

Welcome Urbana!

The beginning of April brings a new office location to First Federal Credit Union!. As previously announced, the branch office of NSB Bank in Urbana, IA has been acquired. Our new office brings a wealth of experienced employees in Jim Bruce, Bobbie Benson, and Holly Schulte.. The Urbana location is just off I-380 exit 41 at 205 N Union Avenue. Featuring a full-service lobby and 24 hour ATM, our Urbana members will get to know our products and services and our commitment to the community! We look forward to serving the Urbana market as well as all of Benton County. Welcome, Urbana!

First Federal Credit Union Foundation Scholarships

The First Federal Credit Union Foundation is awarding \$1,000 scholarships to two graduating high school seniors attending school in Linn, Benton or Clay County. The winners chosen will be selected based on academic success and activity participation and must be a member, or the son or daughter of a member of First Federal Credit Union. Information and applications can be found online at FirstFedCU.com/scholarship. Hurry! **Deadline to accept applications is April 15, 2022.**

Community Involvement Award Winners

Two employees were recently recognized for their efforts in our 2021 Community Involvement program. Tracy Yordi was recently presented with the 2021 Volunteer Hours Award as the First Federal employee that contributed the most volunteer hours in 2021. Justin DeFord was recognized as the 2021 Volunteer of the Year for his contributions in the community. Each award-recipient named a favorite cause to receive a \$500.00 contribution from First Federal Credit Union. Congratulations to Tracy and Justin for making our community a better place!



Annual Meeting Report

At the recent annual meeting, three directors were each re-elected to their positions on the Board of Directors. Elected to serve three year terms were Doug Netolicky, Linda Edwards and Judy Vondracek. Incumbent board members include Mike Pickering, Mary Lawrence, Jim Maher, Greg Schluter, James Schluter, and Tony Kendall. These volunteers will serve all First Federal members and help set the vision and policies of the credit union.

Our Members Are First



Protect Your Debit Card with CardValet

First Federal's free mobile app, Card Valet, lets you protect your debit card by receiving alerts and defining when, where and how your debit card is used. With CardValet, you can set transaction limits, define merchant categories and even establish geographic areas for using the card. You can even turn your card 'off' if it has been misplaced or stolen and then turn it back 'on' when you're ready to use it. The best part is you have control over your card! Download the CardValet app through the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android). Check out all of the CardValet details at firstfedcu.com/cardvalet.

Employee Spotlight



Maggie Polaski

Maggie has contributed in multiple areas of the Credit Union!

Hometown: Born and raised in Cedar Rapids, IA. Currently residing in Walford.

Work: Consumer loan processor for FFCU; various positions with FFCU since 2018.

Education: Graduated from Washington High School and planning on going back to Kirkwood to finish my liberal arts degree.

Family: Married, with two boys (age 10 and 2) I am the middle of 5 kids, and have a growing number of nieces and nephews. I LOVE being an Aunt almost as much as being a mom!

Hobbies/Things You Like To Do: You can either find me reading a book, having a dance party in the living room, or planning our next day trip. My boys and I love music, all things Disney, and car rides, even if it's just to grab some ice cream.

Mortgage Advice

Mortgage interest rates have been trending upward. If you are in the market for a new home, consider these strategies for your mortgage loan in a rising interest rate environment:



1. **Know your affordability.** Having a house payment is something which you must be able to afford and know that you can sleep at night without being overly worried as to how you will make it. Make sure you are looking at homes priced with where current rates are at so you can keep your payment affordable. Sometimes that may mean putting more money down to lower the overall payment.
2. **Lock-in your Interest Rate.** Customers generally will have the ability to lock in their interest rate to protect them against future rate increases while their loan application is being processed and underwritten. Make sure to ask us about your options for locking your interest rate.
3. **Consider a Fixed/ARM loan.** Our popular 5/5 or 7/1 Fixed ARM loans generally have rates lower than fixed rate alternatives. You can have a fixed rate for the first five or seven years before the rate can adjust – and then there are maximum caps that prevent the rate from excessive changes. Consider a 5/5 or 7/1 Fixed/ARM loan if you feel you are going to be in the house for only 5-7 years.
4. **Consider Paying Points.** Discount Points are a percentage of the loan amount you pay up front as “pre-paid interest” to lower the permanent interest rate for the life of the loan. Paying points up front to get a lower interest rate may be more affordable than having to come up with additional downpayment dollars to reach a payment level you are comfortable with.

Call or email us today to find a mortgage solution that is right for you!

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Big Screen Thursday

Big Screen Thursday is BACK!

Spring has arrived – and it's time for baseball! Big Screen Thursday returns to the Cedar Rapids Kernels and at select Thursday home games we will be giving out three free 50" Big Screen TVs!!! Stop by our table on the main concourse right after entering the ballpark to pick up a ticket for your chance to win. Join us to watch the Kernels – and you might win a 50" Big Screen TV! Big Screen TVs are scheduled to be given away on these nights (schedule is subject to change):

- May 5, 19, 26
- June 16, 23
- July 7, 22
- August 4, 18
- September 8

If you're planning a trip to the ballpark, stop by our Cedar Rapids office at 425 1st Avenue SW to see if any tickets are available for a Kernels game. We have four seats for each home game available on a first come, first serve basis.

Ca\$h Rewards

The Best Credit Card in the State of Iowa

The best credit card in the state of Iowa is our own Ca\$h Rewards Credit Card. What makes it so special? Let's start with the 2% Cash back rewards you earn on every transaction. There is no annual fee, no balance transfer fee, and it carries a low fixed rate starting at 8.99% APR. Plus, you earn the same 2% reward on all types of transactions: airlines, hotels, shopping, everything! Getting a fast approval is as easy as clicking on [FirstFedCU.com/creditcards](https://www.firstfedcu.com/creditcards) or right from our mobile app.

P.S. Want an even lower rate? Our Visa Premium credit card offers rates as low as 6.99% APR!



Message from the CEO

What's in a name? It was Shakespeare that wrote that a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet. I am certainly no expert on Shakespeare (his writings are too hard to read for my taste) but I don't think that is the case with the name First Federal Credit Union. The **credit** in credit union represents the most important thing we do: provide credit, or loans, to our members. Way back in 1926 a group of postal employees recognized the need to make credit available to all postal employees. Since that time, through economic cycles, wars, pandemics, floods – you name it, this Credit Union has provided credit to members. As those loans are repaid, it makes even more loans available for more members. Through the years, both the type of credit we make available and the group of members we serve has changed and we can now offer credit for almost any type of personal or household need. This is supported by our success: over the past 24 months, we have provided over \$130 million dollars in loans to our members. If Mr. Shakespeare was a member, he would know the importance of Credit in First Federal Credit Union. We will continue to work hard every day to meet the credit needs of our members – after all, **Credit** is our middle name.

As always, stop in and say hi, introduce yourself or even comment on what you want First Federal to do for you!



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