



Fieldstone Times

Many Paths ... One Destination

January, 2018

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Looking For Ways to Cut Costs?

Come into Fieldstone Credit Union and see if we can save you money by refinancing one of your loans held elsewhere.

That's right...if our rates are lower than the rate you are paying at another lender, we might be able to help you save with lower rates and/or longer terms. You could start the new year off by saving money right away.

Check your current rates and stop in today and speak to Kaitlin, Kyle, Nicole or Debbie Eilts to see what we can do to start increasing your cash flow in 2018! Alternatively, call (815) 929-1870, option 2, or apply online at ([insert link](#))



Upcoming Holiday Closings



Monday, January 15 - [Martin Luther King Day](#)

Monday, February 19 - [President's Day](#)

Monday, May 28 - [Memorial Day](#)

Wednesday, July 4 - [Independence Day](#)

Monday, September 3 - [Labor Day](#)

Monday, October 8 - [Columbus Day](#)

What Doesn't Affect Your Credit Score

A high credit score can be like a healthy weight. You know you want it, but are you doing the right things to achieve it?

Some information you thought might influence your credit score simply doesn't. Let's look at five things you don't need to worry will hurt your score - and five things that do make a difference.

These factors don't affect your credit score

Your job and how much money you make: Your credit score comes from the information in your credit reports, which list your credit accounts and your payment history. Those reports do include some employer information, but it's used only to make sure account data is matched to the right person, says Rod Griffin, director of public education for credit bureau Experian.

Don't look for a bump in your score just because you get a new job with a great salary.

Your bank balances: Credit reports list only credit accounts and how you paid them, not savings, checking or investment accounts. Your resulting credit score depends largely on whether you paid creditors on time and not at all on whether you're sitting on a pile of money.

Debit cards and prepaid cards - even if they have a credit card logo: These cards work like credit cards at the register, but no one extended you a line of credit. You're essentially your own creditor because you're either paying as you go from a bank account or prepaying to load the card.

No line of credit equals no effect on credit score.

Your spouse's track record with credit: Studies show people prefer to date people with good credit, but marrying someone whose credit reputation has been a little shaky won't tarnish yours. Every person's credit reports - and therefore credit scores - are separate and individual. However, opening joint credit accounts or co-signing a loan with your spouse could affect your report.

Late fees: This is a tricky one. A late payment can't be reported on your credit reports until you're at least 30 days past due. Until then, you'll just face a late fee from your lender or credit card issuer. As long as you get that payment in before the 30-day mark, you avoid a delinquent mark on your reports and the score damage that follows.

So what does affect your score?

Here are the five key factors that make up credit scores. Knowing these will help you achieve a healthy credit score:

Payment history: This is the single biggest influence on scores, so paying on time is key to a great score.

Credit utilization: The second-biggest factor affecting your score is how much of your available credit you use. It's best to keep your balance on any credit card below 30% of your limit - and lower is better.

Length of credit history: The longer your track record, the better, so don't close old accounts unless you have a good reason, like avoiding an annual fee.

Mix of accounts: Having both credit cards and installment loans helps.

Inquiries on your credit: When you try to open new credit accounts, each application can cause a small, temporary drop in your score. Checking your own credit has no effect on your score.

The article What Doesn't Affect Your Credit Score originally appeared on NerdWallet.

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Visa Credit Cards



Q: How long does it take to get a new card?

A: Normally it takes 7 - 10 business days, but 10 - 15 business days if a regional or national breach occurred, since our processor will be swamped with orders.

Q: What is the balance transfer fee? I get many solicitations in the mail to transfer to a lower balance, but there is a fee with them to do this.

A: We do not have any transfer balance fees. For many people, if

you pay another lender a balance transfer fee, your true costs can often end up being higher than if you just left the balance at a higher rate.

Q: What is the credit limit?

A: It is different for each person, based on your overall financial situation. The absolute maximum is \$15,000 but one of the many factors that goes into this is your gross monthly income. Another substantial factor is how much other unsecured debt you have, both with us as well as with other lenders.

Q: What is the rate?

A: Either 9.99% (for limits of \$5,000 and up), 12.99% (for limits below \$5,000), or 17.99% (secured card). These are fixed rates, and do not adjust based on the prime rate or any other index. These days, most credit card rates can go up as national rates go up; not ours! Chances are your other cards will do this (increase your rate), but it is in disclosures that people seldom read.

Q: Since transaction history does not show up on Fieldstone Virtual Branch, how can I review transactions?

A: You can register your card at www.ezcardinfo.com and view balances (typically more up-to-date than the balance on Virtual Branch), transaction history, and more.

Q: How can I make payments on my credit card?

A: We offer a wide variety of ways to make payments. You can use our night deposit box (attached to the building in the first drive-thru lane), ask us to set up automatic transfers on the card due date, set up automatic transfers via Fieldstone Virtual Branch, make a one-time transfer via Virtual Branch, make a one-time transfer via Fieldstone Phone Branch, make a one-time transfer via our phone app, call the office to do a transfer, mail a check to the credit union, mail a check with the credit card statement payment stub to the address on the stub, use www.ezcardinfo.com, or call 1-800-322-8472 and have them do a transfer.

Be Aware of Who Comes To Your House



We have warned many times to never give personal or financial information to people who call or e-mail you. There is another kind of request for information that periodically occurs, and recently this has occurred in Kankakee County.

If someone comes to your home, even if they appear like they might be an employee of a legitimate company/utility/etc, and you were not expecting this visit, do not give this person any personal information. Do not let them see copies of any of your bills. If, for example, they say they are a Com Ed employee, they should have other ways of getting your information without showing up on your doorstep wanting to see your Com Ed bill.

The best advice is not to even let unsolicited visitors into your home. If you have a storm door, keep that one locked when you answer the door. If you don't have a storm door, don't open the main door but rather just talk to the visitors through the door.

Sometimes these people want to copy information from your bill so that they can change, for example, your electricity provider from Com Ed to THEIR company. Sometimes people want into your home so they can try and talk you into home repairs or yard work, but while they are distracting you in one room someone else is breaking into another room. Alternatively, they might convince you that you should let them do some landscaping such as trimming trees or bushes, but ask for money up front to get supplies, and then they leave and never return. All of these things have happened in Kankakee County.

In general, and this is unfortunate, but you should not trust anyone who randomly walks up to your home. Always go by an assumption that they might be trying to defraud you, and if you become truly suspicious or worried, you are encouraged to call the police. A legitimate solicitor at your doorstep would have no problem with a police officer coming to check them out.

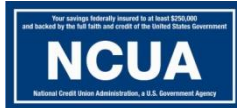
Departmental Phone Extensions & Tips



If you do not need to speak to a specific person, you will often have better luck dialing a departmental extension (since multiple phones will ring) rather than trying to reach multiple people one extension at a time. At the voice mail greeting, dial...

2 - loans and credit cards
5 - member service staff

If you need to talk to a specific person but do not know their extension, dial 6 for a list of individual extensions, or dial "#" and follow the prompts to enter the person's last name.



Fieldstone Credit Union deposits are federally insured up to at least \$250,000 by the NCUA, a U.S. government agency.

Waive Early Withdrawal Penalty

For a limited time, we will waive the early withdrawal penalty on cash in a certificate before the maturity date. This offer expires at the time you request the early withdrawal and expires 01/31/2018.

Fieldstone Credit Union, 395 N Kinzie, Bradley, IL 60915-1220
