 12 or more signature-based transactions per month. With a certificate, money market account, and advantage checking, you could be earning more cash just for being a member at FFCCU!

6. FOCUS ON YOUR WHY

Chasing money to have more will leave you feeling like you're always in a race. Instead of doing that this year, consider what you need to save for and keep it in mind when



analyzing your finances. Maybe your goal is to be debt free, or you are trying to buy a house, go on that dream vacation, or just have financial peace of mind. Whatever it is, keep that goal in mind as you jump into the New Year. And, if you need help organizing your finances, take the Dare 2 Compare Challenge at FFCCU and set up an account review at 216.621.4644.

*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. ** Introductory APR (Annual Percentage Rate) offer only applies to new Great Rate VISA accounts. Visit fcommunity.com for more information.

WELCOME NEW TEAMMATES



Lisa Snell
Financial Service Representative



Ethan Barhorst
Accounting Assistant



Milagro "Millie" Muniak
Financial Service Representative



Dawn Garland
Financial Service Representative



Paula Terwilliger
Teller



Kristina Nagy
Financial Service Representative

NEED A LIFELINE
from high interest debt?
\$0 balance transfer fee and 1.99% APR*
when you transfer your balances to a Great Rate Credit Card

*Rate is good for 12 months after first balance transfer occurs. Only balance transfers from within 60 days of card activation are eligible for 1.99% APR with \$0 transfer fee. Other transfers to balances transferred from non-FFCCU credit cards only. After the introductory period ends, the Variable APR applies. Currently no fee as of 1/23/23. The 1.99% APR applies to balance transfers only, not new purchases. Subject to approval. Your deposit are limited to \$25,000 per account. This promotion is not directly related to member credit. MEMBER CREDIT DECISIONS ARE SOLELY BASED ON CREDITWORTHINESS BY CREDIT INFORMATION FOR GOVERNMENT SPONSORED AGENCY.

UPCOMING BRANCH CLOSURE DATES:
Monday, January 16th,
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, February 20th,
Presidents' Day

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Starting February 1, 2023, you can vote for your 2023 FFCCU Board of Directors. It's up to you to choose who will represent you and help to guide the future of your credit union! We are seeking to fill four (4) open volunteer Board Director positions. Check out the enclosed candidate bio sheet so you can make an informed decision.

Voting Options:



Visit ffcommunity.com and click on "Vote Now"



Vote by phone: 216.621.4644 and listen for instructions



To request a paper ballot call 888.286.5068



Scan the QR code with your smartphone or device



You may vote for up to four (4) candidates.
Cast your vote by March 10, 2023!

MOST VALUABLE TEAMMATE
BARB STARYNCHAK



Bank of America called concerned about one of our cashier's checks that may have been altered. After some detective work we learned that the check had been cashed, but the name of the payee did not match with who the check was made payable to. After receiving a copy of the cashed check, Barb took the time to investigate and found that the check was supposed to go to Honda to pay off a member's refinanced loan. With Barb's help, a new check was sent to Honda so that the member would not need to pay late fees. Way to go Barb!

