

**INSIDE**

## **Special Report: Spotting Scams**

# QUARTERLY TIMES

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

*Save \$20 for a limited time!*

### **Debts Piling Up? Skip a Loan Payment!**

Take a break from your loan payment(s) this fall and use the extra cash for other things. Choose the month you want to skip through January, and we'll waive the \$20\* processing fee on up to 3 loans! Your loan(s) must be current with at least 4 on-time monthly payments. Download† the authorization form at [bdfcu.com](http://bdfcu.com) and mail it to us or drop it off at any branch. We must receive your request at least 3 business days before the end of the month you want to skip. Treat yourself to a month of savings this fall and stretch your budget with skip-a-payment!

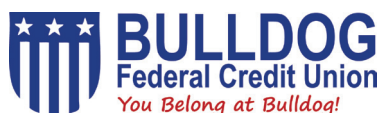


\*We will waive the \$20 processing fee for one skipped payment on up to three (3) loans between October 2023 and January 2024. Subject to approval. Interest will accrue at the existing annual percentage rate(s), and regularly scheduled payments will resume the following month. The number of payments will not increase, but your loan will be extended one month to accommodate the skipped payment. Offer ends Jan. 27, 2024.

†To request an authorization form securely via email, contact us at [loandep@bdfcu.com](mailto:loandep@bdfcu.com). Never send sensitive information via unsecure email.

### **Lock Box Fees**

**Safe deposit box rental fees will be deducted automatically from your share account in November.**



### **Board of Directors Accepts Nominations**

As a member/owner of your credit union, you can be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors. To become a candidate, submit a written nomination to any Nominating Committee member by 5:00 P.M. Nov. 3, 2023. Mail nominations to Bulldog FCU, 580 Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742, ATTN: Nominating Committee. Committee members were appointed by Victor Kronstadt, Board Chairman, in accordance with BFCU bylaws. Nominating Committee members are: Joseph Chukla (chairperson), James Pan, Cynthia Lauffer.



Do's and Don'ts to Stay One Step Ahead of Fraudsters

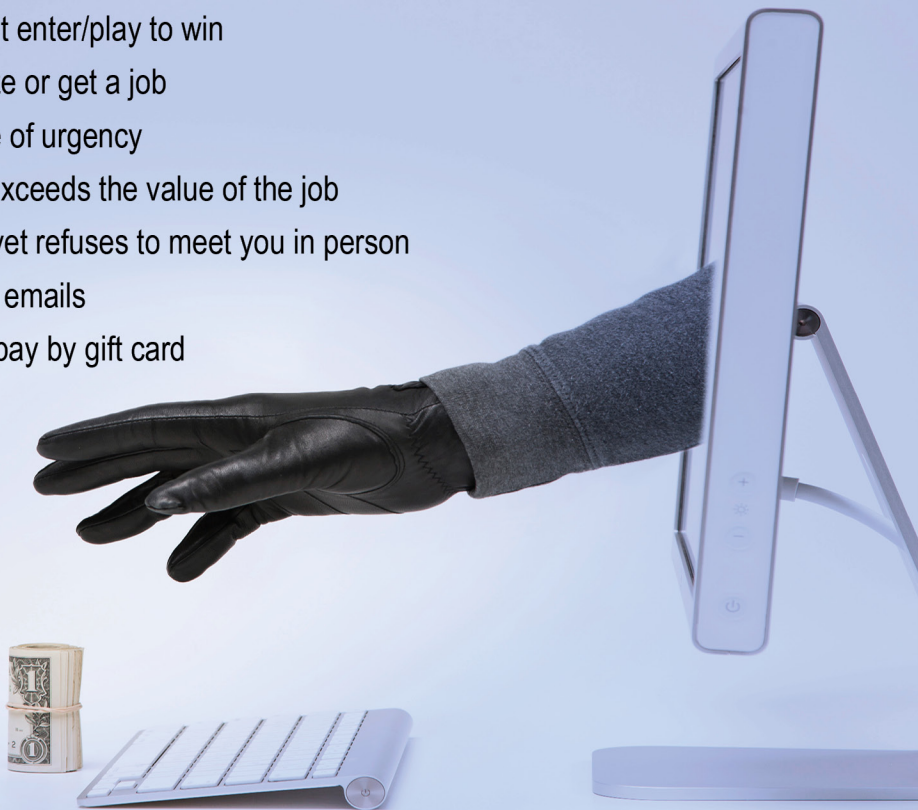
- Never share your online banking credentials.
- Monitor your accounts frequently and check your monthly statements promptly.
- Never click links or open attachments in unsolicited emails; be wary of secure emails and/or attachments.
- Make your passwords long (the longer the better) and complex with a mix of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Never use common words or numbers that could easily be associated with you like pet names or children's birthdates or anniversaries. Don't reuse passwords, use the same password for multiple sites, or store passwords where they can be found. Consider using a password vault.
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) when possible. It's an extra layer of security that involves receiving a passcode through another channel, such as your phone or email. If someone has your online banking credentials, it's unlikely they'd also have your cell phone or access to your email.
- Install virus protection and keep it up to date.
- Take advantage of the alerts in online banking and your Bulldog debit card. These free features are there for your protection. Use them.
- Remember, caller ID can be faked and websites can be spoofed. Don't believe everything you see.
- Look for the 's' in https in your browser's address line to indicate you're on a secure site when shopping online.

# SPOTTING SCAMS

## Common Sense is Your Best Defense

1. Any request for your online banking credentials or other personal info from someone who contacts you out of the blue
2. Winning something when you didn't enter/play to win
3. Being asked to pay to collect a prize or get a job
4. Pressure to act immediately, sense of urgency
5. Pay for work you didn't do or that exceeds the value of the job
6. Online flame who asks for money yet refuses to meet you in person
7. Links or attachments in unsolicited emails
8. Insistence that you wire money or pay by gift card
9. Use of scare tactics  
(loved one in danger, computer hacked, account compromised)
10. Receiving a check or overpayment and being asked to return some funds

### SCAM RED FLAGS



From debt collection schemes to online dating scams, fraudsters find countless clever ways to bilk you out of your hard-earned money. Let your guard down and you run the risk of losing money you may never be able to recover. While the variations seem limitless, most scams have 2 simple goals: 1) Steal your hard-earned money. Or 2) Get you to launder dirty money.

**NEVER SHARE YOUR DIGITAL BANKING CREDENTIALS.** That's like handing over the key to your home or the combination to your safe. If someone wants your online banking credentials so they can send you money, that's a red flag. Once they have digital access to your account, they can drain your funds through bill pay, external and person-to-person transfers, and more. They can launder money by depositing fraudulent checks through mobile deposit then sending the funds elsewhere.

**KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH.** If an unsolicited call or email seems fishy, trust your gut and do your research. Don't rely on the links or phone numbers they provide. Use contact information from another source that you know is accurate. When it comes to online romance, be especially wary. If your online flame resists meeting you in person and suddenly has an urgent need for funds or can't access banking services, run! Don't share your online banking credentials so they can "send you money." That's a ploy to gain access to your account so they can carry out other nefarious activity.

**IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, THEN IT PROBABLY IS.** If you didn't enter a contest or play a lottery, then you didn't magically win one. If somebody calls you out of the blue to tell you you've won something, don't give them your account information so they can "deposit your winnings." Hang up! It's a scam. And never pay to collect winnings.

**SLOW DOWN AND THINK.** Threat actors often try to instill a sense of urgency to get you to act quickly without thinking things through. If someone tells you to act now or that your action is required immediately, that's a red flag. These red flags can pop up in unsolicited texts or emails (e.g. Your account has been locked. Click now to verify.) or in more sinister ways when fraudsters impersonate a loved one who's "in dire need of assistance." It's only human to be vulnerable to pleas for help from loved ones. But stop and think. Did that really sound like your grandson's voice? If it did, is there someone else you can call to see if the story is plausible?

**DON'T BE A MULE.** A money mule is someone who moves illegally acquired money on behalf of someone else. Criminals recruit money mules to help launder proceeds from scams, making it harder for law enforcement to trace money trails. If you are moving money at the direction of another person, you may be a money mule. Mules can move funds through bank accounts, cashier's checks, virtual currency, prepaid debit cards, or money service businesses. They often receive a commission for their service, or they might provide assistance because they believe they're helping a trusted friend or romantic partner. Acting as a money mule is illegal, even if you aren't aware you're committing a crime. You could face federal charges for mail fraud, wire fraud, bank fraud, and money laundering, and be held personally liable for repaying money lost by victims.

**BEWARE OF STRANGERS BEARING CHECKS.** If someone sends you a check and instructs you to cash it, keep some, and send the rest back, don't do it. Checks could be from individuals (sometimes an online flame you've never met in person), companies, universities and even the U.S. Treasury, and they're all counterfeit. Random checks are usually portrayed as an opportunity for you to make money (cash the checks and send the funds back to earn a percentage of the proceeds). Or scammers could ask you to be a mystery shopper for which you're promised payment. They'll often include a note in the memo section such as "payment approved" to make you think the check is good. They may instruct you to deposit the checks through an ATM or mobile deposit to avoid interacting directly with a teller. And they'll often instruct you to return the funds in the form of gift cards, leaving you on the hook to cover the full amount of the counterfeit check when it's returned as fraudulent.



**AVOID PLACING OUTGOING MAIL IN YOUR MAILBOX.** A raised flag on a rural mailbox is an easy target for opportunistic fraudsters. Thieves pilfer your mail to gain access to your checks that they "wash" by chemically removing the ink so they can rewrite them in higher amounts to different payees. When writing checks, use a gel-type pen. It soaks into the check fibers and is harder to wash. Deliver your outgoing mail directly to the post office whenever possible (and don't let incoming mail linger in your mailbox), or save time and stamps and safely pay your bills online instead.

To learn more, including what to do if you fall victim to a scam, visit the Fraud & ID Theft resource page at [bdfcu.com](https://bdfcu.com)



## Loan Rates & Terms

as of Sept. 30, 2023

| FIXED                     | APR              | VARIABLE                   | APR                |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Car/Truck/SUV</b>      |                  | <b>Car/Truck/SUV</b>       |                    |
| up to 24 mos.             | as low as 6.50%  | up to appx. 48 mo.         | as low as 5.50%    |
| 25-36 mos.                | as low as 6.75%  | 49 to appx. 84 mo.         | as low as 5.50%    |
| 37-48 mos.                | as low as 7.00%  |                            |                    |
| 49-60 mos.                | as low as 7.25%  | <b>Boat/Motorcycle/RV*</b> |                    |
| 61-84 mos.                | as low as 7.50%  | up to appx. 48 mo.         | as low as 5.50%    |
|                           |                  | 49 to appx. 84 mo.         | as low as 5.75%    |
| <b>Boat/Motorcycle/RV</b> |                  | <b>Signature</b>           |                    |
| up to 24 mos.             | as low as 6.25%  | up to 36 mos.              | as low as 10.75%   |
| 25-36 mos.                | as low as 6.50%  | 37-48 mos.                 | as low as 11.00%   |
| 37-48 mos.                | as low as 6.75%  | 49-60 mos.                 | as low as 11.25%   |
| 49-60 mos.                | as low as 7.00%  | <b>Share Secured</b>       | 3.75%              |
| 61-84 mos.                | as low as 7.25%  | <b>Eliteline</b>           | as low as 12.75%   |
| <b>Signature</b>          |                  | <b>First Mortgage</b>      | Call for rates     |
| up to 36 mos.             | as low as 12.00% | <b>Home Equity</b>         | as low as Prime+0% |
| 37-48 mos.                | as low as 12.25% | <b>Credit Cards</b>        | call us            |
| 49-60 mos.                | as low as 12.50% |                            |                    |



Rates/terms subject to change without notice. Offered to those who qualify with approved credit.  
\*Secured rates are non-promotional. Extended terms available based on amount financed.

## Saving Rates & Terms

as of Sept. 30, 2023

| Share Account           | Min. Balance        | APR    | APY   |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|
| Regular Share           | \$25                | 1.750% | 1.77% |
| Christmas/Vacation Club | none                | 1.750% | 1.77% |
| Share Draft             | none                | 0%     | 0%    |
| Money Market Share      | under \$2000        | 0.500% | 0.50% |
|                         | \$2000 - \$9,999    | 0.550% | 0.55% |
|                         | \$10,000 - \$24,999 | 0.650% | 0.65% |
|                         | \$25,000 - \$49,999 | 0.750% | 0.75% |
|                         | \$50,000 - \$99,999 | 0.800% | 0.80% |
|                         | \$100,000 and over  | 0.800% | 0.80% |



APY is annual percentage yield. For more information about account terms and conditions and Truth-In-Savings disclosures, please call the Credit Union. Rates subject to change. Call for current APRs/APYs.

## It's Time to Open a 2024 Christmas Club Account

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**Monday, Oct. 9**  
Columbus Day

**Thursday, Nov. 23**  
Thanksgiving

**Monday, Dec. 25**  
Christmas Day

**Monday, Jan. 1**  
New Year's Day

## We respect your privacy.

You can view our privacy notice any time on our website. To request a copy, call (301)797-6318. There have been no changes to our privacy policy in the last 12 months.

## CU At A Glance

|                |
|----------------|
| <b>Assets</b>  |
| \$220,898,177  |
| <b>Loans</b>   |
| \$65,330,202   |
| <b>Shares</b>  |
| \$213,106,318  |
| <b>Members</b> |
| 20,376         |

## Contact Us

**MAIN OFFICE**  
580 Northern Avenue  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
(301)797-6318  
fax (240)420-2000  
www.bdfcu.com  
email: info@bdfcu.com

### York Road Branch

17555 York Road  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

### Dual Highway Branch

1240 Dual Highway  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

### The Centre at Hagerstown

17990 Garland Groh Blvd.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

### Smithsburg Branch

22317 Jefferson Blvd.  
Smithsburg, MD 21783

### Sharpsburg Pike Branch

10306 Remington Dr.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

### Homewood at Williamsport

16505 Virginia Ave.  
Williamsport, MD 21795

**Routing Number:** 2550-7751-6

**K-9 Line:** 888-966-5618

### Debit Card Directory

Lost/Stolen: 1-866-559-4805 after hours  
Activation/PIN: 1-866-985-2273

### Credit Card Directory

Lost/Stolen & Disputes (24-hr):  
1-866-590-7731  
Activation: 1-800-631-3197  
PIN Now: 1-888-886-0083  
Rewards: 1-800-637-7728

### Lobby Hours

Mon. - Thurs.: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

### Drive-Up Hours

Mon. - Thurs.: 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.  
Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.  
Saturday: 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

### Homewood Branch

Tues. & Fri. 9:00 a.m. - noon