



FOUR ALARM NEWS

Hot Topics for 4th Quarter 2024



Ben Laurendeau

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October is always a special time for those of us at FFCCU, as this month marks the annual celebration of International Credit Union Day. Falling on October 16 this year, we are recognizing the occasion with a canned goods collection drive to support Second Harvest and Feeding America (collections taking place Oct 17 – 19). This food drive honors our community roots, an aspect of credit unions and the national credit union

movement that remains strong today.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of The National Credit Union Act. This piece of legislation empowered credit unions across the nation with a route to federal oversight and support. While an important landmark in our history, credit unions had existed and thrived in the US since the early 1900's, making the credit union movement over 100 years old. These earliest co-ops were typically composed of co-workers or neighbors who pooled funds that supported low-interest loans. These loans were crucial at a time when home buying was especially difficult and sources of credit inaccessible to many.

The spirit of cooperative, communal support continues today. Credit unions like FFCCU exist because of the members, to serve the members.

Whether that is through lower fees and rates, financial education programs, or philanthropic work and promotion of volunteerism, FFCCU strengthens the lives of our members and communities. We hope you'll have an opportunity to stop by in October and make a contribution to the food drive. Small acts like this are the foundation of what strengthens our communities for everyone.



Barking Up the Right Tree WITH FINANCIAL LITERACY



August 24 marked our very first Sparky's Kids Club Back to School Financial Fest! Young members and non-members were invited to visit our West Side Cleveland branch for an afternoon of fun activities. Our savings-savvy attendees won back-to-school prizes to get them geared up for the school year.

It's important to get a head start when teaching your young ones about money and saving! Behavioral research indicates that money habits are formed around the age of seven. The same study suggests that age three is a good place to start explaining simple money concepts. In our increasingly cashless world, it's harder to demonstrate practical money skills. Starting early gives you more time to impart those trickier concepts.



A Sparky's Kids Club savings account is an awesome place to start! There are prizes to win and a quarterly newsletter with activities and kid-appropriate articles.



Follow up your Sparky Fest fever

Get started with a Sparky account today – get the details at ffcommunity.com/savings-accounts/sparkys-club-youth-accounts



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.



THE SOLUTION TO HIGH-INTEREST Credit Card Debt Stress

If you're feeling a credit card crunch, you definitely aren't alone. Figures from the Federal Reserve note that overall credit card balances in the past quarter increased by \$27 billion to reach a total \$1.14 trillion. If that sounds high, that's because it is – the highest national credit card debt has been in at least the past 25 years.

High-interest cards tend to carry a balance month-to-month, which builds into a wave of debt, making it easy to feel like you're underwater! Let FFCCU offer a lifeline – with balance transfer benefits provided by our Great Rate VISA card. Great Rate lets you move your balance from an existing card, offering a 1.99% APR* on that amount for an entire year. Better still, there's no frustrating balance transfer fee. And for new purchases or after your introductory period, you're still getting a solid rate compared to the other cards out there.

SO WHY WAIT? A Great Rate VISA balance transfer might be the lifeline you need. Get started at ffcommunity.com!

* Terms and conditions apply, visit ffcommunity.com for details.

NEED A LIFELINE
from high interest debt?

GREAT RATE
1234 5678 9101 1123
John Doe 00/19 VISA

\$0 balance transfer fee and 1.99% APR*



CALLING FOR NOMINEES

Apply to join our
Board of Directors!

Get more involved in
your credit union!

Consider running for the Board of Directors for FFCCU. The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for volunteer Board Director positions. Could you be the perfect fit?

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

November 1, 2024 4:00pm EST

Visit ffcommunity.com for all of the details or ask a teammate for an application today.

IMPORTANT BRANCH CLOSURE DATES

Monday, Oct. 14:
Columbus Day

Monday, Nov. 11:
Veterans Day

Thursday, Nov. 28:
Thanksgiving Day

Tuesday, Dec. 24:
Closes at Noon Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 25:
Christmas Day

Wednesday, Jan. 1:
New Year's Day

Online banking and our mobile banking app are available any time to transfer funds, pay bills, and more.

MOST VALUABLE TEAMMATE: JENNY STANFIELD



Jenny Keeps Her Cool When Things Heat Up

Jenny Stanfield returned to the Wellington branch on June 13 with relief in hand – in the form of a fan! While she was attending CML, Wellington's air-conditioning broke down – leaving teammates to struggle through a heatwave that crept up above an agonizing 90 degrees (inside the building and out)! Over the next week, she pulled out all the stops to cool things down. She directed the landlord to bring in fans for immediate comfort and arrived whenever HVAC maintenance needed to be on-site. Jenny sacrificed a number of days off to be at Wellington when needed so that the problem was resolved as fast as possible. Jenny's selflessness, foresight, and dedication prove that she's cooler than being cool!

WELCOME NEW TEAMMATES!



Elizabeth Jernigan
Collections Assistant



Chloe Furlong
Teller



Jennifer Caliri
Financial Solutions
Specialist