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JULY 2021 | SUMMER ISSUE

Updates, News, and Benefits For Telco Members



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Telco Branches Closed

Independence Day Monday, July 5th

Labor DayMonday, September 6th

WHERE
MEMBERS
MATTER

Coming in August!

We are excited to announce that Telco has partnered with Mastercard® to improve your benefits and rewards program at no additional cost to you. Your interest rate and no annual fees will stay the same.

Beginning August 23, 2021 your new Debit Mastercard will replace your current Visa® Debit Card and your new Credit Mastercard will replace your Visa® Credit Card. Cards will begin mailing out on August 21st and will become effective on **August 23rd** after the card is activated.

What You Will Need To Do:

- You will receive communication through mail and email with detailed information on activating your new card and member benefits. Please be watchful over the next few weeks for these updates about the card conversion.
- Once you receive your new card(s) you will be asked to select a new PIN and activate your card(s).
- Cards will not become effective for use until August 23rd. Continue using your
 existing Visa card(s) until that time after which you may destroy your old card(s)
 and begin using your new Mastercard.
- Provide your new card information to merchants who automatically bill your existing Visa card(s) on or after August 23rd.

New Enhanced Benefits for Credit Mastercard Holders:

- Mastercard Global Service™
- Mastercard Airport Concierge™
- Identity Theft Resolution Services
- Mastercard Golf

- Priceless Cities Offers & Experiences¹
- Zero Liability²
- Chip Technology
- Contactless Technology

New Enhanced Benefits for Mastercard Debit Holders:

- Mastercard Global Service™
- Mastercard Airport Concierge™
- Priceless Cities Offers & Experiences¹
- Extended Warranty

- Satisfaction Guarantee
- Everyday Rewards Program
- Chip Technology
- Contactless Technology

We look forward to providing our members with all these additional benefits as well as a comprehensive Everyday Rewards Program.

Don't have a credit card with Telco? Apply online today and you can access these generous benefits and stellar rewards.

- 1. Certain restrictions apply. Further details will be outlined in your Guide to Benefits you receive with your card.
- 2. Certain restrictions apply. See www.mastercard.us/zero-liability for details.

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Buying a Home in a Seller's Market

In a seller's market, only the pro-active home buyer gets the home. Here's how buyers can prepare for a competitive housing market.

You've made the decision to buy a new home. Or maybe this is your first time. You're probably excited and can't wait

to go house hunting. If the market is a "Buyer's Market," one in which supply exceeds demand, you'll have plenty of time to get your financing in order and look at as many homes as you like.

But what if demand is high and supply is low? Then you're in a "Seller's Market." During a seller's market, homes sell almost as soon as they become available, often causing buyers to have bidding wars with each other. They attempt to outbid the other buyers, offering the seller more than the seller asked for.

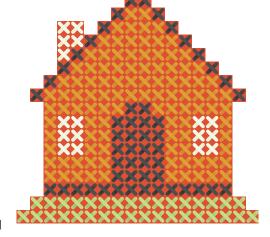
When you find a home you love, you'll need to act fast. Sellers don't want to wait for buyers who are still working on their financing. Before you start looking at homes, take care of two things first:

- Get preapproved for a mortgage Show the seller you have your mortgage approved and you're immediately ready to close on the offer. Offers without a mortgage contingency will jump to the head of the line.
- 2. **Get your down payment ready –** Have paperwork showing you have proof of funds.

By getting preapproved for your mortgage, you'll know exactly how much house you can afford as well as get a head start on most of the other buyers. Also, since you will know the maximum that you can afford, you will be able to save time by searching only for those houses in your price range. Don't even try offering less than the listed price during a seller's market – that will only get you kicked out of the running.

You might also consider writing an offer letter to the seller, explaining a little about yourself and why you love their house. Keep it short and simple; strive to make a personal connection to the seller, but not bore them. Your Realtor can send this letter to the seller and their Realtor with the formal offer.

Telco Community Credit Union can help you begin this journey. Talk to one of our mortgage loan officers about getting preapproved. They will calculate how much you can afford, find the best interest rate you qualify for, and help you get to the front of the line in a Seller's Market.





Does It Make Sense to Consolidate Your Credit?

If you're mired in debt, you may perk up when you hear about a loan that can:

- Save you money by lumping your debts into one loan with a lower interest rate.
- Spare you payment hassles by providing the convenience of making one loan payment each month, instead of multiple monthly payments to numerous creditors.

Before jumping at such an offer, ask yourself a few crucial questions.

What will really change?

You might consolidate your debts into one loan in various ways, if you qualify. You could take out a home equity loan for the total amount you owe in credit cards and other consumer debt. You could put several credit card balances onto only one lower-rate card. Or you could obtain a signature loan, unsecured by collateral, to cover



the total debt amount. But if you regularly over-spend and are not planning to change your behavior, then a debt consolidation loan just becomes a Band-Aid. Repeating mistakes will only put you in deeper debt.

Can you afford the loan?

Let's say you're determined to mend your ways and a debt consolidation loan is one option. You'll replace lots of payments with one bigger payment. But be sure it fits into your budget. Consider, too, the total you'll pay over the life of the loan. If you consolidate credit card debts into a 15-year home equity loan or unsecured loan, you'll be stretching a five-year debt to 15 years. You could end up paying as much or more in total interest and principal. The total payment is key, not just the monthly payment.

Can you trust the lender?

Some lenders give loans to anybody just to make a buck. A reputable lender, like Telco, has your best interests at heart. We will work with you to find a loan that fits your budget. Telco's low rates and flexible terms make for affordable payments.

Want even more convenience? Arrange for automatic payments or payroll deductions to seamlessly get your loan paid off. Talk to one of our loan officers to discuss how to get your finances back on track. We will help you get a handle on high-rate debt. Call 828-252-6458.

New Administrative Building Updates

It's amazing to think that only 7 months ago, Telco had its ground breaking ceremony for the new administrative building at 1137 Smokey Park Highway in Candler.

Thanks to all the hard work and dedication from the construction team, the progress of the building is moving right along.

The administrative staff and senior management team are looking forward to occupying their new offices with ample room for training and future growth.



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 28712

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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" My name is Katarra Foster, I am Head Teller at the Candler branch. I've been at Telco for about a year a half now and love my Telco family. I'm so thankful for the opportunity that Telco has given me and the support and training I receive to enrich my career path.

I enjoy helping our community as much as possible. I look forward to our charity raffles which help those in need."

~ Katarra Foster Head Teller, Candler



"I have been working at Telco for 3 years. I started as a part time teller, and I am currently a full-time head teller at the Tunnel Road branch. I enjoy working with everyone at Telco. I love helping all members with any financial questions they have. I am bilingual so I am happy to assist Spanish speaking members with any of their needs. In my free time I like gardening, going to the gym, and spending time with my family.'

~ Maribel Escobedo Head Teller, Tunnel Road

Telco Spot Light... BREVARD BRANCH

Since opening their doors two years ago, Telco Community Credit Union in Brevard has welcomed nearly 1,000 new members to their branch. The Brevard team—Nina Wyatt, Member Service Representative, Emily Cauble, Teller and Branch Manager, Karl Hosler at the helm, have taken a very active role in serving the community of Transylvania County.



Nina Wyatt, Karl Hosler and Emily Cauble

You may see the Brevard team volunteering at different community events, or you might hear Telco on WSQL radio each week on the popular community spotlight segment!

Thanks to this very special team and their great community involvement.

Karl serves on the board of the Bread of Life. Transylvania county's soup kitchen. He is also Treasurer for the Brevard Rotary Club.

Nina and Emily's handmade cards cheered many community adults who were in nursing homes, unable to see their loved ones during Covid isolation. They also hold various raffles to help those in need. They enjoy meeting new members and helping people reach their financial goals.

