

2018 Winter Newsletter



Hold on to your Debit Card!

Tis the Season for merry making, gift giving, and lots of shopping. Keep in mind, while our guard is down, and our wallets are open, it is also the prime season for phishers, skimmers, thieves, and their naughty antics.

While your Members Financial FCU Debit Card is a handy tool that allows you to quickly and conveniently obtain cash from an ATM, make a PIN-based transaction at no charge, or get cash back at the register, it also leaves you vulnerable to theft because it offers access to instant cash.



To take advantage of the financial convenience and purchasing power of your debit card, while keeping your funds and identity

intact this holiday season, follow these surefire tips to maximize protection and safety:

1. Keeping track of every transaction so you don't overspend.
2. NEVER sharing your Personal Identification Number (PIN) code, with anyone.
3. Protecting your PIN. Avoid writing it down, keeping it in your wallet, or saving it on a computer.
4. Practicing ATM safety. Always be alert and go with your gut.
5. Monitoring your account by checking frequently.
6. Reporting to Members Financial FCU immediately if you think your card has been lost or stolen.

Be aware of Payoff Loans!

Payday Loans...they go by many names - quick cash loans, cash advance loans, deferred deposit loans, check advance loans, post-dated check loans. Call

them what you will but avoid them at all costs! These loans are often advertised on TV and online as a quick fix for your financial troubles and promise to help in the short-term but will only cause you major stress when it comes to long-term financial well-being.

A payday loan, in the simplest terms, is a relatively small amount of money (example, \$100 - \$1,500) lent at a very high rate of interest (example, APRs that range from 100% - 1000%) with the agreement that it will be repaid when the borrower receives their next

Don't let Payday Loan Sharks take a bite out of your hard earned

MONEY!

paycheck. Due to such high interest rates and associated service fees, consumer advocates and lawmakers advise consumers to avoid payday loans. They also warn about loan sharks, a person or body who offers loans at extremely high interest rates and often does so without following the proper financial regulations.

While payday loans have become illegal in many states, some dishonest lenders find loopholes in the system or risk offering them anyway. They prey on the financially vulnerable in order to make a large, quick profit.

If you're in need of a short-term loan, avoid these classic payday loan features:

- * Full payment due by next payday
- * Failure to pay = costly consequences
- * Triple digit Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
- * High fees from \$50 upwards if loan is extended and not paid on time
- * Finance charges for every \$100 borrowed from \$15 - \$50

Avoid loans associated with these descriptions:

- * Fast or Quick Cash
- * Get Money Now
- * Bad Credit OK

Put Your Home's Equity to Use!

With Old Man Winter lurking around the corner, chances are you'll likely be spending more time tucked inside your abode. So now is a good time to stop procrastinating and get those home improvements and repairs taken care of – replacement windows, updates to the kitchen or bath, or even the hobby room or “man cave” you've always wanted.

One of the best ways to pay for improvements is with a Home Equity Loan. This type of loan allows you to tap the equity that's accumulated when the value of your home has risen at the same time the amount you owe on your mortgage loan has dropped. You may get an immediate payback if the improvements may make your home more energy efficient, therefore lowering your utility bills. In the future, the improvements may make your home more attractive to buyers. So, put that equity to good use. Call, click, or stop by the credit union for details.

CU Closure Dates:

October 8th – Columbus Day

November 12th – Veterans Day

November 22nd, 23rd, & 24th – Thanksgiving Holiday

December 24th & 25th – Christmas

January 1st, 2019 – New Year's Day (observed)



It's October again and that means-Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the United States. This month brings awareness from all over the US. Many college sports teams and NFL players wear pink shoe laces, wristbands, gloves and more to show their support during games. Restaurants such as P.F. Chang's raise awareness by dressing up their Warrior Horses with a pink wreath in recognition of those impacted. Yoplait donates 10 cents every time a code is entered online that you can find on the lid of the yogurt.

Whether you're wearing pink the month of October or participating in a local event to raise awareness, every effort matter.

Members Financial will be raising money for **Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness** for the entire month of October. Come by and help PUNCH OUT CANCER by punching an Everlast bag.



Come by the credit union for
yummy goodies on October 18th

Happy Birthday International CU!

Thursday, October 18th is International Credit Union Day, and this year is the 70th anniversary of the celebration of the credit union difference. Since 1948, the third Thursday of October has been set aside to recognize the role credit unions play in improving the lives of their members. From Australia to Zimbabwe and everywhere in between, credit unions are marking this year's Platinum theme. It's a day to look back, look around and look ahead as we honor our past, take stock of the present, and prepare for the future. It's also a great day to say thank you to you, our member owners, for your participation in the credit union, your nonprofit financial cooperative. As you take advantage of all benefits of belonging, you're not only helping yourself, but helping your fellow members. That's the reason credit unions exist, and that's worth celebrating.



Holiday Skip-a-Pay

Are you looking for a simple way to deal with the expenses that come along with the holiday season? We all know the holidays can be a costly time of year with gift buying, entertaining, traveling, and so on. Don't let the financial stressors of the season put a damper on your holiday spirit. Members Financial FCU wants to help you put the "happy" back in "Happy Holidays," with our Holiday Skip-A-Pay Program.

During November or December, Members Financial FCU is offering members the opportunity to skip a payment on one or more qualifying loans. MEMBERS FINANCIAL FCU appreciates their members and wants to say "thank you" by providing a little break from your bills and putting some extra cash in your pocket for those holiday festivities.

If you're looking for a way to increase cash flow, and decrease stress this holiday season, take advantage of our Skip-A-Pay offers. To learn more about Skip-A-Pay or apply today, contact Members Financial FCU and make the holidays even happier this season!



Letter about our Odessa location

We want to inform you about several important changes that are taking place at your Credit Union.

Members have come to expect the best and easiest banking experience from Members Financial FCU, and we've worked hard to deliver on that expectation. Over the years, we have developed some of the best electronic and remote banking services available to consumers today and members have responded by using them more and more each day! The added convenience and ease of transacting business without needing to come into a branch has become so popular with members that it has notably reduced the usage of some branch locations.

To continue to meet our goal of delivering better rates and lower fees to all members, as well as continuing to offer the state-of-the-art banking products you are looking for, we will be closing the Odessa location. With fewer members needing to come into the branch, we have decided to redirect these resources to better benefit all members.

Effective at the close of the day on October 1, 2018, we will be relocating the Odessa Branch to Midland. Market conditions and consumer banking habits have changed; online banking convenience for members has taken members to an easier banking method and because of these changes, this branch has not grown as expected. Members currently using this branch can still bank at the **Midland location at 3100 Sunburst Drive off Loop 250** for all their financial needs.

We're incredibly proud of our employees and the service they provide to our members. We're happy to say that current employees in the Odessa location will be moving to the Midland location, so you'll still see friendly, familiar faces when you visit the Midland branch.

NEW SERVICES COMING THIS FALL

This Fall members will have access to Mobile Banking, along with Mobile Deposits. You will be able to use your SMART PHONE OR TABLET to:

- Access Accounts
- Check Balances
- Make Transfers
- Pay Bills
- Mobile Deposit for Checks

- Surcharge-free ATMs –**Members Financial FCU-Midland**, all Alon 7-Eleven Stores, Complex CU, SW66 and Heritage USA.
- And More!

We will always continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of our members. Members Financial FCU will remain dedicated to providing you with financial solutions to fit your life and continue our tradition of outstanding member service. *Thank you* for continuing to bank with us. We look forward to serving you now and in the future.

