View

OCTOBER 2021 | FALL ISSUE

Updates, News, and Benefits For Telco Members



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> **Home Banking Online Bill Pay Mobile Banking Current Rates Latest Telco News**

Telco Branches Closed

Check Out Our Blog

Columbus Day Monday, October 11th

Veteran's Day Thursday, November 11th

Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 25th Friday, November 26th

Christmas Friday, December 24th

WHERE **MEMBERS** MATTER

Your Mastercard® Your Rewards



Telco's recent card conversion will help us serve our members better by providing added benefits at no extra cost. The new Mastercard from Telco offers competitive interest rates, no annual fee, great benefits and an exceptional rewards program.

Benefits for Credit Mastercard:

- Mastercard Global Service™ provides 24 hour a day, seven day a week assistance with lost and stolen card reporting, emergency card replacement, emergency cash advance, as well as assistance with locating ATMs.*
- Mastercard Airport Concierge™ provides a Meet and Greet agent to assist with flight connections plus, at select airports, expedited security/immigration processing.*
- Identity Theft Resolution Services provides you with access to a number of Identity Theft resolution services, should you believe you are a victim of Identity Theft.
- **Zero Liability** means that in the event that your card is used to make unauthorized purchases—whether made in a store, by phone, or online—you won't be held liable.**

Special Programs for Credit Mastercard:

- Mastercard Golf provides discounted access to golf courses, complimentary grounds passes for PGA Tournaments, access to domestic and international golf travel packages.*
- Mastercard Priceless Cities Offers & Experiences offers unique access and special experiences so you can enjoy more of the cities you love.*

My Telco Rewards:

Many bank credit cards offer basic rewards points for travel or limited merchandise. With the conversion to Mastercard we have implemented an enhanced new reward program.



My Telco Rewards Program offers much more versatile options. Redeem your points for a selection of over 150 national brand gift cards or choose from over 3,000 merchandise items, gas stations, major restaurants, airfare, rental cars, hotels, and cash back. Every time you use your Telco Credit Mastercard or Telco Debit Mastercard*, you'll earn points that can be redeemed online or by phone.

Point Earnings:

- You earn 1 point for every \$1.00 spent with your Telco Credit Mastercard purchases.
- You earn 1 point for every \$2.00 spent with your (Non PIN) Telco Debit Mastercard purchases.*

Sign up and start taking advantage of this great program for everyday purchases and holiday shopping at MyTelcoRewards.com

telcoccu.org

^{*}Certain restrictions apply. Further details will be outlined in your Guide to Benefits you received with your card.

^{**} Certain restrictions apply. See www.mastercard.us/zero-liability for details.

Home For The Holidays?

With interest rates still low, you may be considering buying a home during the holidays. With all the hustle and bustle that come along with the season, it may seem like an implausible quest but there are some very advantageous reasons to consider the idea.

Leverage your buying power. Listing inventories tend to drop during late fall and winter, not only due to the holidays but also due to the colder weather. Many people who list their homes during this time of year could be indicative of a necessity to sell and more motivated to negotiate. They could be experiencing life changes like job relocation, a recent divorce or a sudden financial shift. Slower foot traffic of showings means slower home buying transactions occur during the holidays. That could mean fewer counter-offers and fewer bidding wars to compete against.

There are a number of advantages to shopping for a home during the winter months, one of which being, you can avoid the hectic spring housing market when most people traditionally buy and sell their homes. Though there will be less inventory, most buyers and sellers are more motivated to complete a transaction, and there will be less competition for the existing inventory. Talk to a Telco Mortgage Loan Officer to start the preapproval process today! Call 828-252-6458

The RAIN Method for Buying a Car

NMLS# 787813

The average cost of a new vehicle today is around \$35,000. Whether you're looking for a brand-new car or a reliable used ride, you want to get the most for your money. The process can be made easier by following the RAIN method: First, meet with a member of the lending staff at Telco to secure your financing. Then begin the RAIN process:

- 1. Research Check out Consumer Reports, Kelley Blue Book, and other sources to make sure the vehicle you want is reliable and right for you. Use the buyer's guide to find the wholesale price -- the price the dealership paid minus any rebates, hold-backs, or incentives. That is the price you'll use to negotiate.
- 2. Ask Ask the dealership for information about the average cost of upkeep. This information is critical as you examine the overall costs of the purchase. Insurance is another big cost. Contact your insurance company to find out the rates you can expect with the vehicle you are looking at.
- 3. Investigate or inspect If you're thinking of buying a new car, tell the salesperson at the dealership that on this trip you will be test driving only and not ready to make a deal yet. This is your opportunity to get a feel for the car. Will it meet your needs? How does it handle? Will you be happy with it for years to come? If you're buying a used vehicle, the inspection process is very important. Check out the exterior and interior. Take it for a test drive and see how it handles, how it accelerates and brakes. If everything looks good, take it to a certified mechanic for a full diagnostic check. It may cost you \$100, but not only will you get a detailed report of the condition, most will provide you with a list of problem areas and the cost to fix them. This will be helpful for your last step.
- 4. Negotiate Many people find the negotiation process is intimidating, but it's important if you want to get a good deal. Pick out two to three dealerships to visit. Tell the salesperson that you're checking out other dealerships and the one that offers the best deal will be getting your business. Ask them "What's the lowest price you can offer on this vehicle?" Take that number and visit your other dealerships. See which offer comes in the best. If you still aren't happy with the offers, tell them what you think is fair based on the research you have done. If they say no, move on.

Purchasing a vehicle is probably going to be the second largest expenditure in your life. Being prepared is key to getting the best deal. Don't forget, you can ask at the dealership for Telco loan financing.



5 Smart Money Moves to Make This Fall

As the leaves begin to change color, it's time to start thinking about your year-end money strategy. The fall and winter holidays are closer than you think. Use the following strategies to make the rest of the year count.

- Clean out your closet. You looked into your closet and decided you have nothing to wear. Before you start buying new clothes, pull out your cold weather clothes and give them a good look. Try them on to make sure everything still fits and donate what you no longer wish to keep.
- 2. Add holidays into your budget. This year, the year-end holiday celebrations will likely be virtual rather than in person, so you're less likely to have travel expenses, but there's still a chance you may overspend on gifts and decorations. If you haven't already made a spending plan for them, do so now. Figure out how much you can afford to spend and stick to that amount.
- 3. Up your 401(k). If your budget can handle it, why not increase your retirement deductions by 1%? The more you save now, the more tax benefits you'll get, AND the less you have to worry about the future.



- **4. Spend your Flexible Spending Account (FSA) dollars.** Use it or lose it. You've already saved this money, so don't leave it on the table. Check your FSA documentation to see what health-related expenses you can use this account for and use those dollars.
- **5. Plan to use your vacation days.** Using your vacation days is key to living a successful, balanced life. Even if you have a staycation, it's critical to use your well-deserved days off. If you plan now, you can even save for a weekend getaway before the end of the year. Life is all about balance.

As the weather turns colder, it's a great time to reflect on the money progress you've made throughout the past year and start focusing on small wins to finish the year right..

Branch and Administrative Building Updates

Things are nearing completion at the new administrative building located at 1137 Smokey Park Highway in Candler.

At this time the landscaping and parking lot are being tackled and the remaining interior projects are well underway.

For branch news, we are very excited to open our new branch at 198 Airport Road in Arden. Anticipated open date is mid-October.

We will be moving our Hickory branch to a new location at 1858 N. Center Street. Date TBD.

Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates on the new branches and Telco happenings.



Branch Locations

Asheville - Leicester Branch 710 New Leicester Highway Asheville, NC 28806

Asheville - Tunnel Rd. Branch 36 Tunnel Road Asheville, NC 28805

> **Brevard Branch** 281 Asheville Highway Brevard, NC <u>28712</u>

Candler Branch 1141 Smokey Park Highway Candler, NC 28715

Hendersonville Branch 1452 7th Avenue East Hendersonville, NC 28792

Hickory Branch 355 US Highway 70 SW Hickory, NC 28602

Lenoir Branch 141 Wilkesboro Blvd NE Lenoir, NC 28645

Morganton Branch 127 West Parker Road Morganton, NC 28655

Skyland Branch 1871 Hendersonville Road Asheville, NC 28803

Weaverville Branch 34 Northcrest Road Weaverville, NC 28787

Branch Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Friday: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Drive-Thru Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Friday: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

24/7 Account Access 828.255.8006

Member Services 828.252.6458

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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



"I have been with Telco for a little over two years. I started out as a part time teller, and I was just recently promoted to Head Teller at the Hendersonville branch. I feel like over these past two years I have learned and grown so much. I enjoy all of the new adventures this job brings daily, there is always something new to learn and I am excited to continue my career at Telco. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my husband and our two kids."

~ Christine Cauble Head Teller, Hendersonville Branch

Telco Spot Light... LEICESTER BRANCH



Left to Right — Marina Bebikh, Maecy Scott, Pamela Gonzalez and Galyna Kovalevych

Pamela Gonzalez, branch manager, believes one of the best the things about working at Telco is serving the great community of Leicester. Some of their members have been banking with Telco for over 50 years and have seen Telco grow and expand. That growth and expansion doesn't stop the staff at Leicester from getting to know their members and their financial needs. Building relationships with members is how Telco keeps its home town charm but it also allows opportunity to build a strong community.



This year Leicester will hold a holiday fund raiser for Santa Pal, an organization that donates gifts to underprivileged families in the community.

Thanks go out to this fantastic team for helping our members, community involvement and all they do to keep a busy branch running smoothly!

As a branch effort, the Leicester team also help support charities by holding raffles throughout the year and fund-raising events that raise money for local non-profit local organizations.

