

# Financial Wellness

A Quarterly Publication For Members Of Healthcare Employees Federal Credit Union



## In This Issue

- President's Message
- All You Need to Know About Fixed Rate Home Equity Loans
- 5 Signs You're on the Path to Becoming Financially Aware
- Change Of Address
- Crushing Debt
- And More

## Always Be Alert!

Remember to never let your guard down when it comes to protecting yourself from fraud and identity theft. Fraudsters are continuously trying new ways to prey on innocent people for their own personal gain. Don't become a victim.

## Holiday Closings

### Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 25, 2021  
Friday, November 26, 2021

### Christmas

Friday, December 24, 2021

### New Year's

Friday, December 31, 2021



## BUILDING FINANCIAL HEALTH FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW™

Why do hundreds of millions of people worldwide choose credit unions? Because credit unions have a "people-first" philosophy that impels them to constantly improve their communities and the lives of their members. That local service feeds a worldwide network that reaches more than 291 million members across the globe. On October 21, 2021, join credit union and financial cooperative members around the globe in celebrating 73 years of International Credit Union Day.

**Visit us at HEFCU and celebrate with your fellow members!**

## Share the gift of Credit Union Membership Today!



*Your family members can take advantage of the great benefits that come along with credit union membership. Ask us how today!*

# President's Message

Dear Member of our Healthcare Family,

Happy Fall! While it has been a tough year and a half for all of us, we will continue to move onward and upward. We are proud of the service we have been able to provide to our members throughout this pandemic.

If you haven't yet joined our Holiday Club Program, October is an excellent time to start saving money for next year.

During what has been a very uncertain time, our desire to service your loan needs and your demand to borrow, have both remained consistent. At HEFCU, no matter what you're looking to get or do, we've got a loan for that.

For our members that currently have (or have recently paid off a HEFCU loan) we offer a 1/4% rate discount on our loans. Our loan loyalty discount program is our way of saying 'Thank You' for your repeat loan business.

In these difficult economic times, I want to assure you that HEFCU is in a strong financial position. Our capital ratio not only meets, but exceeds, federal guidelines for well capitalized credit unions.

As we head into the holiday season, I continue to wish all of you well. We invite you to join us virtually for our Annual Meeting on December 22, 2021. More details and a link to register will be provided on our website and social media feeds.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and Staff, we wish you and your family the very best.

Sincerely,



John J. Dawidowski  
Chief Executive Officer



## All You Need to Know About Fixed Rate Home Equity Loans

Borrowing against the equity in your home is a great way to tap into a source of funding when you need it. Here's what you'll want to know about home equity loans.

### What is a home equity loan?

A home equity loan is a secured loan allowing homeowners to borrow against the equity in their home. The loan amount is based on the difference between the home's current market value and the homeowner's outstanding mortgage balance, and it provides the borrower with the funds they want in one lump sum.

### How a home equity loan works

You can take a home equity loan out against the equity you've built up in your home, essentially borrowing against its value, minus what you still owe on your mortgage. A lender will typically want you to have an 80 percent loan-to-value (LTV) ratio once your home equity loan has been approved.

Home equity loans generally have a fixed interest rate, so budgeting for the payments is easy to do. The monthly payment and interest rate will remain fixed over the life of the loan, which can run from 5 to 30 years.

A Home Equity Loan can be a great option for borrowers with a one-time or straightforward cash need.

### The pros of a home equity loan include:

- The amount of interest paid toward a home equity loan may be tax-deductible.
- Interest rates on Home Equity Loans are generally lower than those provided by credit cards or unsecured loans.

### The cons of a home equity loan include:

- Using your home as collateral for the loan means risking foreclosure and home loss if you default.
- If your home value declines over the loan term, you may end up owing more than it's worth.

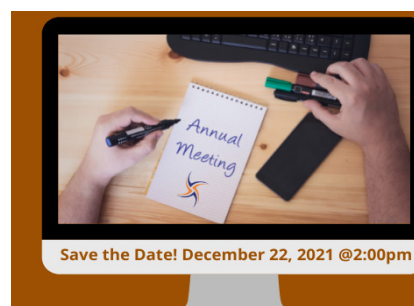
Weigh all factors carefully before determining if a home equity loan is best for your needs.

## HEFCU Scorecard

Here's how we've done in the past few months:

Category:	31-August-21	31-May-21
Deposits .....	\$130,584,183	\$129,182,731
Loans .....	\$85,893,467	\$76,907,899
Capital .....	\$12,054,713	\$11,961,428

**Follow Your Credit Union on Facebook and Twitter for news and updates that matter to you.**



**Visit us online for additional information and to register!**

# 5 Signs You're on the Path to Becoming Financially Aware

The way that we handle our money is a key part of financial wellness. With COVID-related mortgage, rent, student loan and other relief programs ending, being financially aware is more important now than ever. Yet being financially aware goes well beyond managing everyday bills and expenses.

Here are five signs that indicate you're on the path to becoming financially aware.

## 1. You Put Your Goals in Writing

People with written goals are more likely to achieve them. It entails envisioning what you see for yourself and then using that goal as the momentum to make it a reality. Financial goals can be both short-term and long-term. A short-term goal may be that you plan to pay off debt, whereas a long-term goal may be saving up enough money to buy a house. Financially aware people make sure to revisit their goals at least once every 3-4 months and make adjustments when needed.

## 2. You Use a Budget

Many people see budgeting as a distasteful duty. And it can seem that way if you are trying to correct years of financial problems in one day. But really a budget is just a financial blueprint that shows income and expenses on a monthly basis. For the financially aware, a budget helps people make informed decisions as to where your money goes.

## 3. You Build Emergency Funds

Having an emergency fund to manage unforeseen circumstances can mean the difference between a financial disaster and a minor setback. When you're financially aware, you plan for the unexpected. Depending upon your budget, you can determine a set amount to put into a savings account from each paycheck. Some financially aware people have their employer directly deposit part of their paycheck into a savings account. Over time, you can build a budget buffer.

## 4. You Work to Get a Handle on Debt

Debt is borrowing money you haven't earned yet. It is a useful way to manage finances provided you have a plan to pay off your balances. When you are financially aware, you obtain low interest loans to acquire an asset or improvement - like a house, car, or student loan. You stay current with high interest credit cards that can become difficult to pay back if your financial circumstances change unexpectedly. Depending upon your situation, there may be options to get out of debt more quickly. Financially aware people might consider a debt management plan to get a handle on any outstanding debt.

## 5. You Check Your Credit History and Score

One in three Americans has never checked their credit history, according to a Bankrate study. Financially aware people keep tabs on credit history, which is used to calculate your credit scores – those three-digit numbers that help determine whether lenders approve you for new credit



*Empowering people to lead financially healthy lives.*

and what interest rates will be offered to you. Annualcreditreport.com is a "one stop shop" to check your reports from Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion – the three industry standard credit bureaus. The Financial Experts at GreenPath can review your credit history with you and guide you through the steps that you can take to build your credit score.

## Build Your Financial Awareness

Financial awareness starts with information, and we all make the best decisions we can with the resources we have available to us.

Through our partnership, we encourage you to connect with a caring, trusted and certified financial counselor to get information to build your financial awareness.

*This article is shared by our partners at **GreenPath Financial Wellness**, a trusted national non-profit.*

## Account Information Update

Have you moved recently? Or have you changed your phone number or email address? For the safety and security of your account information, it is imperative that you notify the credit union of these changes. It is important to have all updated contact information on file. Please verify your address, phone number and email with us.

# Change Of Address

If you have changed your address and not informed the credit union, please complete this form and fax it to 609-275-4194 or mail it to: HEFCU, 29 Emmons Drive, Suite C 40, Princeton, NJ 08540.

**A copy of the Primary Member's Driver's License must accompany this form.**

## HEFCU Change Of Address Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ S.S. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Old Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### LOCATIONS

#### Main Office:

29 Emmons Drive, Suite C 40  
 Princeton, NJ 08540

Princeton Location Hours:  
 Mon – Fri: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
 (lobby closes at 4:25 pm)

#### Willingboro Office:

1113 Hospital Drive, Suite 201  
 Willingboro, NJ 08046

Willingboro Location Hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri:  
 8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
 Closed on Wednesday

#### Mt. Holly Office:

175 Madison Avenue  
 Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

Mt. Holly Location Hours:

Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri:  
 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
 Tuesday: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Toll-free: 800-624-3312

Phone: 609-951-0700

Fax: 609-275-4194

24-Hour Bank-by-Phone:

800-551-3001

[www.hefcu.com](http://www.hefcu.com)

### ATM LOCATIONS

#### Capital Health Systems

Fuld Division  
 Hopewell

#### Prime Healthcare

St. Michael's Medical Center

#### Penn Medicine

Princeton Health

#### Raritan Bay Medical Center

Perth Amboy Division

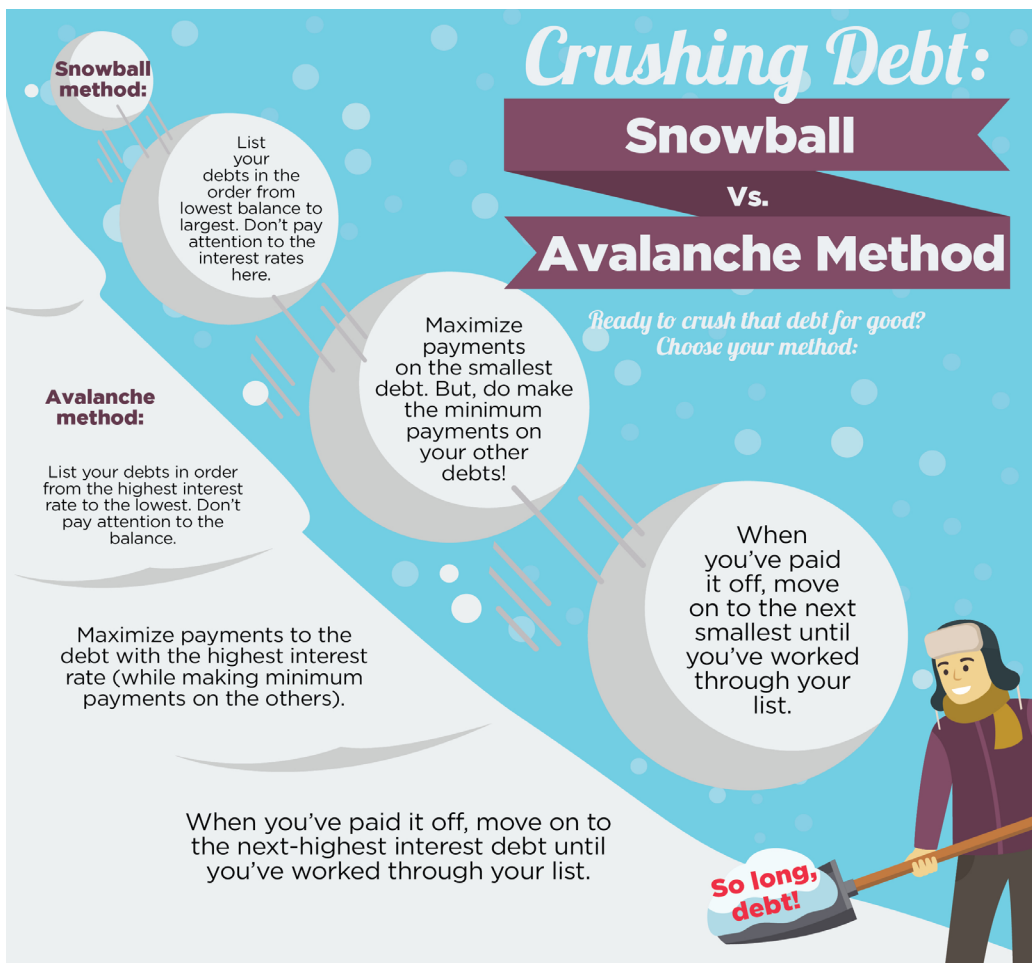
#### RWJ Barnabas Health

Clara Maass Medical Center

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

RWJ University Hospital Hamilton

RWJ University Hospital New Brunswick



**Crushing Debt:**  
**Snowball**  
 Vs.  
**Avalanche Method**

*Ready to crush that debt for good?  
 Choose your method:*

**Snowball method:**  
 List your debts in the order from lowest balance to largest. Don't pay attention to the interest rates here.

**Avalanche method:**  
 List your debts in order from the highest interest rate to the lowest. Don't pay attention to the balance.

Maximize payments on the smallest debt. But, do make the minimum payments on your other debts!

When you've paid it off, move on to the next smallest until you've worked through your list.

Maximize payments to the debt with the highest interest rate (while making minimum payments on the others).

When you've paid it off, move on to the next-highest interest debt until you've worked through your list.

*So long, debt!*

## Holiday Club Maturity Notice

Holiday Club Accounts matured on October 1st. The account balance was transferred into your Primary Savings Account and will be available that day.

Withdrawals can be made by ATM, our 24-hour bank-by-phone service or visiting one of our convenient Shared Branch locations. Holiday Club Accounts automatically renew for next year with your next payroll deduction after October 1st.

New enrollments are always welcome any time! If you didn't open a Holiday Club Account last year, now's the time to open one for next year. Making regular deposits throughout the year into this account is a great way to save money for your holiday shopping next year.

Call or stop by the credit union to open yours today!



We do business in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law and Equal Credit Opportunity Act

