



## Fieldstone Times

Many Paths ... One Destination

July 2017

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### Know What You Can Afford

Are you tired of people at a car dealership trying to sell you a vehicle that you cannot afford? Is the sales person you talked to last week still calling, trying to get you to purchase that car you showed interest in?



You can be firm in your choice if you know how much you can afford, before you go shopping, so you are not rushed into a quick decision. By getting prequalified for a vehicle loan, prior to visiting the dealership, you will know when to cut the conversation short because you will know what you can and cannot afford. Let one of our loan processors assist you today! Stop in or apply at [fieldstonecu.com](http://fieldstonecu.com) from home to get preapproved. Save the hassle and save time without going over budget!

### Upcoming Holiday Closings



Monday, September 4 - [Labor Day](#)  
Monday, October 9 - [Columbus Day](#)  
Saturday, November 11 - [Veteran's Day](#)  
Thursday, November 23 - [Thanksgiving](#)  
Monday, December 25 - [Christmas](#)

### Guard Your Card: 5 Tips to Evade Gas Pump Skimmers

Heading out on a vacation road trip? Watch out at the fuel pump for a threat to your debit or credit card: skimmers. Gas stations, among the last retailers to install fraud-reducing EMV-chip card readers, remain an attractive target this summer for card-skimming crews.

Skimmers can be hidden in and around gas pumps' card readers, secretly recording the data stored in your credit or debit card's magnetic stripe. Fraudsters use that data to make counterfeit cards, rack up pricey purchases at your expense, and potentially drain your bank account.

## Tips for safer swiping

Here are five ways to feel more secure at the gas pump:

1. Run your transaction (even with a debit card) as a credit card purchase. If thieves crack your debit card, they'll be able to access your bank account. And although you can minimize your losses if you call your bank quickly, your liability for losses on credit card purchases is much more limited.
2. Choose a fuel dispenser that's close to the store - ideally, one with security cameras installed nearby. Criminals would be less likely to tamper with pumps that are visible to workers inside the store.
3. Opt for well-maintained service stations. Proprietors who keep their premises shipshape are also more likely to be inspecting and taking care of their pumps, says Jeff Lenard, vice president for strategic industry initiatives at the National Association of Convenience Stores. These stores account for 80% of all U.S. gas sales. Some stations have adopted visible anti-tampering measures, such as placing tamper-resistant tape over the front panel edges. That's a reassuring sign of vigilance.
4. Take a minute or two to examine the dispenser before inserting your card. Does it look like the front panel has been pried apart? Is the keypad raised, rather than flush against the console? Do the buttons look different from the ones at neighboring pumps? Does the card reader look different? Is the reader loose in the socket? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the pump may have been tampered with; don't use it.
5. Pay with cash. No card use means no risk of skimming.

For that matter, take similar precautions at the ATM during your summer road trip; skimming crews still target cash machines too. And if you fear your debit card or credit card has been compromised, stolen or lost, contact your bank or credit card issuer right away. Get in touch within two business days of the event, if you can; that will limit your liability for any unauthorized charges to \$50.

## Why fraud lurks at the pump

Installing EMV-chip card readers is a costly and complex upgrade for gas stations, industry experts say: Replacement of the entire fuel dispenser is required. An October 2017 EMV compliance deadline imposed by Mastercard and Visa on gas stations has been extended to October 2020.

But even EMV is no magic bullet. "Without PIN use, EMV is less successful in reducing fraud," Lenard says. A PIN is an additional layer of security, and although your debit card requires it, you probably won't punch in a PIN at the pump when using an EMV credit card.

Visa noted late last year that fraud at EMV-enabled merchants had been reduced by 43% - huge strides, but the crime is far from eradicated.

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The article Guard Your Card: 5 Tips to Evade Gas Pump Skimmers originally appeared on NerdWallet.

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## Christmas Club and Vacation Club - types 13 & 19



### Q: What is the purpose of Christmas Club and Vacation Club accounts?

A: Initially, these were set up specifically for you to save up for holiday and vacation spending. However, you can save money in these accounts for any purpose. You can use these to save for specific goals. You might, for example, save funds in Christmas Club for your next new car, you can put money in Vacation Club to save for six-month car insurance bill, etc. By keeping the funds segregated in these separate accounts, you are less likely to

accidentally spend the money. It helps you know how on-track you are regarding saving for the items, as opposed to if you were saving up for all these different items in just one savings account.

**Q: Can I withdraw from these share types with a debit card?**

A: Unfortunately, no. A debit card will only get you access to checking or your Share Savings 01 account. However, you CAN access these share types via Fieldstone Phone Branch, Fieldstone Virtual Branch, and our phone app. You can use one of those to transfer funds to your savings or checking, and then make the withdrawal with your debit card.

**Q: Does the account earn interest/dividends?**

A: Yes, the account earns the same rate as the normal savings account.

**Q: Is there a minimum balance? Am I required to deposit "x" amount each paycheck?**

A: No, and no. Neither has a minimum balance, and you can deposit whatever you want whenever you want. Many institutions require regular deposits to Christmas Club accounts.

**Q: Can I withdraw from it anytime I want?**

A: For the most part, yes. However, the federal restrictions discussed in detail three months ago regarding no more than six automatic transfers, pre-authorized transfers, telephone transfers, check withdrawals, online transfers, or debit card transactions will also apply to these share types.

### Most ID Fraud Victims Get Some Warning



Two thirds of America's 12.7 million identity fraud victims last year "had previously received a data breach notification" but still fell prey to criminals, according to Javelin Strategy & Research. While ID fraud crimes surprisingly declined in 2014, the study highlights a potentially dangerous trend among consumers: data breach fatigue.

Previous studies have shown that a sizable number of credit and debit card users shrug off warnings that they may be at risk of ID theft and fraud.

"More than one-third of consumers reported they ignored data breach notification letters, taking no action to protect themselves from fraud," Experian, one of the big three credit reporting bureaus, said in a recent report, citing a 2014 study by the Poneman Institute. "After 62% of consumers reported they had received at least two data breach notifications involving separate incidents in the past two years, perhaps surprisingly the most frequent response was inaction."

Students tend to be the most blasé, according to Javelin, a financial services consultancy. Almost two-thirds of students said they "were not very concerned about fraud," the company's research shows. Often, students find out they've been victimized only when they are contacted by debt collectors or denied credit.

Javelin found that the number of people affected by ID fraud fell 3% last year, the first decline since at least 2010. Fraud-related losses dropped 11% to \$16 billion.

Even so, the effects of ID theft and fraud can be devastating. You may be able to avoid the headaches, though especially if you act quickly when warned that you may be at risk.

#### **Steps to take**

People can fall victim to identity fraud in a number of ways, from having a debit card stolen to seeing their information compromised by a hacker's attack. The measures you can take to protect yourself are as varied as the types of fraud.

If you have access to your bank information on your smartphone, make sure to update the device's software regularly to keep its security in tune. Also, make sure you have strong passwords for these accounts, and change

them from time to time.

Ask your financial services providers about credit and debit cards with EMV chips, which make copying your data much more difficult. Also, you may be able to use payment systems that essentially eradicate the threat of card skimming by hackers trying to steal your account information.

Take advantage of alert systems provided by banks and credit unions. You'll be notified if any unusual activity is detected in your account. The sooner you respond to potential breaches, the better, as federal law says that anyone who reports unauthorized purchases within 60 days cannot be held liable for more than \$50.

Also, if you're warned that your information may have been compromised, consider asking a credit bureau such as Experian to place a fraud alert in your credit file, which will prevent any new accounts from being opened in your name without your direct authorization. When you ask for an alert at one of the three big credit bureaus, it will share the information with the other two.

Although financial institutions have bolstered their security to try to thwart potential breaches, it's still up to you to defend yourself against fraudsters.

Tony Armstrong is a staff writer covering personal finance for NerdWallet. Follow him on Twitter @tonystrongarm and on Google+.

This article originally appeared on NerdWallet.

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## Fieldstone Credit Union - Out And About in the Community

Here are some dates in which we will be hosting or participating in community events:

\* Fieldstone Summer Concert Series at Perry Farm with the [Bourbonnais Township Park District](#).

Estimated time for all concerts is 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

July 11 - [Mason Rivers](#)

July 18 - [Kaleidoscope Eyes](#) (Acoustic Beatles Tribute)

July 25 - 3AM (Modern Rock)

Aug 8 - [R Gang](#) (Motown)

\* Pet adoption fairs for [Kankakee County Animal Control & Adoption Center](#) Dates to be determined. These might be at a different location than the last few years, and they might be on very short notice. Be sure to follow our [Facebook](#) page for notifications.

## Departmental Phone Extensions & Tips

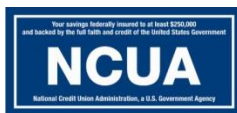


If you do not need to speak to a specific person, you will often have better luck dialing a departmental extension (since multiple phones will ring) rather than trying to reach multiple people one extension at a time. At the voice mail greeting, dial...

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 if you cash in a certificate before the maturity date. This coupon must be turned in at the time you request the early withdrawal. This offer expires 7/31/2017.