



wrfcu

WHITING REFINERY Federal Credit Union

1339 119th STREET · WHITING, INDIANA 46394 · (219) 659-3254 · www.wrfcu.org · January 2017



ANNUAL MEETING

As a valued Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union member, you are also an owner, and your voice is important. You have the power to express your concerns and exercise your right to vote at the Annual Meeting and Election. It is also an opportunity to get updated on the state of the credit union and get connected with CU management and leadership, as well as with other member-owners.

At the 2017 meeting, members will learn about the credit union's current financial status, products and services, accomplishments and innovations over the past year, as well as goals for the future. You will be able to ask questions, take part in the election of incoming credit union officers, and meet other members of the credit union community.

Please join us for this worthwhile and informative evening on March 20, 2017, at 6:00 pm to be held at the Dynasty Banquet Hall at 4125 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. We look forward to welcoming you to the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union

MAILINGS

If you would no longer like your credit union statements mailed to your house please contact the credit union and speak to a member of our staff and we would be happy to put you on the **DO NOT MAIL** list.

1099'S

The 1099's will go out in the mail towards the end of January. You will only receive one if you have earned more than \$10.00 in interest.



Mobile
Device
Holiday Shopping Tips

SMART MOBILE SECURITY TIPS FOR SHOPPING ONLINE

As the holiday season approaches, and an overall increase in mobile phone usage, hackers are on the prowl for your data during what should be the most wonderful time of the year. To combat cybercriminals this holiday season, we are sharing the following mobile security tips for safe online shopping:

1. When browsing or shopping on your phone, always look for "https" in the URL instead of "http." This indicates an added level of security, which should always appear before exchanging any private information. Do not buy anything while connected to a public Wi-Fi. These networks are not encrypted.
2. Never download a payment app you don't recognize or buy from an unknown app store. Cybercriminals with knowledge of web development can create phony shopping apps that they use to steal personal information from unsuspecting shoppers.
3. Never click on links from spam emails to make purchases. It's always a bad idea to click on a link in an email from someone you don't know, but it's particularly dangerous if you buy on a site advertised in a spam email.
4. Run regular updates on your retail apps, especially when patches are released to fix security holes. Also, make sure your mobile device has the latest software update.
5. After making a purchase, remember to log off of the retailer's site.

Thank You to Our Members

For Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union and every credit union around the world, members are our lifeline. Their loyalty is crucial to our success and existence. So as we prepare to say goodbye to 2016, we want to say 'thank you' to the members of the Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union family.

Member-owned and operated, Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union has and continues to offer exceptional service, affordable financial solutions, valuable financial education, and community assistance. Our members stand behind the idea of a democratically governed, not-for-profit financial cooperative, and believe in the motto of "People Helping People."

Please accept our deepest gratitude for your continued support. We look forward to providing you and your families with quality financial products, services, and superior member service in 2017 and beyond.



The ATM Machine has arrived at the BP Refinery Visitors Center. The visitor's center is open Monday – Friday 6:30 – 4:00. If you use your WRFCU ATM or Debit Card there is no fee, however if you use another financial institution card a small fee is imposed.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth at the BP Picnic. We had 117 people who signed in and their names were entered into a drawing. We had three lucky winners. First prize was a \$100 VISA gift card, second prize was a \$50 VISA gift card, and third prize was a \$25 VISA gift card. The first prize winner was Dan Rademacher, the second prize winner was Kenneth Graczyk, and the third prize winner was Terry Kras. On behalf of the credit union, CONGRATULATIONS.

Share Drafts



Try Checking The Credit Union Way!

Chances are if you're still checking somewhere else, you're not getting the best deal you can on your account. That's because share drafts - credit union checking accounts - almost always cost less. According to the financial website Bankrate.com 2016 Credit Union Checking Survey: "If free checking is a priority for you, it's clearer than ever the place you're most likely to find that is credit unions, not banks." The Bankrate survey also found lower fees for overdrafts and ATM use. So if you're "fee-ed" up, it's worth your while to try checking the credit union way. We think you'll find a checking account that best meets your needs and we'll make the transition as easy as possible. So check out our website for more information and then call on us to help you make the switch. You'll be glad you made the effort.

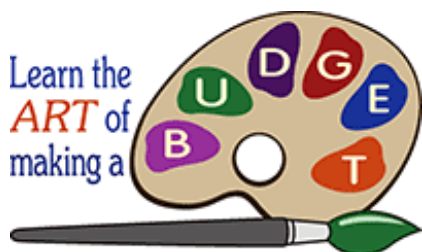
2016 TAX TIPS

April 15 falls on a Saturday in 2017, so you'll have until Monday, April 17 to file your 2016 taxes. But even though you have two extra days, there's no time like the present to get organized. Here are some tips to get started; see your tax advisor for details.

- If you itemize your deductions, you can claim donations to charity. See IRS Publication 526 for detailed information on charitable contributions. Clear up the clutter in the closet or basement and donate your items that are in good condition. IRS Publication 561 has information on allowable deductions for property.
- Open or add to your Individual Retirement Account; you can make your 2016 contribution up until April 17, 2017, but the earlier you do so, the more interest you will earn.
- If you've had a significant life event in 2016, for example as a first-time homeowner, a birth, change in marital status, retirement or other major change, it may have a tax impact. Visit irs.gov for a list of helpful resources.

Remember, the IRS does not use unsolicited text messages, email, or social media to discuss your personal tax information. If you get an unsolicited email that appears to be from the IRS, forward it to phishing@irs.gov.

Learn the
ART of
making a



New year. New calendar. New resolutions. Make 2017 the year that you actually succeed at that resolution to save money and spend less. You can do so by setting up a budget. If the word “budget” fills your head with images of a straitjacket, think of it as a creative spending and saving plan. It’s meant to make sure you are taking control of your money, not the other way around.

The first step is to review your expenses. Start by examining your checking account statements including automatic payments and your credit card statements; classify purchases and obligations into general categories - for example, rent or mortgage, vehicle loan, utilities, telephone/internet, groceries, restaurants, clothing, household supplies, and so on. Be sure to look back far enough to include periodic items such as taxes or insurance. And, don’t forget to include cash purchases like your daily latte or visits to a vending machine.

Once you have tallied your expenses, consider whether you are overspending on certain line items. Visit the website <http://livingwage.mit.edu/> for comparisons of average costs in the area. Then look for ways to reduce your spending. Are you carrying a balance on a high-interest rate credit card or paying more than the current market rate on your car loan? Contact the credit union about a consolidation loan, balance transfer or refinancing. Are you eating out often because you are too tired at day’s end to cook? Check out simple slow cooker recipes so dinner will be waiting for you when you come home. Go through each category with an eye toward a creative way to spend less. Then put together a spending and saving plan that you can stick to. That’s the art of the budget.

GET A FRESH FINANCIAL START WITH A DEBT CONSOLIDATION LOAN

What better time to simplify your finances than the beginning of a new year? Make 2017 the year that you build your credit, rid yourself of debt, and actually reach your financial goals with an affordable Debt Consolidation Loan from the credit union.

If you’re looking for a way to lower monthly payments from things like high-interest credit card payments, post-holiday bills, vehicle loans, and the like, then this low-rate financing could be the solution. You’ll be able to keep more of your cash on-hand for expenses while better managing your money. With a Debt Consolidation Loan, you can look forward to:

- * Lower interest rates and payments
- * A fixed payment
- * More time each month with just one bill to pay
- * Just one due date to remember
- * An end to high-interest debt
- * An improved credit score
- * A clearer picture of what you owe and when it will be paid off

Don’t let another year go by - take control of your finances now. Apply today by visiting our website, calling, or stopping by any branch location, and kick 2017 off with a fresh start!

Please be advised that the credit union is now implementing a \$25.00 late fee on all new loans after a 10 day grace period. So when working out your budget for the month don’t forget to include your credit union loan payment as well to alleviate a late fee from being imposed.

30 YEAR FIXED RATE MORTGAGE

Your credit union now offers the most popular mortgage at a discount. A 30 year fixed rate mortgage is now being offered at a discount of 0.25% from the rates offered to the general public by Lake Mortgage. Lake already offers extremely competitive rates. The benefits of being a WRFCU member could be worth over \$5,000 for the average home loan. Contact Peter Vrehas – Ext. 352 at Lake Mortgage (219-769-5941 or 1-800-627-5566) and be sure to mention that you are a WRFCU member for the latest rates!



**WHITING REFINERY
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**
1339 - 119th Street
Whiting, Indiana 46394

PRSTD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hammond, IN
Permit #1

Dividend News

The Board of Directors declared to pay .35% APR/.35% APY on all eligible share accounts for the 4th Quarter of 2016 payable JANUARY 1, 2017.

Certificate Rates

1 Year (\$1,000.00 Min) .75% APR/.75% APY
2 Year (\$1,000.00 Min) 1.00% APR/1.00% APY
3 Year (\$1,000.00 Min) 1.25% APR/1.26% APY
4 Year (\$1,000.00 Min) 1.50% APR/1.51% APY
5 Year (\$1,000.00 Min) 1.75% APR/1.76% APY

Loan Rates

NEW AUTOMOBILES

1.99%* 36 Months
1.99%* 48 Months
1.99%* 60 Months

SIGNATURE LOAN (\$10,000 maximum)

7.00%* 12 Months
9.00%-14.00%* 48 Months

SHARE PLEDGE LOAN

1.99% 60 Months

EDUCATIONAL LOAN

7.00%-12.00%* 48 Months

*Based on Credit Score & Debit Ratio

Whiting Refinery Federal Credit Union

SERVING OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1935

1339 - 119th Street,
Whiting, Indiana 46394
(219)659-3254

HOURS

8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Monday thru Friday
Payday Friday - Open until 6:00 p.m.

www.wrfcu.org

Holiday Closings

January 2nd, 2017
NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

February 20th, 2017
PRESIDENT'S DAY

Your Savings Federally Insured to \$250,000

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration.

a U.S. Government Agency

