

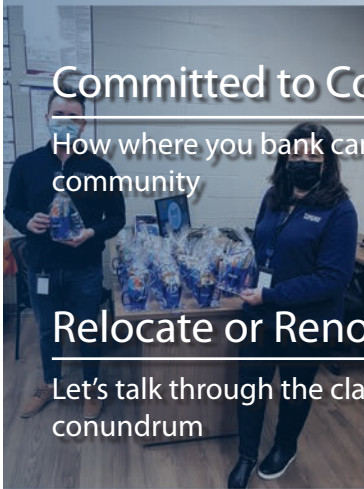
Money matters to people. People matter to us.

MoneyMatters



Committed to Community

How where you bank can help your community



Relocate or Renovate?

Let's talk through the classic homeowner's conundrum



A Year of Little Heroes

Celebrating and supporting children making an impact



Visions Loves Educators Program

Now featuring the Student Loan Eraser and Educator of the Year Award!



VISIONS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



On the Cover



3

**A Year of
Little Heroes**



10

**Committed to
Community**



12

**Relocate or
Renovate?**



17

**Visions Loves
Educators**

Index

- 4** All Things Digital
- 5** The Bitcoin Market
- 6** Midterm Elections
- 7** Read, Solve, Win!
- 8** Department Spotlight:
Auditing
- 9** Take Me Out...
Professional Athletics
- 13** Affordable Outings
- 14** Visions Investment Services
- 15** Identity Theft: How
Fraudsters Attack
- 16** Spendthrift Trusts
- 18** Need to Know

**BEST-IN-STATE
CREDIT UNIONS**

Forbes
2021

POWERED BY STATISTA

Money matters to **people**. **People** matter to **us**.



A Year of Little Heroes

Since we launched the Little Heroes program a year ago, we've celebrated some remarkable young people. Help us celebrate yours!

Each month, we recognize one Little Hero – nominated by friends, family, and neighbors – by shining a spotlight on his or her noble causes and offering special gifts to show our support. It's our unique way of encouraging children who make a positive impact in their communities. Here's a selection of highlights from the past year.



Maddie

Our first Little Hero to be awarded, Maddie organized a book drive during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when all libraries and bookstores were forced to close. Her efforts helped to distribute over 800 books. We thanked Maddie for her efforts with a \$100 gift card to Barnes & Noble Booksellers and additional gifts from Kirby Kangaroo.



Emil

With a passion for gardening, Emil sells his own homegrown vegetables to support various charities like the Table of Plenty food pantry in Paramus, NJ. We surprised him with additional donations to Table of Plenty and new gardening supplies to encourage his efforts.



Willow

An advocate for animal rescues and endangered species, Willow was our Little Hero for the month of August, when we celebrated our annual Youth Month. We teamed up with Willow to support her local charity of choice, Every Cat's Dream rescue center in Johnson City, NY (formerly Every Dog's Dream).



Maeve

After nearly three years of treatments for leukemia, Maeve enjoys her good health with a grateful attitude and generous spirit. She became a Girl Scout to save money and buy cookies for the doctors and nurses at her clinic. Here, Maeve is showing off one of her gifts from Visions – a uniquely inspired t-shirt with original artwork by our graphic design team and Maeve's favorite quote, "The lion and tiger may be more powerful, but the wolf does not perform in the circus."

When we hear about children making a positive impact in their communities, we want to spread the news. Thank you for submitting such great stories and helping us recognize these Little Heroes for the good they do in our communities.

To nominate someone (age 12 or younger) or learn more about this program, visit visionsfcu.org/littleheroes.

ALL THINGS DIGITAL

NEW FEATURES IN THE WORLD OF DIGITAL BANKING

Buy and Sell Bitcoin is Now LIVE

You asked. We listened. You were looking for a convenient and safe way to participate in the crypto market, so we have you covered. Instead of finding a third-party site to access Bitcoin, you can do it conveniently from your Visions account in digital banking. Buy it, sell it, and feel secure about your transactions.

Visit visionsfcu.org/digitalassets for details and educational resources. Check out our article on the next page for more about Bitcoin.



Powered by NYDIG.

Two New Features Coming Soon!

When you log into digital banking this spring, you'll have access to exciting new features and improvements. **Here are a few updates you can expect to launch soon:**

Givio

It's more convenient than ever to support your favorite causes. Hoping to promote social justice? No problem! Looking to help with disaster relief? We have lists to connect you! Using our new portal in digital banking, you'll be able to search thousands of not-for-profit organizations and donate directly from your Visions account. Plus, your donations will be easily trackable within digital banking for ongoing reference.

Disputes

Let's say you see a charge that you don't recognize on your Visa Platinum. No need to leave the house or pick up the phone. In digital banking, you'll be able to dispute a charge from your laptop or smartphone. Simply click into your card's transaction history and select the questionable charge. From there, you'll see the link to **Dispute**. Keep a look out for this great new feature soon!

Digital Appointment Booking

We're taking this tool one step further! Soon, you'll be able to use **Digital Appointment Booking** when you log into digital banking – making it accessible from the **Visions FCU Mobile** app, too. With a click, you can schedule an in person, virtual, or phone meeting to handle mortgages, loans, and other account services. Look for the upgrade on your digital menu this spring, or test it out now at visionsfcu.org/appointments.

Sign up for digital banking or learn more about our services at visionsfcu.org/onlinebanking.

The Bitcoin Market

Supply, demand, and value

As a credit union providing services in digital assets, we have a responsibility to keep our community informed and educated about this evolving market. You can't open a newspaper or magazine these days without seeing the word "Bitcoin" on one of its pages. No question, cryptocurrency has made its way into everyday conversation. Still, many people don't understand Bitcoin. Let's consider Bitcoin's popularity and how it has become so valuable in the last few years.

A few factors make Bitcoin valuable. As with anything, the biggest factors are demand and supply: Who wants it? Why do they want it? And where does it come from?

Global demand

Bitcoin has a global demand because (1) it's accessible to anyone, anywhere with internet or a smartphone and (2) it's decentralized, meaning it's not regulated by any nation, bank, or governing authority. The technology to buy Bitcoin has been developed into dozens of languages and is often free to access – although buying or trading cryptocurrency generally has a transaction fee.

Functional technology

Blockchain technology and Bitcoin allow for secure peer-to-peer transactions and accurate record keeping without the need for a centralized banking authority. Plus, the technology was developed to avoid theft and prevent fraud, ideal features for a tradable asset.

Limited supply

The global supply of Bitcoin is strictly limited, unlike the US dollar or other paper moneys. Produced through a complicated and expensive technical process called mining – a process that is capped at 21 million Bitcoins – this currency can't be counterfeited or manipulated by any federal government or central bank to cause inflation or increase their profits.

With a worldwide demand and limited supply, the price is then determined by the market: those who own it and those who don't. As a result, the price changes constantly. Instead of being traded during the hours of the New York Stock Exchange, this commodity is traded 24/7/365 around the world. It's unpredictable and, if you're purchasing Bitcoin, you should beware the volatility. You have the potential to lose money on your investment or enjoy profitable returns.

To get started with Bitcoin or to trade securely from your Visions account, log into digital banking and open our new **Buy and Sell Bitcoin** tool. For details, visit visionsfcu.org/digitalassets.

Bitcoin is not federally insured by NCUA. Fees apply.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

What they are and how they affect you

Midterm elections in the United States are the general elections held near the midpoint of a president's four-year term. The attention of the midterm is focused on the two chambers of Congress: the Senate and the House of Representatives. During the midterms, states also hold elections for local offices, such as mayors, and may include constitutional amendments or policies on the ballot.

Why are midterms so important?

Members of the House are elected for two-year terms, whereas state senators are elected to staggered six-year terms. This means the Senate seats rotate in cycles and, each midterm election, voters choose one-third of senators and 100% of the House. A total of 469 seats in the U.S. Congress are up for election in this year's midterm on November 8, 2022. Once set by an election, the majority party (i.e. Democrat or Republican) leads the important congressional committees and is the driver of executing federal legislation for the next two years. In other words, whichever party controls Congress controls the agenda.

How can I make a difference?

Connect with groups that align with your values and discuss the candidates they're supporting. This can help you identify which of them you may want to support. If you feel strongly about your candidate, you can also volunteer, connect with your local party, or even join a campaign. Many citizens feel most influential by writing editorials for local papers or making campaign phone calls to support their candidates.

Credit unions are a leading voice for financial regulation and legislation that impacts their members. Our endeavor to support credit union causes is party agnostic and our support goes to those members of Congress who cosponsor legislation that demonstrates their belief in the credit union mission of people helping people.

Make sure your voice is heard in November – go out and vote!

To find out more about potential candidates in your district, contact your local party affiliate or go to usa.gov/election-office.

For links to voter registration or to see which causes your credit union is monitoring today, visit visionsfcu.org/advocacy.

Our Member Saved WHAT?!

Nothing makes us feel better than helping our members, which is why we're always looking for opportunities to improve your financial well-being. Sometimes it's as easy as balancing a checkbook, other times it's saving you money with a refinance. Here's a great story from Matt in our Contact Center:

Every case is different, but this one turned into a pretty exciting situation. We received a call from a member in Pennsylvania hoping to finance new furniture for her living room. While starting the application for a personal loan, she asked me about ideas to save money and we started tossing around options. We chatted about our debt consolidation promotion, our free one-on-one credit counseling service, and our insurance partners, who offer free quotes and portfolio reviews with discounted rates for our members. Debt wasn't a concern of hers, but she did sound interested in reviewing her auto policy, so I referred her to our local insurance team.

I often tell our callers how people can save as much as 8-10% on their insurance when they switch to Visions, but I didn't realize she would end up saving so much. By working with Brian on our insurance team to bundle an auto policy with renter's insurance for her apartment, **she was able to save over \$2,600 per year** on her new coverage. With such huge savings, she'll pay off that new furniture in no time at all!

Read, Solve, WIN!

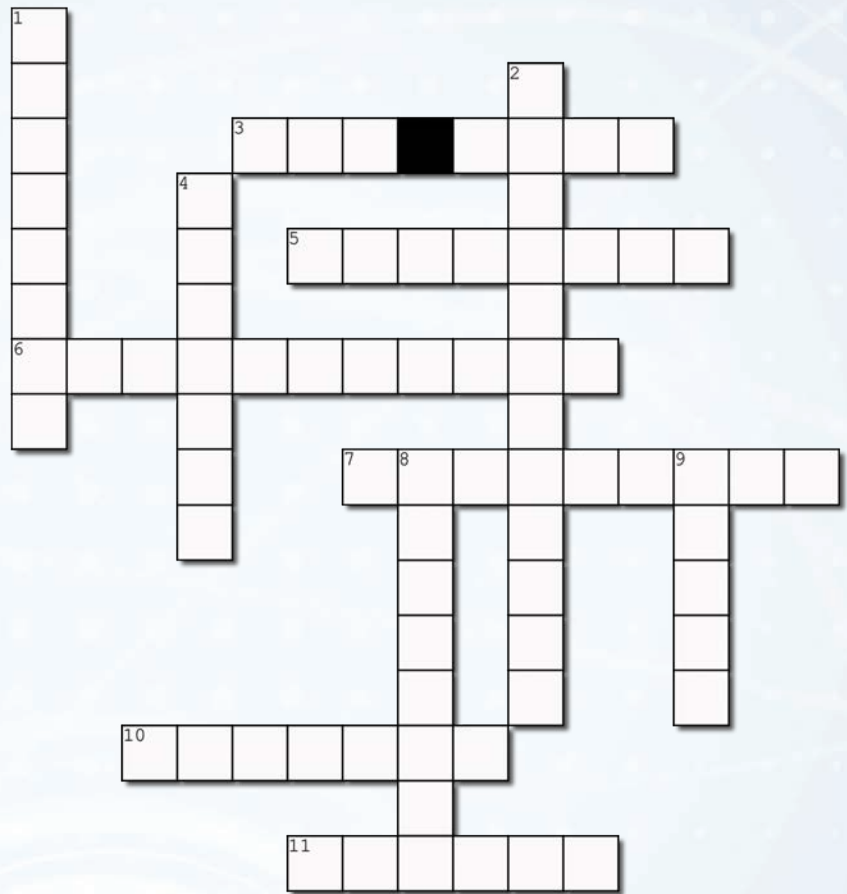
Complete this crossword puzzle, submit your answers at visionsfcu.org/puzzle, and you could be eligible to win one of five Dunkin'® gift cards!*

Across

3. Last year, we donated \$100,000 to support Habitat for Humanity through our new initiative called "The _____." (two words)
5. Each midterm election, voters choose one-third of _____ and 100% of House Representatives.
6. If you have an upcoming community event in need of support, you can apply for a _____ from Visions Cares.
7. Bitcoin is decentralized, meaning it's not _____ by any nation, bank, or governing authority.
10. For the sake of risk management and _____ assurance, our internal auditors ensure that each department functions as intended.
11. We launched the Little _____ program a year ago.

Down

1. If your current home's selling price is high due to inflation, then the _____ price of a new home is likely to be inflated, too.
2. In Cortland, Jane helps Toys for Tots with the annual toy _____ campaign.
4. The Women and Wealth series aims to empower, _____, and educate women.
8. We're announcing our _____ of the Year award, accepting applications until May 1st for the 2021-2022 school year.
9. The trustee follows conditions you set forth in your _____ document as a guide for making payouts.



CONGRATS, Q1 WINNERS!

Monique S.
Westwood, NJ

Valerie F.
Endicott, NY

Lisa L.
Reading, PA

Shirley L.
Binghamton, NY

Victoria T.
Clayton, NC

Thank you to all our members who participated.

*Visions Federal Credit Union membership required. Visions membership requires a \$1 minimum deposit; certain restrictions apply, ask for membership eligibility details. Must be 18 years or older. Answers must be submitted at visionsfcu.org/puzzle by 4/30/22; no alternate methods of entry apply. Limit (1) entry per person. Winners will be chosen at random; odds of winning based on total number of entries. Winners may only win one prize. Winners will be notified by mail by 5/20/22. Winners consent to have Visions Federal Credit Union use their first name, last initial, city, and state in social media posts or future advertising and promotional materials. Promotion sponsored solely by Visions Federal Credit Union.

We need You!

Visions is looking for qualified members to serve on various volunteer committees – including our Board of Directors. As a volunteer, you can help shape the future of your credit union while using your skills to contribute to its mission.

Any member age 21 or older – with the exception of Visions employees and their immediate families – is eligible. A background in finance or the financial services industry would be helpful, but is not required. All inquiries are held in strict confidence and applicants are subject to a credit check.

For complete details and to apply online, visit visionsfcu.org/volunteer. You may also contact Edward Butler at 800.242.2120, ext. 10618, or complete a volunteer application at your local office and drop it off to his attention.

We have an exciting history built on the efforts of volunteers, strong leaders, and dynamic staff. With your continued involvement, we look forward to many more successful years of serving you and your fellow members.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: AUDITING

When you think of Visions, you probably think of our frontline staff: our tellers, account specialists, even our Contact Center over the phone. But there's so much going on behind the scenes, from software to security to community outreach. Take our Auditing Department, for example.

Trust is essential to banking. When you deposit funds into your Visions account or apply for a loan, you want to know that we're doing our job as your financial institution. The Auditing department makes that possible, ensuring that your accounts are accurate and that each part of our credit union is up to our highest standards of safety and soundness.

Imagine Visions as if it were a body. Auditing would be the central nervous system, aware of each independent body part and confirming that all systems are operating as expected, for the sake of your overall wellbeing. In a similar way, for the sake of risk management and quality assurance, our internal auditors ensure that each department functions as intended, compliant with our company policies and procedures, banking regulations, and the state or federal laws that affect our industry.

Consider our branch operations. When Auditing enters a branch, they're checking vaults for accuracy and conformity, reviewing transactions to ensure proper procedures, and even examining the signs and marketing materials to ensure compliance. These are important steps to assure our members, the government, and our Board of Directors that we're as responsible and trustworthy as we strive to be.

In addition to evaluating branch locations, Auditing scrutinizes the operations, risk, and compliance of each support department throughout Visions, including Information Technology, Finance, and Lending, among others. When a company is running properly, it's optimizing all resources and reducing risk for everyone involved. That's the goal for our Auditing department – to protect our members and ensure that Visions is acting in their best interest.

Want to join our team or learn more about careers with Visions? Visit visionsfcu.org/careers to #ClaimYourSeat.

Visions Federal Credit Union is an equal opportunity employer whose goal is to achieve a positive work atmosphere while encouraging a healthy work/life balance.

M/F Disabled and Vet EEO/AA Employer.



Take Me Out...

Professional athletics in your backyard

Breathe it in. That's the smell of popcorn and hot dogs!

It's baseball season and stadiums are ready for local sports fans and families. Lucky for you, Visions loves supporting professional athletics. We sponsor your Double-A and Triple-A Minor League Baseball affiliates, independent league baseball teams, or stadium box office to help ensure these family friendly events stay around for years to come.

Grab your glove, bring your family, and support your local team:



We support athletics year-round, from professional hockey to college basketball to high school cheerleading. If you have an upcoming community event in need of support, apply for a sponsorship! Get started at visionsfcu.org/cares.



Protection Options FOR YOUR Auto Loan

Guaranteed Asset Protection (GAP)

In the event you incur a total loss on your vehicle, GAP will pay the deficiency balance between your insurance valuation settlement and the balance remaining on your vehicle loan (some stipulations involved).

Auto Deductible Reimbursement (ADR)

In the event of a total loss or a collision where you pay your deductible out of pocket, you may file an ADR claim on any vehicle in the household that is registered/titled and insured by the primary borrower for deductible reimbursement up to \$500 (unlimited losses per year), for a period of three years.

Mechanical Breakdown Protection (MBP)

This warranty, which covers costly repairs, gives you coverage from day one (no waiting period), and features three great plans to choose from. The cost of the warranty may be purchased outright using a personal loan, or included in your auto loan if you have financed your vehicle through Visions.

Visit your neighborhood office and ask how these products can help protect your vehicle and save you money down the road!



Committed to Com

How we made an impact in

As a credit union, giving back is what we do. Rather than focusing on profits, we want to maximize our impact on our communities – supporting businesses and nonprofits, providing relief, and caring for our neighbors. That's why we created Visions Cares and special programs like Little Heroes and Acts of Kindness. Take a look at some of our efforts over the last year.

EMPLOYEE GIVING

Whether planning giveback campaigns, donating to food banks and foster homes, or volunteering at local events, our employees love to support good causes throughout the year. In the spring, our staff targeted food insecurity, assisting in community gardens and raising funds for hunger relief. In the fall, our focus shifted to cancer awareness, then to a holiday campaign we call the Season of Giving. Here are a few specifics:

- Our staff logged over 2,200 volunteer hours this year
- Over \$60,000 was donated to 55+ charitable organizations through our Denim Days program, which gives employees the option to wear jeans every Friday in exchange for \$5 donations from their paychecks



- Thanks to employee-led efforts and quarterly giveback campaigns, we donated over \$150,000 to community nonprofits, including \$118,360 to the United Way's local chapters in our communities and over \$14,000 to the American Heart Association

CORPORATE GIVING

Remember, where you bank can make an impact on where you live. As an organization, we seek ways to support our members and local businesses. Sometimes, this is through pandemic relief programs. Other times, it's through grants or in-kind donations. We even donated haircuts to students at a public school, because we saw how strongly it could impact those individual's lives. Here are some of our corporate giveback initiatives:

- Gifted a total of \$32,250 to Chambers of Commerce across 26 counties in three states
- Annually, Visions' Gift Match program offers up to \$100 per employee to match donations to their charity of choice
- Our Little Heroes program started in 2021, awarding a monthly recognition and gifts to support young individuals who are making an impact in their communities (check out page 3 to learn more!)
- Over \$1.3 million given to community organizations through various sponsorships, grants, and in-kind donations every year
- Starting in 2021, we committed \$1 million in grant funding to the New Jersey Education Association to be payable over the next 10 years (see page 17 for more about Visions Loves Educators)
- Our Veterans Program donates to veteran-support organizations and offers bonuses to those who served our nation, as well as their spouses
- We performed 45 Acts of Kindness across three states, totaling over \$34,000



munity 2021

THE BIG GIVE

Last year, we decided to start something new, something BIG, impacting communities across our three-state footprint. We call this initiative “The Big Give.” We donated \$100,000 to ten Habitat for Humanity chapters in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The funds will help support Habitat’s mission to build homes, communities, and hope.

Looking ahead with The Big Give, we plan to choose different not-for-profit organizations to receive significant support each year, with a focus on those performing community service.

With a collective effort, supported by our members and local organizations, we plan to continue our momentum throughout 2022. We hope you’ll be part of our endeavors as we make an impact in your community.



For more information on our giveback initiatives or to apply for grants, volunteers, or sponsorships, visit us at visionsfcu.org/cares.

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Jane H. Service and Sales Representative

“I’ve been actively supporting community organizations since at least 2010, when I started volunteering with Cortland County’s Toys for Tots. Eventually, I became a co-coordinator for the annual toy distribution campaign.”

TELL US ABOUT IT!

“Last year, we processed 600 toy requests and helped to distribute over 3,500 toys to 1,390 children in our community. That covers about 15% of the 18-and-under population we serve in our region. It’s an intensive labor of love in the seven weeks leading up to Christmas as I handle the campaign’s digital marketing, vet toy request applications, and manage our distribution night schedule.”

WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER?

“I truly love the Cortland community and appreciate its potential. It’s especially rewarding to be part of an organization

whose sole purpose is to bring joy and delight to children. My hope is that these joyful memories will help children to build positive connections with the community and inspire them to support their community when the opportunity arises.

In addition to Toys for Tots, I also support the Cortland Community SPCA and our local Loaves and Fishes. It’s gratifying to work with other volunteers who enjoy making our little corner of the world better – it’s one of the reasons I enjoy working at Visions, too!”

Visions donated \$250 to Jane’s nonprofit organization of choice:

*Toys for Tots Cortland County
cortland-ny.toysfortots.org*

Relocate or Renovate?

Homeowners weigh their options

Buying new

Pros:

- **Location** – Find your ideal location, whether it's closer to work, in a strong school district, or nestled in the woods.
- **Move-in ready** – Avoid the expensive renovation projects of your old address.
- **Goals** – Your new home may align better with your long-term goals, maybe as an investment to upgrade your portfolio, room to grow your family, or as a modest option to downsize for retirement.
- **Income** – Selling your old home could give you additional funds.

Cons:

- **Expensive** – If your selling price is high due to inflation, then the purchase price of your new home is likely to be inflated, too.
- **Stressful** – Between packing, transporting, and settling in, moving is often a stressful, overwhelming, and costly process.
- **Unpredictable** – Despite home inspections, every new property comes with surprises, often leading to unexpected purchases or pricey renovations.



Staying and renovating

Pros:

- **Familiarity** – You won't need to adjust to a new location. You're familiar with the neighborhood, the property, and what the house needs for improvements.
- **Refinance** – If you're looking at enticing mortgage rates, you can refinance your home to pay less on interest, drop your monthly payments, or pay off your mortgage earlier.
- **Equity** – You've already built equity in your current home. You can turn that equity into a loan to make improvements in your home that may increase its value.
- **Convenience** – It's possible to renovate one room at a time or add an addition without having to pack up all your belongings.

- **Price** – Instead of spending thousands on closing costs for a new mortgage, you could use those savings to renovate your living room or add a deck to your backyard.

Cons:

- **Investment** – Don't expect your home's value to increase 100% per improvement. Many renovations are costly but add little to a house's commercial value.
- **Construction** – While making changes to your home, you'll be in the thick of it. Try to consider how each renovation will affect your lifestyle.
- **Hidden Costs** – Renovations may reveal structural issues or building codes that need immediate attention. Also, increasing your home's value may lead to increases in property taxes or your insurance costs.

You have big decisions to make, bringing challenges and rewards as you build your future. Keep your options in mind as you're planning and, whether it's a home equity loan for those home improvements or a mortgage to buy or refinance, remember that Visions is here to help you through the process.

To schedule an in person, phone, or virtual meeting with one of our mortgage representatives, visit visionsfcu.org/appointments.



Affordable Outings

More sunshine, less spending

It's easy to get excited about nice weather. The winter months feel too dark, too long, and too cold. Then, when the sun peeks out again, things can get expensive. Here are a few tips to spend less while you make the most of spring weather.

Public parks

Instead of driving to a pricey theme park, take the family to national and state parks. Parks are great for exercise, bringing the dogs, or just lounging in the sun with a good book. Plus, most parks are free, so you're only spending money on gas or food for a picnic. Speaking of which...

Picnics

Outdoor dining isn't just the patio of a restaurant. Get outside and find a sunlit patch of grass or a table in the shade. On a trip, plan a roadside picnic for lunch instead of a pricey pitstop. You can even cut costs further by making your own iced tea or bringing along washable plates, cups, and utensils.

Friends and family

Including your friends and family in your plans is a great way to share costs. To keep things affordable, gatherings like pool parties and barbecues can function like a potluck, where each guest brings a dish or a drink to share. And you get to hang out with friends, too – win/win!

Bring your hobby

Many indoor activities make excellent outdoor activities. If you enjoy strategy and good conversation, take your chess board – or any game that won't blow away in the wind – and play beside your favorite creek. Are you a musician? Practice outside or on the porch. Crafty? Pack your knitting needles and take your kids to the playground.

Gardening

While some people can afford to spend a fortune on lavish gardens, others know how to garden on a dime. Enjoy the labor and reap the rewards of affordable solutions like starting with seeds or seedlings, learning to compost, and opting to DIY your own landscaping.

Athletics

Plan seasonal activities like tennis, volleyball, or basketball with your friends, peers, or coworkers. Many public parks have courts available for this kind of recreation. By scheduling a weekly match, you'll be starting an affordable fitness routine, too!

Fishing

In the spring, fish are active and abundant, so forget the boat and expensive supplies. All you need is a simple rod and some bait. Then, look up your local and state regulations/licensing and search online for nearby fishing holes. You're likely to find a dozen spots where you can enjoy this easygoing pastime on your own or with friends.

You don't need to break the bank to enjoy the season. Give yourself the change of scenery you need after a long winter and embrace the outdoors. With friends, family, your favorite activities, and some extra sunshine, maybe you'll discover a few health benefits, too.

VISIONS

INVESTMENT SERVICES

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR ANNUAL CHECKUP!



According to studies, 92% of Americans believe it's a healthy decision to schedule an annual medical checkup with their physician. If that's the case, perhaps it's time to consider financial checkups, too.

Here are three topics you may want to discuss annually with a Financial Consultant.

1

ARE YOU ON TRACK FOR RETIREMENT?

Perhaps you're thinking about raising your contributions or trying to split investments between your 401(k) and a Roth account. Our nationally accredited consultants are here to help you plan.

2

HAVE YOU REVIEWED YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO LATELY?

By partnering with LPL Financial, we can assist with anything from Guided Wealth Portfolios to wealth transfer strategies to asset protection.

3

IS YOUR TAX STRATEGY SUITED TO THE NEW YEAR?

Optimize your benefits and evaluate the impact of your investments on taxes. Even if you've worked with other servicers, our financial partners are prepared to offer you a second opinion and explore what's best for you.

Naturally, when you think about the future, you want to be healthy, so you take certain precautions. Seek guidance from professionals, change your routine if necessary, and make sure you're on the right track to a healthy financial future.

Call us at **800.242.2120, ext. 10469** to schedule your free checkup with Visions Investment Services, your primary care provider.

WOMEN AND WEALTH – APRIL 27TH

Over 75% of women claim they "don't know how to invest," or that they struggle with understanding investment products. Don't let uncertainty get in your way! Our Women and Wealth series aims to:

- **Empower** women to take ownership over wealth and make the most of investments
- **Connect** you with a community of women, establishing a positive environment to learn and ask questions
- **Educate** community members to address the unique financial challenges women can face and to cultivate new opportunities for a bright financial future

Join us for our next sessions, April 27th, 2:00pm and 6:00pm. Details are available at visionsfcu.org/womenandwealth.

Seminar content is developed and presented by women advisors at Visions Investment Services and professional partners. Women & Wealth is part of the DEI - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative at Visions Federal Credit Union.

VISIONS
INVESTMENT SERVICES

Have questions or want to make an appointment? Give us a call at 800.242.2120, ext. 10469.

*LPL Financial does not provide tax or legal advice

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Not Insured by NCUA or Any Federal Government Agency

Not Credit Union Guaranteed

Not Credit Union Deposit or Obligations

May Lose Value

LPL Tracking #1-05249797

IDENTITY THEFT: HOW FRAUDSTERS ATTACK

**You may be aware of identity theft,
but do you know what it looks like?**

Fraudsters use various methods to obtain your personal information and, once they have it, they might use it in several different ways.

What fraudsters can do with your information:

- Use debit or credit cards to drain your accounts
- Alter your information on existing accounts
- Open new accounts in your name
- Take out loans in your name
- Order government issued IDs with their photo
- File a false tax return and take the refund
- Obtain medical care using your insurance

Knowing the damage fraudsters can do once they have your personal information, what can you do to protect it? A critical first step is understanding how they try to obtain it, especially when those means are preventable.

How they might steal your information:

Shoulder surfing – When you're at the ATM or teller window, fraudsters look over your shoulder to get account numbers, PINs, or anything else they can gather. To prevent this, you should shield the keypad when entering your PIN and avoid discussing your sensitive information in crowded settings.

Mail theft – Taking mail from someone's mailbox is an easy way for fraudsters to get bank statements, checks, or other utility bills which could be used to open or verify accounts. Consider locking your mailbox or signing up for eStatements.

Dumpster diving – Digging through trash can be a lucrative way to get information, especially if it's not disposed of properly. Always shred documents that contain sensitive information.

Scam phone calls – Use caution when answering the phone if you don't know who's calling. If the caller is claiming to be a company you recognize, call them back at a known phone number to verify that the call is legitimate. Never share personal information over the phone with an unknown caller.



The world we live in can sometimes make it difficult to guard our most personal information. However, being educated is the first step to avoid becoming a victim. If you have questions about this information or are concerned your identity might be compromised, call us immediately at **800.242.2120**. You can also find more tips at **[visionsfcu.org/security](https://www.visionsfcu.org/security)**. And don't forget that we offer free identity theft monitoring in digital banking with IDnotify™ by Experian®.



Spendthrift Trusts

Protecting Your Financial Legacy

Not everyone handles money responsibly. When you're leaving an inheritance to someone who may be financially inexperienced, easily manipulated by a spouse, or struggling with habits like gambling or substance abuse, you might be nervous about your hard-earned legacy – and understandably so! Instead of giving that inheritance check directly to your beneficiary in the event of your passing, consider setting up a Spendthrift Trust to protect your financial legacy.

When establishing this type of trust, you name a trustee to manage your funds, helping to ensure the best interests of all parties. The trustee follows the preferences and conditions you set forth in your trust document as a guide for making payouts to the beneficiary.

Here are a few circumstances where a Spendthrift Trust could ease your concerns or promote your personal values to your beneficiaries:

- You worry that your kids will misspend their inheritance, so you decide to include directions to pay out their money in limited installments at ages 25, 30, and 35
- You encourage your loved ones to embrace entrepreneurship with provisions for trust payouts – in the form of a gift or a low-interest loan – if a beneficiary provides the trustee with a practical business plan
- You want future generations to pursue college education, so you choose to trigger trust payouts by requiring proof of college enrollment
- Your loved one suffers from addiction, so you require clean drug tests and at least 60 days of sobriety before a payout

By establishing a Spendthrift Trust, you're partnering with a valuable ally – your trustee – and taking significant steps to protect your loved ones from poor financial decisions.

For more information on Spendthrift Trusts or other beneficiary accounts, give us a call or email us to schedule a meeting.

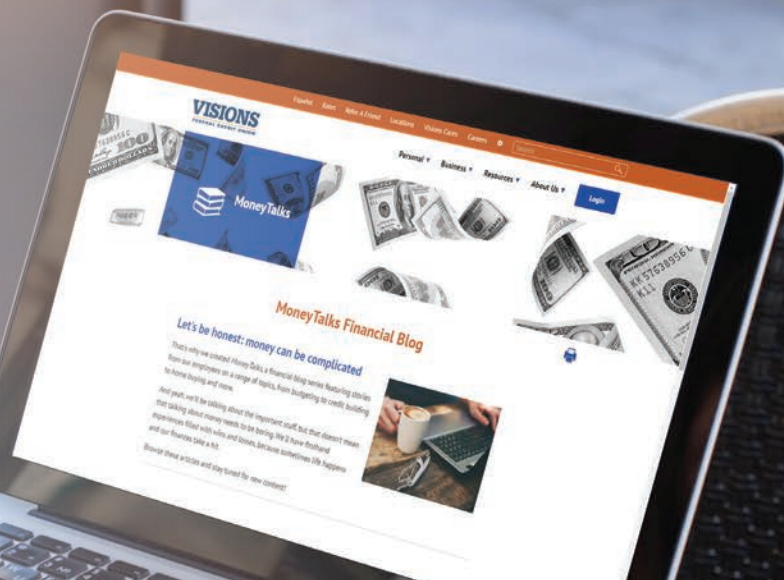
Sharon Burghardt, CTFA/Senior Trust Officer
800.242.2120, ext. 10684
sburghardt@visionsfcu.org

Laura Maerkl, Trust Administrator
800.242.2120, ext. 10805
lmaerkl@visionsfcu.org

Enjoying our magazine? We have a blog, too!

Check out MoneyTalks for firsthand stories and fun anecdotes from the Visions staff, featuring financial lessons about travel, college, starting a family, and all of life's twists and turns.

Check it out at visionsfcu.org/moneytalks.



VISIONS L♥VES EDUCATORS

Announcing two new initiatives!

We can't do enough for educators, who impact countless lives and shape the future of our communities. To show our support and gratitude for their hard work and dedication, we developed the Visions Loves Educators program, offering exclusive bonuses and grant opportunities to educators in the public school system, grades K-12. Now, we're excited to introduce two new ways to say "Thank You" to these essential workers.

Student Loan Eraser

Are you an educator? We recognize the long nights and many years of education that brought you where you are today. That's why we encourage you to apply for the Student Loan Eraser. Twenty recipients will be selected each school year to receive this award of **\$1,000** for repayment of higher education costs.

Educator of the Year

Help us recognize the educators who go above and beyond to support their classrooms and their community. Submit your pick for our Educator of the Year Award and they could receive **\$2,000** and a special celebration with their school. And don't forget to look in the mirror. That educator might be you!

Do you know an educator that stands out?

Apply now or submit an educator for an award at **VisionsLovesEducators.com**. Applications for the 2021-2022 school year close May 1st – don't wait!

Visit website for complete eligibility details.

Tired of hunting for student aid?

Responsibly fill those college funding gaps with our innovative student lending solution, a private line of credit by Student Choice.

Go to visionsfcu.org/studentloans to learn more.



NEED TO Know



SAVE THE DATE Special Events

Visit visionsfcu.org/events for a current list of upcoming events, seminars, and activities.

Coming Soon: Enhancements to Phone Access Teller (P.A.T.)

We're making our P.A.T. system even better with Smart Teller. This update will allow you to perform more transactions, even easier. You'll be able to enjoy voice recognition services, meaning you can leave those codes behind.

And, as always, you can
call in any time at
800.843.2892 or 607.757.9411.

Prefer a Digital Copy?

All member households will receive a mailed copy of MoneyMatters at the beginning of each quarter. If your household prefers to reference this financial magazine online, please complete the unsubscribe form at visionsfcu.org/moneymatters or call our Contact Center at 800.242.2120.

Now Open for Business in Cortland, NY!

Visit our new branch location at:
**141 Clinton Ave
Cortland, NY 13045**

Expulsion Notice

A special meeting for credit union members will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at Visions Headquarters, 3301 Country Club Road, Endwell, NY.*

The purpose of the meeting is to vote on expelling from membership any member who has caused an unreimbursed loss to the credit union of \$250 or more since January 1, 1994. No other business may be transacted at this meeting.

*Meeting subject to cancelation



**LOOKING
for a great
CAREER?**

#ClaimYourSeat

Visit visionsfcu.org/careers to learn more

Visions Federal Credit Union is an equal opportunity employer whose goal is to achieve a positive work atmosphere while encouraging a healthy work/life balance.

M/F Disabled and Vet EEO/AA Employer.



OFFICE CLOSINGS

Mark Your Calendars

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day
All Offices Closed

Monday, June 20
**Juneteenth National
Independence Day**
All Offices Closed

Monday, July 4
Independence Day
All Offices Closed

Add Visions to Your Contacts!

When you add
800.242.2120 to your cell
phone contacts you'll have
quick access to give us a call.
And, we'll show up on your
Caller ID if we ever need to
reach you. Win-Win!

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George S. Bobinski, Jr.
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Laurie Schorno
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Associate Director

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Mark A. Wasser, Vice Chairperson
Stephanie Jerzak
Fermin Romero
Gordon E. Thompson

The 5th Annual 4 on the 4th

Road Race will be held on
July 4, 2022!

An exciting 4-mile course starting and
finishing at **Visions Headquarters**

3301 Country Club Rd • Endwell, NY 13760

Sign up at
runsignup.com/4onthe4th

All Visions members
receive a \$5 discount!



*All loan types referenced in
this publication are subject
to Visions Federal Credit
Union's standardized policies
including, but not limited to,
lending, membership, and
creditworthiness. Please
contact a credit union
representative for more
information regarding
application requests.*



Federally insured
by NCUA.





FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

24 McKinley Ave • Endicott, NY 13760



Refer a Friend

Get rewarded for sharing Visions!

Do you know anyone who could benefit from our services? Of course you do! By referring a friend or family member, you could earn a \$25 bonus.* Even better – they could earn \$25, too!

Just hop online and send a referral at **visionsfcu.org/refer**, or find a link right in digital banking. From there, you could even share referrals on social media and really get the word out – while making a little extra money for sharing the good.

#ShareTheGood

*Visions membership requires a \$1 minimum deposit. New member is subject to membership requirements and cannot have existing Visions accounts or been a Visions member in the last 12 months. Ask a representative or visit visionsfcu.org for eligibility. Must have valid US Social Security number to qualify. \$25 bonus will be deposited to primary savings of new member at time of account opening. Only one bonus will be given per qualifying new member, regardless of number of accounts opened. Referring member \$25 bonus will be deposited to their primary savings within 10 business days of new member's account opening. May not be combined with any other coupons or promotional offers. Must be 18 years or older to participate. Offer expires 12/31/22. Federally insured by NCUA.