Money Matters Newsletter

January 2024

FIRST CREDIT UNION



Your first dream remodel is within reach when you unlock your home's equity with a home equity loan from First Credit Union. Whether you have dreams of renovating your home, tackling essential repairs, consolidating your debt, or investing in a major purchase, our Fixed Home Equity Loan or Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) can help you turn those dreams into a reality.

Fixed Home Equity or HELOC - what's the difference? With a fixed home equity loan you receive the entire loan amount at once and repay it over time, with a fixed rate and fixed term. A HELOC, is a revolving credit line and you can borrow funds as needed. Both are secured by the deed of trust on your home.

Looking to buy or refinance? We can help with that too! We are a trusted local lender with local decision making, choice of terms and competitive rates. For home purchases or refinancing we offer you:

- Choice of terms up to 30 years
- Pre-qualification & credit analysis
- Member-only rates

We're here for you! We understand that it can be an overwhelming process, so we take the time to explain the various loan program options available to you. Whether you're interested in leveraging your home's equity, purchasing a new home, or refinancing your current mortgage, our team is here to provide guidance and support.

Get started today! Call (480) 756-5500 or (800) 732-6986 outside the Phoenix area, visit **first**cu.net or stop by any of our branches to begin the process.

Did You Know?

Our Annual Meeting is Tuesday, March 26th... see the last page for more info!

Are you Ready to Tackle your Taxes?

Whether you file your taxes online or you work with a tax preparer, most filings are electronic. Filing electronically allows your refund to be deposited directly into your account without waiting for a check in the mail. It's a more secure filing option - provided you're not using free wi-fi when completing your tax information.

Make sure to verify your First CU account information before submitting your taxes.

When choosing an electronic refund, be sure your account information is correct. This can help expedite your refund.

- First CU's ABA/Routing Number is **322172742**
- To electronically deposit your refund into your account use your **13-digit MICR Account Number**.

You can view your 13-digit MICR account number in digital banking. After logging in, select the account tile that you would like the funds to be deposited into and click "Details". Your full 13-digit MICR Account Number will be shown on this page.

The filing season for 2023 tax returns begins on January 24, 2024.

Scholarship & Grant Opportunities

Deadline to apply is February 9, 2024

There is still time to apply for First Credit Union's College Scholarship program and Youth Financial Education Grant program for the 2023-2024 school year. These programs are available exclusively to members of First Credit Union.

$1,000 Youth Financial Education Grant Program. The grant seeks to assist an educator, community group, or organization with funds to help support a financial education program for children, kids, or teens.

$1,500 College Scholarship Program. The scholarship program recognizes and rewards up to three graduating high school seniors planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an Arizona university, college, or vocational school in the fall.

Apply today! Visit firstcu.net and click on Community for more info and to download an application. Application deadline for both programs is February 9, 2024.

Security Spotlight

Creating Strong Passwords

A strong password may prevent hackers from gaining access to your online and mobile banking accounts.

Follow these tips to create a password:

- Do not use personal information like your name, birthday, pet names, family names, hobbies or email address.
- Do not reuse a password from another account. If your password to another account is hacked, it puts your other accounts in danger.
- String together several words into a passphrase.
- Transform a regular word according to a specific method, such as making every other letter a number reflecting its position in the word.
- Combine punctuation or numbers with a regular word.
- Deliberately misspell a word.

For more tips on keeping your money safe, visit **https://firstcu.net/learn/scam-spotlight/**

Holiday Closures

Our branch locations will be closed on
Monday, January 15, 2024
in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day &
Monday, February 19, 2024
in observance of President's Day.

Access your accounts anytime!

firstcu.net

(480) 756.5501

Text banking 226563 (Register your device at firstcu.net)

ATM with any of these logos: CO-OP ATM VISA pulse

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 820, Chandler, AZ 85244 | 24/7 Phone Center: (480) 756.5500 • (800) 732.6986

NCUA ACCREDITED BUSINESS BBB CO-OP SHARED BRANCH

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NOTICE OF

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

March 26, 2024
25 S. Arizona Place
5:00 PM

Established in 1929, First Credit Union now enters its 95th year of serving Arizona and has been governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of credit union members like yourself. These dedicated members generously volunteer both their time and talents to help guide the overall course of First Credit Union.

Every October, we invite those interested to submit an application to be considered for nomination to the Board of Directors. Per our Bylaws, each December, First Credit Union's appointed nominating committee reviews applicants' qualifications and nominates candidates for the following year to be elected to serve.

For 2024, there are four positions to be filled. Four candidates (below) have been nominated by the nominatinag committee. Members will have the opportunity to vote electronically in late February at **first**cu.net and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. We hope to see you there!



CARYN HORVITZ-STRAUSS, INCUMBENT (3-YEAR TERM): Ms. Horvitz-Strauss currently serves as the Chairperson of First Credit Union's Board of Directors where she has enjoyed serving for the past 20 years. She is a Certified Public Accountant with over 30 years of experience as a tax professional. Ms. Horvitz-Strauss is the owner and President of CHS Tax & Business Services, PLLC, a Tempe based public accounting firm that provides tax, accounting, and business advisory services. Ms. Horvitz-Strauss is a graduate of the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and Finance. She is a member of The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants. Ms. Horvitz-Strauss looks forward to continuing her work serving First Credit Union, its members, and our local community.



BEN TAN, INCUMBENT (3 - YEAR TERM): Mr. Tan has been a member of First Credit Union for over 20 years and is currently serving as Treasurer on First Credit Union's Board of Directors since 2013. Mr. Tan is a Division Energy Manager for Fry's Food Stores where he manages capital projects in addition to a multi-million-dollar utilities budget. He owns Supermarket Mechanical and HVAC LLC and holds a residential and commercial contractor license. Previously, Mr. Tan worked as a real estate agent and holds an Arizona Real Estate License. Mr. Tan has a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering with a specialization in Finance from Arizona State University and a Master's of Business Administration from Ottawa University. Mr. Tan is an award-winning Certified Energy Manager and has appeared in various trade publications.



LORI GALLEGOS, INCUMBENT (1 - YEAR TERM): Ms. Gallegos is a retired credit union Executive with 34 years of industry experience. During her career, she was responsible for many strategic areas of the operation, which included: human resources, marketing, organizational development, sales engagement, branch operations and member experience. She also served on several standing committees as a voting member, such as lending, asset/liability, electronic service and strategic initiatives. Ms. Gallegos has her B.S. in Business Management and is a graduate of Western CUNA Management School. Her accomplishments have been widely recognized and awarded: CUNA 2008 Training Champion of the Year, CUNA OpSS Council 2015 Operations Professional of the Year and Arizona Republic 2017 Who's Who in Business - Highest Ranking Women. Lori has volunteered her time and shares her knowledge while serving on diverse boards, including: First Credit Union Board of Directors, Chandler Foodbank, Chandler Chamber of Commerce, and Credit Union Retirement Plan Association.



MARK MORRISON, INCUMBENT (1 - YEAR TERM): Mr. Morrison retired as CEO of Mountain Crest Credit Union in Washington state. He holds over 40 years of service in the credit union industry, fulfilling many leadership roles from Teller to CEO over the duration of his career. He holds an MBA from University of Phoenix and is a Credit Union Development Educator (CUDE) and Credit Union Compliance Expert (CUCE). Mr. Morrison served on various industry committees with credit union trade organizations, including the six state GoWest Association. In 2022 when Mr. Morrison retired, he was given the GoWest Summit ICON Award for his lifetime achievements in the credit union industry. Mr. Morrison enjoys volunteerism and looks forward to contributing and giving back to First Credit Union.