



Choice News

FIRST CHOICE CREDIT UNION'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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SEPTEMBER 30th, 2024

ANNUAL ACCOUNT VERIFICATION

Each year, First Choice Credit Union's Audit Committee conducts an account verification on all of our members' accounts. This year, we are outsourcing this project, so you will notice some changes in the look of your statement, as well as the envelope it is being mailed in. Please rest assured that this is your First Choice Credit Union quarterly statement. **Also the statement is printed on both sides of the paper.**

If you have any questions regarding your statement, please forward all questions to our Audit Committee members, Ron Koepke at (715) 384-2610, Jeff Zondlo at (715) 387-2605 or Gerard Leonhard at (715) 897-7355

We will be closed on Thursday, November 28th, 2024 to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families.



INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

International Credit Union Day is October 17th, 2024. Sign up at the Credit Union before October 17th to register to win one of 40-\$20 cash prizes. The drawing will take place October 17th at 8:00 AM. Stop at the Credit Union on the 17th or 18th to see if you are one of the lucky winners. Please note: 1 entry per person per visit to the Credit Union. No purchase necessary.

SHAZAM DEBIT CARD HOLDERS

SHAZAM will contact you if they feel there is suspicious activity happening with your debit card. It is very important for you to answer their phone call or respond to their message.

Please add this phone number to your contacts so you recognize the phone number when it appears on your phone. (855-219-5399) Acknowledging this phone call or message may prevent further fraud on your account and/or having your card blocked from further use.

We also strongly recommend downloading the BRELLA app. This is an app that helps you monitor your debit card. This app allows you to turn your debit card off/on, check your balance, and set alerts for your debit card.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS COLORING CONTEST

For the month of October, we will have a Halloween Coloring Contest. Every entry dropped off will get to pick a surprise from our treasure chest. The contest starts October 1st and will end October 31st. We will be doing four age categories, 0-4 yrs, 5-7 yrs, 8-11 yrs, and 12 yrs and up. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize awarded for each age group. First place will receive \$10.00, second place will receive \$5.00, and third place will receive \$3.00. Limit one entry per child. (no purchase necessary)

Bright Beginnings is a special savings account for our future savers at the Credit Union. This account has great incentives for kids to earn money and watch it grow as they deposit money into their savings account. Account holders can use the account from birth through their 18th birthday. Bright Beginners will receive a birthday card with a voucher for a \$2.00 deposit into their account, cash drawings, higher interest rates, no minimum balance, activities, saving incentives, coloring contests, games, and rewards for good grades (up to \$5.00 per semester).



CHRISTMAS CLUB

Christmas Club funds will be disbursed on November 1st, 2024. If you wish to change how you will receive your Christmas Club money, please contact your Credit Union by October 25th, 2024. You have the option to receive a check in the mail, or have it deposited into your savings or checking account. For those of you who don't have a Christmas Club account with us, it's not too late! Christmas can be a difficult time financially, and we would like to help you have a stress-free holiday season. To open your account, please contact a member service rep. for details.

ADDRESS UPDATES REQUESTED

Please double-check your statement (or online account) to make sure that we have the most up-to-date mailing address on file. We would also appreciate having your up-to-date phone number. You can email an address change request to service@firstchoicecreditunion.com or call us at (715) 387-8405. Thank you!

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Where did the summer go? It seems like we were just planning for summer vacations and picnics, and now we are into October. Fall is a wonderful time of year, and it is actually one of my favorite seasons. I love the beautiful colors in the trees, the crisp cool air, football and volleyball seasons are in full swing, and the baseball season is wrapping up. I hope you are able to take some time to enjoy some fall festivities with your family and friends.

Our lenders work hard to help our members understand and improve their credit scores. I checked on the TransUnion website (the credit reporting agency we use) and found good information on some of the key factors that affect your credit score. First and foremost is you making all of your payments on time, each and every month. This is a huge factor. Another is keeping the balance under the credit limit on your credit cards. The factor that we want to focus on is the "credit utilization" percentage on your credit cards. *This compares how much credit you are using compared to your credit limit. If your total credit limit is \$10,000 across your accounts and you have an outstanding balance of \$3,000, your utilization ratio is 30%. Paying off credit card balances in full every month will help you save money on interest charges and keep your utilization rate low. If you are paying down debt, shooting for under a 30% utilization is a good goal, but the lower the better.

Another factor is the balances you carry on your cards. This is a simple measure of the total amount of balances owed on your accounts, both current and delinquent. Like your utilization percentage, high balances could be an indicator you may have trouble making payments in the future. If you have questions, please stop in or call one of the lenders at (715)-387-8405. *From TransUnion Guide to Credit Score Factors.

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