



Our newsletter that connects you with relevant information

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM HERITAGE FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION | WINTER 2023

THE HERITAGE CONNECTION



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INTO ONE LOW PAYMENT**

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President's Message

Impact. Having a positive impact on the communities we serve is essential to our mission here at Heritage Financial Credit Union (HFCU). Throughout 2022, our teams made great strides in making a difference through new initiatives, services and product enhancements. As impactful as 2022 was, we are working steadfast to ensure 2023 is yet another year of maximizing your experience with us. Here's to continuous growth in the communities we serve and always striving to make a positive impact!

Financial Development Center

After much anticipation and extensive collaboration with the HFCU team and local community partners, September 15, 2022, marked the official grand opening of the Financial Development Center (FDC), An Extension of Heritage Financial Credit Union, located within the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. From the fantastic local food to every kind word shared, the grand opening would not have been possible without the incredible support we received along the way (pictures following this message). We sincerely thank everyone that has had a role in making this center a reality, and we look forward to making a difference in the Poughkeepsie community and beyond.

Although the grand opening marked an incredible milestone for our organization, our FDC team has been working diligently to spread the word about our bilingual center, meet with members and root themselves into the Poughkeepsie community. Our counselors have been actively scheduling and hosting free counseling sessions, starting clients and members on our Pathways Program that works with individuals to assist them in achieving their financial goals, and connecting them with safe and affordable HFCU financial products and services. If you or someone you know would be a good fit for our program, we welcome you to learn more about our center or set up an appointment to speak with one of our financial counselors by visiting us at [heritagefcu.com/financial-wellness](https://www.heritagefcu.com/financial-wellness).

BDD Designation

HFCU believes that providing opportunities for financial wellness starts with having access to educational tools and resources to increase the knowledge and understanding of financial services. It is this belief that pushed us to move forward with opening our Financial Development Center (FDC) and led us to discovering the NYS Banking Development District (BDD) program.

The BDD program is designed to encourage the establishment of credit union/bank branches in areas across New York State (NYS) that are underserved, in recognition of the fact that credit unions/banks can play an important role in promoting individual wealth, community development, and revitalization.

HFCU is the first credit union in New York State to receive BDD approval and marks the state's 54th BDD designation. This initiative, however, goes beyond just HFCU and the FDC. The BDD designation applies to the entire City of Poughkeepsie, NY, and will assist in efforts to expand much-needed access to financial services in the area.



Un-LOC Opportunities

Here at HFCU, we strive to provide you with products and services that align to your financial goals. As your financial partner, we value your recommendations for new products that would assist in maximizing your experience with us. We are pleased to share that our teams have been working diligently behind the scenes to bring a new product to life. We are thrilled to announce that our product line has expanded to include a personal line of credit. Known as the Universal Line of Credit (Un-LOC), this new, unsecured personal line of credit provides you with convenient access to funds whenever, and however, you may need them. Let's unlock a world of opportunities together. To learn more about our Un-LOC and how it can work for you, please visit us at [heritagefcu.com/unloc](https://www.heritagefcu.com/unloc).

Coming Soon...

As an organization, we are constantly looking to enhance your experience with us. In evaluating the needs of our membership and looking to expand our reach into new areas, we are pleased to share with you that we will be opening a brand-new and state-of-the-art location in Pike County, Pennsylvania. With a demonstrated need for access to credit unions and physical branch locations where members can go to discuss their finances, take out loans and establish accounts, we look forward to providing new opportunities. Stay tuned for more updates as we look to break ground on this new build early this year!

Aside from a physical expansion of branches, we are also actively working to expand the HFCU line of products and services. We are proud to officially add Business Services over the next few months. Our team is working diligently to build a robust program to better serve you. Thank you for your inquiries and patience as we work to be your preferred Business Services provider!

Community & Resources

Providing you the necessary tools and resources to make possible the achievement of your goals, hopes and dreams is something we do not take lightly, and we want to help you get on track this new year. If you are currently working on a resolution to reduce or get

out of debt, our debt consolidation loan promotion can offer you low-rate options to allow you to consolidate debt, especially after the holidays. For more details, visit us at heritagefcu.com/2023-debt-consolidation to learn about this opportunity.

We are beyond grateful to have members and employees that support our organization through taking action. When it came time to vote in the Times Herald Record, Best of the Best competition, you took the opportunity to show your support, and we earned the distinction of Best Credit Union for the fifth year in a row. When we closed early to gather all of our employees together for a motivational speaker event, you supported our decision, which allowed our staff to come together and boost morale to better serve you (photos found following this message). When fundraising opportunities were presented, you generously donated \$1,030.00 to the American Cancer Society in support of Breast Cancer Awareness, 80 bags and boxes of non-perishable food and much-needed toiletry items to the Castle Point and Montrose VA Hospital Veterans' Food Drive and donated 300 toys to children in need through the St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry Toy Drive. As impactful as these initiatives are, they would not be possible without the support from our dedicated and service-driven employees. From walking and handing out water at the annual Hudson Valley Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at the Woodbury Commons to dropping off toys for the

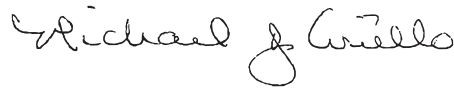
annual toy drive and dropping off food donations to the veterans' food drive, our employees always come together to make a difference (photos found following this message).

If you are looking to get involved this year, we are once again supporting initiatives that are quickly approaching. Our annual fundraiser for the American Heart Association will begin in February 2023 during American Heart Month. Details on these upcoming fundraisers can be found at: heritagefcu.com/hfcu-fundraisers.

In reflecting on the positive impacts made in 2022 and looking forward to all that is to come in 2023, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the HFCU team, the Board of Directors and you, our member, for your unwavering support and loyalty to our credit union.

As the new year begins, we wish you, your family and friends a year of health, happiness and growth.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Ciriello, President/CEO
Heritage Financial Credit Union



District Social Employee Event



Breast Cancer Awareness Walk



FDC Grand Opening



District Social Employee Event



FDC Grand Opening



FDC Grand Opening



District Social Employee Event



Veterans' Food Drive



Veterans' Food Drive



Toy Drive

Annual Board Elections

The nominating committee reports to the Secretary of the Board of Directors that two individuals, **Thomas Houston and Jennifer Ryan** are up for re-election to the Board of Directors. Both director positions are for a three-year term. In addition to the candidates nominated for re-election, a member age 18 or older, who has maintained their membership for a minimum of one (1) year, may petition for a position on the 2023 election ballot. If you would like to be nominated for the Board of Directors, please submit to Heritage Financial Credit Union, Attn: Board Secretary 25 Rykowski Lane, Middletown, NY 10941, a petition (including a statement of qualification and biographical data) signed by at least 10% of membership 18 and older who have maintained their membership for at least 90 days prior to signing the petition. The petition must be received on or before **March 24, 2023**.

If petitions are received, elections will be determined by a plurality vote by printed ballot, and will take place **DURING Heritage Financial Credit Union's 83rd Annual Meeting held virtually on May 23rd at 6:00 p.m.** If no petitions are received, the secretary will cast one vote for **Thomas Houston and Jennifer Ryan** for three-year terms.

This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for people who enjoy being part of their community and if elected, will be working in partnership with Heritage Financial Credit Union's management team to help the organization continue its mission to its membership: *To promote financial well-being so people may reach their fullest potential in life.*

DEBT CONSOLIDATION LOAN WITH HFCU?
IT JUST MAKES
CENTS

rates starting as low as
7.99% APR*

**\$500 MINIMUM
LOAN & TERMS UP
TO 60 MONTHS**



HERITAGE
Financial Credit Union

Federally Insured By NCUA | Equal Housing Opportunity

*APR is Annual Percentage Rate. Rates as low as 7.99% APR. Minimum loan amount of \$500. For applicants who intend to refinance an existing Heritage Financial Credit Union (HFCU) loan, an additional \$1,500 must be financed beyond that of the current principal balance of refinanced HFCU loan. Max loan amount of \$30,000 with 60-month term. As an example: A 60-month loan with a fixed rate of 7.99% APR would result in a payment of \$20.28 per month for each \$1,000 financed. Actual rate may vary based on credit worthiness. All rates quoted include a 0.50% reduction for members who authorize payment of their HFCU loan through an automatic electronic funds transfer, debited from any account for the life of the loan. All extensions of credit are subject to credit approval. Rate shown is the lowest offered for the loan products advertised. Applicants who are not approved for these loan rates or terms may be offered credit at a higher rate and/or with different terms. All rates are subject to change without notice. This limited time offer may be withdrawn at any time.



Consolidate Your Debt into One Low Payment!

Keeping up with numerous debts from a variety of sources can leave you feeling overwhelmed. Fortunately, Heritage Financial Credit Union has a solution that can save you money and stress!

A Heritage Financial Credit Union debt consolidation loan is a smart and easy way to consolidate all your high-interest debt into one low payment! You'll lower your interest rate (which could save you money every month), and more of your payment will go toward the principal balance, meaning you'll pay off your debt faster. And best of all, you'll make just one easy payment each month!

Don't wait! Consolidate your debt and save with a personal loan from Heritage Financial Credit Union!

Call 845-561-5607 or visit heritagefcu.com.

Tips for a Grocery Bill You Can Stomach



If you tend to wander through the grocery store randomly throwing items into your cart, you might also be throwing away a lot of extra cash. With groceries being one of life's necessary (and never-ending) expenses, you'll be much better off financially once you start taking advantage of all the different ways you can save big at the supermarket:

1. Plan ahead.

Make a habit of doing your grocery shopping once a week. But before you go, take the time to scour the newspaper and internet for coupons. Then plan your upcoming week's menu, taking into consideration the items you already have and the items featured in sales and coupons.

2. Make a list and stick to it.

Write down all the items you need at the grocery store. While shopping, resist the temptation to toss any unnecessary items into your cart. If you have difficulty sticking to your list when passing through the chip and cookie aisles, for example, simply avoid those areas altogether. And never go grocery shopping while hungry!

3. Buy generic.

Name-brand foods often come with a higher price tag than generic or store-brand items. Unless you find the taste of a name-brand food item to be drastically better than the low-cost alternatives, it usually pays to go with the cheaper option.

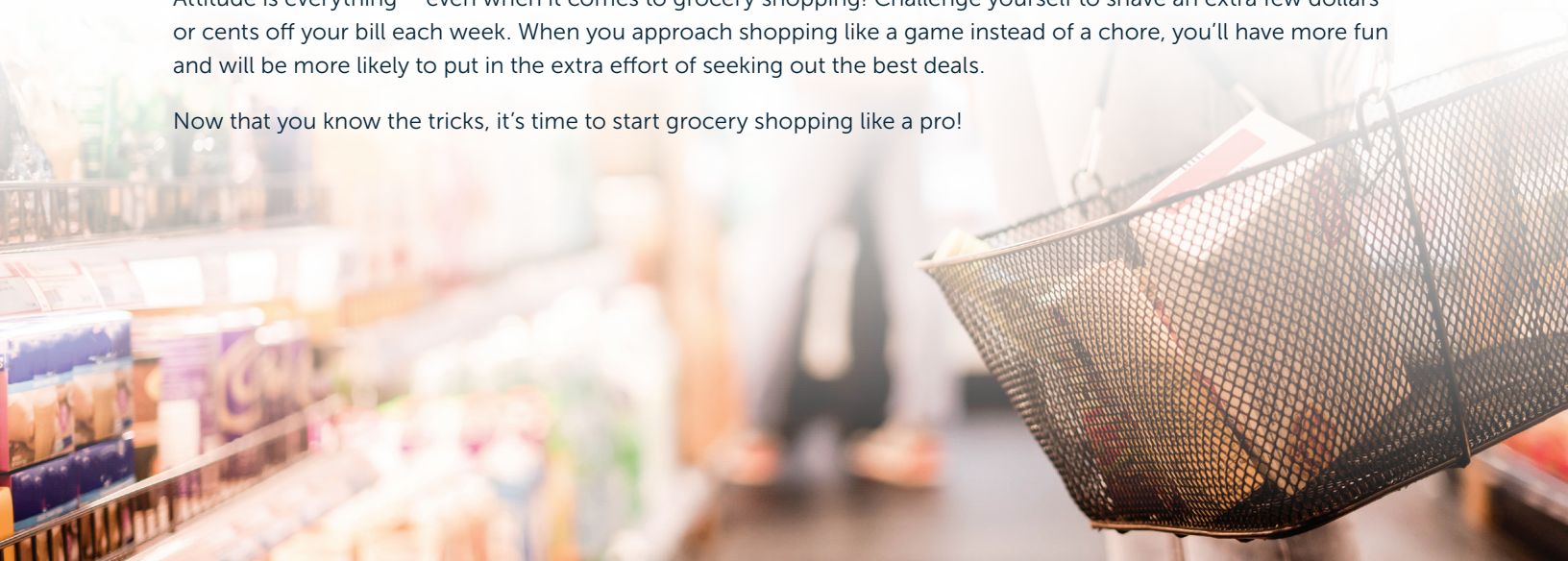
4. Channel your inner math star.

Make the calculator your friend when you visit the grocery store. Foods are often sold in varying sizes or quantities, and people generally assume the larger size yields the highest savings. But companies have gotten trickier with their pricing tactics, so it's always best to double-check which option is truly the better deal. Simply divide the price by the size or quantity to find out how much you're paying per piece, and then compare. Some grocery stores supply you with this information right on the labels, so it might be worth reading the fine print.

5. Make a game of it.

Attitude is everything – even when it comes to grocery shopping! Challenge yourself to shave an extra few dollars or cents off your bill each week. When you approach shopping like a game instead of a chore, you'll have more fun and will be more likely to put in the extra effort of seeking out the best deals.

Now that you know the tricks, it's time to start grocery shopping like a pro!





Reduce Energy Use & Stop Draining Your Wallet

\$160 billion is a huge amount of money. But that's how much Americans spend annually on heat, air conditioning and electricity.

For the majority of homeowners, high energy bills result from insufficient energy conservation. If you make your home more energy efficient, you'll be able to take up to 20 to 30 percent off your total bill. And it isn't as hard to do as you might think.

The first step in making your home more energy efficient is to locate the problem areas. If you're unsure of what to look for, hire a professional to assess your home and energy use. A home energy audit can spot wasted energy – which is wasted money for you. Some energy companies include a free audit, so be sure to check with yours.

A professional will look to see if your windows and doors have leaks around them and if the air ducts in your home are sealed properly. Just a couple of leaks in the attic can take up 30 to 50 percent of your home's heat, and unsealed air ducts can reduce the efficiency in your home by up to 40 percent.

Here are some other bright ideas that can make a big difference in your energy bill:

- **Save on hot water** – Use "economy" programs on your washing machine or consider washing your laundry with cold water.
 - **Install a low-flow showerhead** – And also reduce your shower time by just a few minutes.
 - **Unplug electrical devices not in use** – Phone chargers, speakers, microwaves and TVs are still using electricity when turned off or on standby.
 - **Turn your heat down** – Reducing your thermostat by just 1 degree will take 10 percent off your heating bill.
 - **Insulate your attic** – Attic insulation will keep the heat in your home for longer and pay for itself in 2 to 3 years.
- There you have it! In just a few easy steps, you can reduce your energy consumption and your electric bills.
- **Use energy-efficient light bulbs** – Not only do they last up to 15 times longer than ordinary bulbs, but they also use 80 percent less electricity.
 - **Turn off those lights** – When you leave a room, always turn off any lights you used.
 - **Buy energy-efficient appliances** – They cost less to run and over time will give you considerable savings on your electricity bill.

THIS IS WHAT LESS FEES CAN LOOK LIKE.

RECEIVE UP TO
\$1,000*
TOWARDS YOUR APPRAISAL FEE

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Financial Credit Union
Federally Insured By NCUA | Equal Housing Opportunity

*Upon approval of your loan, the amount up to \$1,000 will be granted in a form of a credit on your final closing disclosure. Rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. All loans are subject to credit approval. This is a limited-time offer that may be withdrawn at any time. New money only.

BRANCH HOURS

MON – THURS: 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

FRI: 8:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

SAT: 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

CENTRAL VALLEY

273 Route 32 (24hr ATM)

GOSHEN

117 Grand Street (24hr ATM)

MATAMORAS, PA

111 Hulst Drive (24hr ATM)

MIDDLETOWN

25 Rykowski Lane (24hr ATM)

161-5 Dolson Avenue (24hr Drive-Up ATM)

MONTGOMERY

17 Walnut Street (24hr Drive-Up ATM)

NEWBURGH

2 Corwin Court (24hr Drive-Up ATM)

211 South Plank Road (24hr Drive-Up ATM)

NEW PALTZ

234 Main Street, Suite 6B (24hr ATM)

SUNY New Paltz Campus – Lower Level of Haggerty

MON, WED, FRI only, 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Closed TUES, THURS, SAT & SUN

(ATM in Student Union Building, available during building hours)

PINE BUSH

36 Boniface Drive (24hr ATM)

POUGHKEEPSIE

Financial Development Center, An Extension of Heritage Financial Credit Union

29 North Hamilton Street, First Floor, Suite 110 (ATM on premises)

MON – FRI, 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Closed daily 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

WASHINGTONVILLE

131 East Main Street (24hr ATM)





Need an ATM?

You have access to over 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs across the U.S.! **Visit sum-atm.com or TEXT a ZIP code to 91989 to find nearby ATM and shared branch locations.**



*Member must have an open checking account and activated debit card for 30 days after account opening. No minimum balance required. Minimum 0.00% APY (Annual Percentage Yield). Rates vary based on account balance. Once confirmed, member and referrer will receive \$50.00 in the form of a deposit into their HFCU savings account which will be reported as taxable income. Contact an HFCU representative for details. Business accounts are not eligible for this offer. Offer is non-transferable. Offer may change or be discontinued at any time without notice. Promo Code: 50 heritagefcu.com/refer

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