



Fieldstone Times

Many Paths ... One Destination

May 2017

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Fieldstone Credit Union Can Help Combat Sticker Shock

Have you looked at the sticker price on a new car lately? Do you want to know how to save some money?



Just being a member of Fieldstone Credit Union gives you the ability to save a lot of cash. Stop in our office and let one of our employees know what kind of new car you are looking for and they will gladly print you a certificate from a local dealer that can help you purchase that car. In fact some certificates are good for below invoice pricing on many new cars.

While you are in the office, save yourself some time and get a loan pre-approval!

Summer is around the corner and you should be driving that dream car. What are you waiting for? Our dealer certificates are ready for you.

Upcoming Holiday Closings



Monday, May 29 - [Memorial Day](#)

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

Monday, September 4 - [Labor Day](#)

Monday, October 9 - [Columbus Day](#)

Saturday, November 11 - [Veteran's Day](#)

Thursday, November 23 - [Thanksgiving](#)

How to Build Credit

What credit is: Your credit reports are records of how you have repaid debt in the past. Credit scores are three-digit numbers that estimate how likely you are to repay a lender or card issuer as agreed in the future. A "credit check" may look at either or both.

Why it matters: Good credit gives you a better shot at borrowing money at a favorable interest rate. It can also mean lower car insurance bills and lower or no utility deposits.

How to begin: Start using credit, which is easier said than done. See if you can get a credit card, perhaps a secured credit card to start. Becoming an authorized user on someone else's card may help. Student loans, car loans and credit-builder loans also build credit history.

Do I have to go into debt? No. One of the best ways to build credit is using a credit card lightly and paying the balance in full every month.

Understand your score: Most credit scores are on a scale from 300 to 850. It's smart to monitor your score; you can get a free credit score from some credit card issuers or personal finance websites, like NerdWallet.

Know what affects your score: The biggest things you can do to boost your credit are:

- Pay bills on time, without exception
- Use little of your credit limit (under 30%, and under 10% is better)

Other things help, too:

- Have both credit cards and loans
- Keep older accounts open
- Limit applications for credit

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Loan Holding Account - Share type 02



Q: What is the purpose of a Loan Holding account?

A: The Loan Holding account allows you to set aside funds that can later be used for a loan payment. By keeping the funds in a separate account, you reduce the risk of accidentally spending that money on other things. The amount you set aside is entirely up to you, but many people base the amount on how often they are paid. For example, if you have a \$200 loan payment and get paid weekly, you can choose to put \$50 per paycheck into the Loan Holding account. This will ensure you have money saved to

pay the loan when the due date arrives.

Q: Do I have to use a Loan Holding account if I have a loan there?

A: No, not at all. It is just something that many members consider to be VERY convenient.

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, on both questions. The balance can go down to zero, and you can deposit whatever you want, whenever you want. However, we recommend not having the balance at zero for too long or else the data processing system will eventually close the share type.

Q: Do I have to use this account for saving for a loan payment?

A: No, you can use it for whatever you want. Use it to split up funds to save up for your real estate taxes, insurance premium, a car down payment, tuition, or anything else you want to save up for but don't want the funds co-mingled with your normal savings or checking.

Q: Can I withdraw from it anytime I want?

A: For the most part, yes. However, the federal restrictions discussed in detail last month regarding no more than six automatic transfers, pre-authorized transfers, telephone transfers, check withdrawals, online transfers, or debit card transactions will also apply to Loan Holding accounts.

Better Check Your Balance; Crooks Targeting ATM's



Consumers have a new reason to check their bank accounts for fraudulent charges. FICO reported the number of debit cards compromised at ATMs and merchant devices in this country rose 70% in 2016 over the previous year. And compromised cards can lead to money being drained from your account.

The number of hacked ATMs and merchant card readers also rose, by 30%, over 2015, according to the analytics and credit scoring company. Criminals often attach skimming devices to such machines to read card numbers, says Michael Betron, senior director of product management at FICO. Then the fraudsters attempt to make illegal copies of the cards.

In 2015, the agency recorded a 546% year-over-year leap in the number of hacked ATMs, particularly nonbank ATMs like those found at some convenience stores. The San Jose, California, company analyzes card transactions in the United States and releases its fraud report each year.

Card companies have taken steps to reduce fraud, including issuing cards with EMV chip technology. The chips use Europay, MasterCard and Visa technology standards to create a unique code for each transaction, making the card practically impossible to copy.

But not every merchant has a card reader that can take advantage of the EMV chip. Some ATMs, gas pumps and many restaurants still use the magnetic stripe for purchases, Betron says. In fact, 60% of the compromised ATMs weren't located in banks but in locations such as convenience stores and retailers.

Reasons for the increase in hacked machines and compromised debit cards are unclear, but some industry observers have theorized that the rise of EMV technology has caused hackers to focus more attention on vulnerable card readers such as some ATMs and gas pumps.

How to guard against hackers

Check the location. When using an ATM, select one that gets a lot of foot traffic or is in a brightly lighted area. Follow the same rule for debit card purchases. If you fill up your car, know that the pumps farthest from the store entrance may be more attractive to criminals.

Check the card reader. Be on the lookout for anything odd about your ATM or point-of-sale machine. If your card doesn't enter an ATM smoothly, for example, a fraudster could have a skimmer attached to the opening. "You may want to look somewhere else to get cash," Betron says.

Check your account. Review your checking account regularly for unauthorized transactions. If your card is compromised, you'll have to act fast to avoid losing money. If you report a loss within two days, the most you could lose is \$50, according to federal law. But you risk losing up to \$500 from your account if you wait up to 60 days - or the entire amount in your account if you wait longer.

Check with your bank. Ask your bank for a new card if you believe your card has been compromised, even if there's not yet evidence of fraud. That way, your financial institution can take steps to secure the machine, Betron says. "You can help the bank protect you and their other customers, too."

ATM fraud is an increasing problem. By taking steps to protect yourself, you can keep your card number and your money out of a criminal's hands.

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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:

* Bake Sale to raise funds for Fieldstone's Relay for Life team
May 12 (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) & 13 (8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) in our lobby; perfect timing for Mother's Day!

* [Bradley-Bourbonnais Rotary Club](#) Shredding Event

June 3 (10:00 a.m. - 12 noon)

* [Relay for Life of Kankakee County](#) fundraiser for the [American Cancer Society](#)
June 10 (2:00 p.m. - 12 midnight)

* 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.

June 27 - [Silhouettes](#)

July 11 - [Mason Rivers](#) (Country)

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, so look here in future months and watch for lobby displays for updates.

Keep an eye right here for more confirmed bands and adoption fair dates as the year progresses.

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.

**61% off
Visa Gift
Card**

Do you know what makes a perfect graduation gift for a grad of any age? A Visa gift card. For a limited time, we will cut the sales price of a Visa gift by \$2.00, so it will only cost \$1.25 instead of \$3.25. You must turn in this coupon at the time you buy the gift card. Offer expires 5/31/2016.