



Trade Secrets

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Holiday Closings

Monday, January 20
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 17
Presidents' Day

Effective January 1, 2020
The Board of the Credit Union
has voted to double the rate of
interest on the vacation fund
savings account.

New Jersey (Main Office)

(physical address)

205 Cherry Hill Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054

(mailing address)

P.O. Box 6270, Parsippany, NJ 07054

(973) 263-0001

1-800-848-2438 Fax: (973) 263-5559

Office@ubtfcu.org

Office Hours

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

Friday: 8:30am-4:30pm

Delaware Office

814 W. Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720

(302) 322-5086

Fax: (302) 322-3515

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm



Stay Safe This Winter

Winter is coming, so it's time to consider an important question: How can you stay safe while driving during one of the most dangerous times to be on the road?

There are plenty of precautions you can take to protect yourself from the harsh conditions you'll likely face behind the wheel this winter. Here's some to keep in mind:

- Before driving, utilize a snow brush and ice scraper to prevent anything from falling on your windshield or side mirrors while driving.
- Make sure your vehicle is completely defrosted prior to pulling out of your driveway.
- Driving slow is the way to go during a winter storm (but the best option is staying home, if possible).
- If you must drive in a storm, try to take a back road rather than the highway.
- Don't attempt to drive through a storm without a full gas tank, proper oil levels and a charged cell phone.
- Don't get too close to the person in front of you--it's not always easy to see ice on the road, which can unexpectedly propel you forward.
- Try to leave the party a little earlier than usual since darkness arrives sooner in the winter.
- Drinking and driving should never be mixed, but winter conditions make this combination even more deadly.
- Keep a blanket and heavy clothes in your car in the event that you get stranded or your car unexpectedly stops running.

Driving during the winter can be stressful, but taking the proper safeguards can make accidents and other unfortunate situations less likely.

Stay safe this winter!

Kodan's Korner

KINDNESS
/kin(d)nes/ **noun**

1. Loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness

It's almost tax season!

That means that you can have your tax refund directly deposited into your Credit Union account quickly, easily, and FREE! According to the IRS, a refund check is issued within 6 to 8 weeks of filing a paper return. If you file a paper return, and choose to directly deposit your refund, you will receive your refund in 5 to 6 weeks. If you electronically file (E-file), your refund will be issued within 3 weeks of filing. However, if you choose to E-file and choose direct deposit for your refund, the IRS says you should receive it within 14 days.

To elect direct deposit of your tax refund into your Credit Union account, simply provide your tax preparer with your account number (not your social security number or your debit card number) and our ABA routing #221277816. Please make sure you also specify if your account is a savings or checking account or you deposit may be delayed. If you choose to E-file, you can always check the status of your refund online at www.irs.gov. To check your refund status, you will need your social security number, your filing status, and your refund amount. Also, remember to keep your 2019 year-end statement for tax reporting purposes!

Just be aware being able to file your taxes online may have simplified this April ritual, but it's also made it easier for cybercriminals to claim your tax refund. In the 2016 season, the IRS reported a roughly 400 percent increase in cyberattacks on tax filers. The Department of Homeland Security has launched a "Stop. Think. Connect." campaign to encourage consumers to protect themselves from online tax fraud by taking these measures:

- Avoid giving out personal information, unless it is to a trusted entity like the credit union.
- Watch for fake messages or websites purportedly from the IRS or tax preparation services; DHS warns that sites can look quite legitimate, so examine them carefully.
- Don't believe promises of "free money" from inflated refunds.
- Back up data and store your electronic tax files securely.
- Never share personal information over a non-secure network. Look for "https:" in the URL and a lock sign.

Also, know that the IRS ONLY uses written communications to connect with taxpayers to request personal information. Any electronic communication - email, text, or social media, and phone calls are all fake! Don't be fooled and give out any information over the phone!

Make 2020 The Year You Get Control Of Your Budget

It's that time again: The New Year brings with it the chance for a fresh start. You are not alone if one of your New Year's Resolutions is to be a better money manager. Start by taking a look at where your funds are coming from and where they are going. (You'll need some of these documents to prepare your 2019 taxes anyway. So it's a great way to get ahead of the game.)

Next, decide if your spending reflects your values. For example, if you want your kids to pursue higher education have you allocated money to an education savings account? Or if you want to

work on your bucket list either now or in retirement, how will you pay for that? Having your goals in mind helps you spend more mindfully. Can you eat out less often by planning menus for the week? Can you cut the cable cord and stream your television and movies instead? It's up to you to decide what's important. Then you can put together your budget: A spending and saving plan that will help turn your dreams into reality.



The clock strikes 12— Hello 2020!!

As we welcome in another year, we also welcome our Annual 4 Year College Scholarship! Those requesting applications must be in their senior year of high school, and must be members of the credit union, so if you are planning on applying for our scholarship, make sure you are a member of the credit union as well. All it takes is a completed membership application and a deposit of \$5.00.

One lucky member will receive \$4000.00 over the course of four years. Applicants will be judged based on their scholastic performance, recommendations, skills, interests and extracurricular activities.

Completed applications (all paperwork including transcripts and recommendations)

must be received by April 15, 2020 so call to request one, stop by our Parsippany or Delaware office to pick one up, or log onto our website at www.ubtfcu.org to download it today.

Good Luck to all who apply!



A Special "Thank You" To Our Members

As member-owned and operated financial institutions, a solid and secure member base is at the heart of every successful credit union worldwide. As we reflect on 2019 at Union Building Trades FCU we want to send a special "thank-you" to our members for their support and loyalty.

We strive every day to put our members first and uphold the motto of "People Helping People," through exceptional service, affordable financial solutions, valuable financial education, and community assistance. Like our members, we strongly believe in the idea of a democratic, not-for-profit financial cooperative.

We hope you accept our heartfelt gratitude and know that we look forward to providing you and your loved ones with continued quality financial products, services, and superior member service in the year ahead.

