

The View

2016 • Fourth Quarter

Updates, News, and Benefits For Telco Members



**Telco
Community
Credit Union**

*Connecting Families
& Building Futures*

**Telco Branches Will Be Closed On
The Following Holidays**

New Years Day
Monday, January 2

Martin Luther King Day
Monday, January 16

Presidents Day
Monday, February 20

WISHING YOU A
*Prosperous
New Year*

*Thank You for a Great Year in 2016
Let's Start 2017 off Right with Saving Successfully*

5 Steps to a New Financial You in 2017

Holiday shoppers have been careful each season to make their lists and check them twice. Budgets have become more discerning and savers have become better planners for their holiday spending, prioritizing savings along the way. According to a September 2016 report, two out of five millennial shoppers got a head start this year and had started buying gifts for the season before summer had even come to a close.

These successful financial habits don't have to stop there. With the New Year comes an opportunity to make some improvements to your financial health. Don't make just another resolution that disappears by Valentine's Day. Take your financial wellness to a whole new level: a New Year, a new financial you.

These five steps will help you to establish your best financial path for 2017, and you can have all the heavy lifting done before the clock strikes twelve:

- 1. Take stock of your finances.** Take account of all your income, expenses, and existing savings/investment accounts. And no matter how nice you were, don't forget to include any naughty debts you may have incurred in the spirit of the season.
- 2. Sketch out a budget "template" for the year to come.** Think big picture. Plan your holiday spending and find the method for budgeting that you're going to use in 2017, and rough out what you'd like it to look like from month to month. Be pragmatic about your needs and be honest about where your money is going. Plan to make adjustments and really dig into your spending habits when you check back in on a regular basis.
- 3. Check your credit report.** It is your legal right to get a free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus. Add a visit to AnnualCreditReport.com to the calendar as an annual "holiday" or divvy up the bureaus to get a free report from a different bureau every four months.
- 4. Set up bank and credit alerts, and financial reminders.** Whether you're at your computer or on your mobile device, you are in an ideal position to receive notifications about upcoming payments, suspicious activities on an account, transactions over a certain dollar amount, low balances, and more. Check out Mobile Banking with Telco to help you to stay on track, it's all right there at your fingertips.
- 5. Make a Commitment to Yourself to Save.** Those who make a commitment to themselves and their family to save usually save more than those who don't. Think of this as your New Year's Resolution. Make your commitment today by taking the America Saves Pledge and get regular advice and support from America Saves while you save money.
(Visit <https://americasaves.org/for-savers/pledge> take the pledge today.)

Tax Time Tips For A Prosperous New Year

Do you spend weeks eagerly anticipating your tax refund? When the money finally comes in, is it gone tomorrow? Many people view tax refunds as unplanned bonuses. They see the money as a gift from the government, to use for splurges or treats. A tax refund also provides the opportunity to improve your financial situation.

Tips To Get The Most Value From Your Tax Refund:

- **Pay down your debt.** Use your refund for some much needed debt relief. Pay off your credit card balance. If you have an outstanding balance on more than one credit card, try to pay off the smaller, high-interest rate balances first. That will free up more funds to put toward larger balances. Alternatively, you can apply your refund toward other debts, like a car loan or a home equity loan.
- **Save for a rainy day.** Why not give yourself an even bigger return on your refund by putting the money into a savings account or Save To Win CD? Your tax refund will continue to grow if you invest it. It's always helpful to have a savings account to draw from when a major car repair bill, medical emergency or other unexpected expense comes along. That way, you don't have to borrow money and add to your debt.
- **Consider your goals.** Trying to save for a house or car down payment? Hope to contribute to your child's college tuition? Consider applying your tax refund toward these goals. If you don't yet have a set of short-term and long-term financial goals, put one together. You'll be more conscientious about how you spend your refund or any other extra money that comes your way.

Remember, you work hard for your money and you deserve to enjoy a healthy financial lifestyle. Put some thought into how you use your tax refund. Making smart financial decisions is not always easy, but it will definitely benefit you and your family over the long term.

Cold Cash Word Ladder

Can you climb the word ladder from money-related terms to winter-related terms? We'll give you the first word and the last word—and you find a chain of words to connect the two. Words that are next to each other on the ladder differ by only one letter. We'll make it easy for you on the first ladder, but then it will start to get tricky!

1	2	3	
BUY	CENT	COINS	Metal pieces of money
B_Y	_ _ _ T	_ _ _ _ _	More than one of the lowest part of your face
BA_	_ _ _ T	_ _ _ _ _	The fronts part of your legs, below the knees
_AT	_ _ _ T	_ _ _ _ _	Emit light
CAP	_ _ _ T	_ _ _ _ _	Past tense of the word above this one
	COAT	_ _ _ _ _	Push roughly
		STOVE	If fueled by wood, will keep your house warm during the winter

(Answers on page 4)



Want to start the New Year
in a new home?
Visit Us Today.



Branch Locations & Business Hours

Asheville - Leicester Branch

710 New Leicester Highway
Asheville, NC 28806
828.225.5919

Asheville - Tunnel Rd. Branch

36 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC 28805
828.252.6888

Skyland Branch

1871 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, NC 28803
828.210.2090

Candler Branch

1141 Smokey Park Highway
Candler, NC 28715
828.633.6604

Weaverville Branch

34 Northcrest Road
Weaverville, NC 28787
828.645.6003

Hendersonville Branch

1452 7th Avenue East
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828.595.9841

Morganton Branch

127 West Parker Road
Morganton, NC 28655
828.433.0016

Hickory Branch

355 US Highway 70 SW
Hickory, NC 28602
828.322.8566

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

www.TELCOccu.org

Your Online Resource For...

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Online Bill Pay
Mobile Banking
Current Rates
Latest Telco News
Financial News
Consumer Education

800.222.1025

Talk To Your Telco
Member Services Representative

TCCU BRANCH SPOTLIGHT

Morganton Branch

The Morganton Team recently partnered with Burke United Christian Ministries (BUCM) to collect food items at the branch. The food collected by the team will be donated to BUCM's food pantry, a wonderful organization that serves Burke County through offering people nutritious meals at their soup kitchen, counseling neighbors in times of crisis and providing families with food, clothing and financial assistance. "We are proud to partner with such a wonderful organization" explained Branch Manager, Kelly McKinney.



Find The Right Solution For Any Borrowing Need

You have goals. You borrow money to reach those goals. And as a credit union member, you can take advantage of low interest rate loans that your credit union offers.

What's The Right Loan?

If you're a homeowner, one source of funds - particularly for home improvement projects - may be the equity in your home. Tapping home equity is convenient and may offer tax advantages.

If you are looking to become a homeowner Telco has many options for mortgage loans. The available interest rates will vary with market fluctuations. But keep in mind that we have mortgage experts here to help find the best options to fit your goals and your budget.

Vehicle purchases are the most common reason to borrow money. Telco offers great vehicle lending rates and terms. We offer loans for new and used cars and trucks with terms as long as 72 months, and rates as low as 1.89% on new vehicles.* We also offer loans on motorcycles and recreational vehicles. Your interest rate is determined by your credit score and other credit qualifications.

You can apply for an auto loan in person, using the online loan application at www.Telcoccu.org, or by completing and mailing a loan application from our website Forms Page. Members and potential members may also apply "on the spot" at a car dealer. Just tell the dealer you want to get your loan from Telco.

Responsible Borrowing

No matter what type of loan, borrow responsibly. To prevent financial difficulties, manage debt and spending wisely; borrow within your means; create and stick with a spending plan that takes into account all your financial obligations; and consider the increasing prices of gasoline, utilities, and groceries.

Finally, ask yourself the following question: How much can I realistically afford to spend on loan payments and still live within my means?

Life happens, so borrow responsibly. Call us today at 800.222.1025 to help secure the right loan to realize all your financial goals.



Saver Checklist:

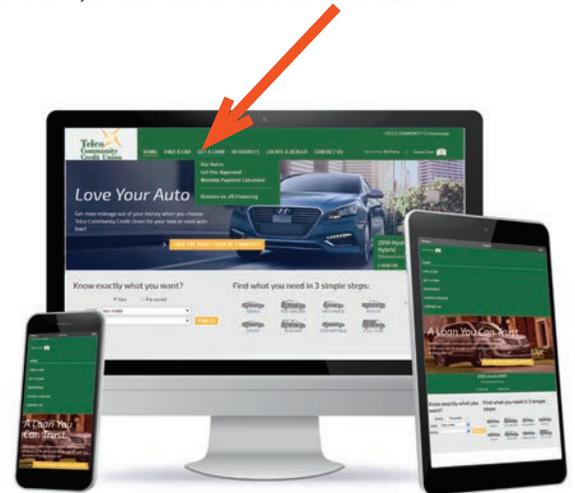
This checklist is made up of characteristic of successful savers, which include debt management. It can serve as a useful starting point for evaluating one's savings preparedness.

Check off your saving accomplishments to see how you're doing.

- Have a financial plan with savings and debt management goals.
- Don't rely on financial windfalls from gambling or winning the lottery.
- No payday loan, car title loan, or other high-cost debt.
- No credit card debt that is increasing.
- In addition, no credit card debt or unpaid monthly balances.
- Affordable (or no) car and student loan debt payments.
- Save a portion of your income.
- In addition, save at least 5% of your income.
- Have an emergency fund to cover \$500 of unexpected expenses.
- In addition, have enough in an emergency fund to cover three months of regular expenditures.
- At work, contribute regularly to a retirement account.
- Outside work, contribute regularly to an account for retirement.
- Outside work, make these or other savings deposits automatically.
- Own home with affordable (or no) mortgage payments.
- Own home and expect to pay off mortgage before retirement.

Telco Auto Resource Center: Refinance Calculator

Your auto resource has added an auto refinance calculator, a great way of seeing your savings instantly when you refinance your loan. This is a great feature for discovering if you are eligible for a lower rate and a more affordable monthly payment! Have you been on time with payments? Has your credit score changed? See how much you can save over the life of your loan and get on the path to greater savings. Check out the refinance calculator feature on your auto-buying resource, found under the RESOURCES tab.



The Right Car, The Right Loan, The Right Fit!
www.telcoccu.org
 and click on Auto Resource Center

Answers to Gold Cash Word Ladder

- | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|
| 1. BUY | 2. CENT | 3. COINS |
| BAY | SENT | CHINS |
| BAT | SEAT | SHINS |
| CAT | BEAT | SHINE |
| CAP | BOAT | SHONE |
| | COAT | SHOVE |
| | | STOVE |

Prepare and Save:
*Open a Holiday
 Christmas Club Account
 to prepare for the 2017
 Holiday Season*



MARCH 17-19 Home Garden & Green Living Show

Telco Community Credit Union is excited to be a part of the 2017 Annual WNC Home Garden and Green Living Show at the US Cellular Center in Asheville, NC on March 17 - 19th. You can find us at booth # 84. This year's show has many new features that make this a must SEE event!