



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which is appropriate as we have seen an increase in fraud of various varieties. As prices and recession fears rise, criminal activity tends to increase as well. Fortunately, due to our close-knit field of membership we are somewhat sheltered, however the scammers are getting more sophisticated and better at causing panic to trick you into sharing your personal information.

Jumping to another topic, I would wager that for most consumers, our lives are being impacted financially more now than they have since the great recession in 2008. Since then and until earlier this year, we have enjoyed low gas and energy prices, historically low interest rates, low inflation, and we saw our retirement plans that were invested in the stock market have positive returns most every year. The downside of those 14 years was for the retirees that had previously relied on interest income each month. There is always a bright side, so you retirees (of course everyone who has savings) will now begin to see better interest earnings on your savings and CD's! We will always strive to offer our members the best return on their money, while maintaining our sound financial condition. If you want a better rate of return and are not concerned about your money being federally insured, our CU Wealth Management team has some great options for you.

Thank you for being a member of Fort Worth City Credit Union!

**- Ron Fox, President**

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## 3 Reasons to Name Beneficiaries in Financial Accounts

When naming beneficiaries on your banking, retirement, life insurance and other financial accounts, it can be tempting to take a “set it and forget it” approach. But, if you want to ensure your assets go where you want upon your passing, it’s smart to make beneficiary maintenance a recurring “to do” item on your annual financial checklist.

A beneficiary is the person or entity, such as a trust or non-profit, that you designate to receive the assets in your financial accounts when you die. Here’s why you should name beneficiaries on all your financial accounts and regularly review them:

1. Beneficiary designations override a will.
2. It allows you to transfer assets outside of probate, saving your beneficiaries time and money.
3. Circumstances change

If you’ve recently experienced a major life event — or if it’s been a while since you last updated your financial accounts — it’s time to review your financial goals and beneficiary designations. Contact us today!

## Protect Your Identity and Online Privacy

Our IDShield representatives will be on-site on Friday, October 21st, from 9am – 3pm to share with you how their plans work. If you have any questions, contact Daris Frencha at 817-863-2552 or [daris@thebenefitboutique.com](mailto:daris@thebenefitboutique.com). To enroll in IDShield, visit our website at [fwccu.org/additional-benefits](http://fwccu.org/additional-benefits).



### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

#### Columbus Day

Monday, October 10th

#### Veterans Day

Friday, November 11th

#### Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 24th

#### Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th

#### Christmas Day

(observed)

Monday, December 26th

#### New Years Day

(observed)

Monday, January 2nd

### Card Services Contact Numbers!

With our system update in May, our card services contact information also changed. Please make a note of the new card services contact information:

Report Card Lost/Stolen: **888-297-3416**  
Activate Card, Manage PIN: **800-290-7893**  
Fraud Center: **800-237-8990**

[fwccu.org/contact-us](http://fwccu.org/contact-us)

# October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

## What to do if your data has been breached

Have you gotten an email warning that your sensitive personal information has been part of a data breach, and is at risk of being sold in the shadowy marketplaces of the dark web? Some emails list the stolen information, like all or part of your Social Security number, date of birth, and driver's license number. If you've gotten one of these data breach notices, it can seem scary and overwhelming. But you're not powerless against it! There are all kinds of ways to keep your data protected. Here are a few steps to take to help protect yourself against financial loss from identity theft.

### **Don't click a link or use a phone number in unexpected texts or emails.**

It could be a "phishing" attempt, designed to trick you into disclosing sensitive information to scammers. If you think the message is legit — for example, if you have a credit monitoring service or a credit card with a company that monitors the dark web — contact the company using a website or phone number that you know is real. Phishing is one of the oldest tricks in the book for cybercriminals but it is just as effective as ever. According to CISCO's 2021 Cybersecurity Threat Trends report, 80% of security incidents and 90% data breaches stem from phishing attempts.

### **Change your passwords to secure your accounts.**

Start by changing the passwords on your email accounts. Email accounts often are the weak link in online security because password resets for other accounts go to your email. If your email account password has become known, then an identity thief can log into your account and intercept your password reset emails.

- Pro tip: When setting up new passwords, consider using a password manager. Free ones are built into most browsers and will automatically create passwords that are hard to guess. Be sure to use different passwords for each account and, if the account offers multifactor authentication, use it for added security.

### **Check your credit reports.**

After securing your accounts, make sure nobody has opened new accounts using your information. Visit [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://AnnualCreditReport.com) to get an annual free credit report from each of the three nationwide credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Through December 2023, you can get a free credit report every week from each of them at the website. If you find an account or transaction you don't recognize, visit [IdentityTheft.gov](https://IdentityTheft.gov) to report the identity theft and get a personal recovery plan.

### **Consider freezing your credit.**

A credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, is free to place and remove and is the best way to protect against an identity thief opening new accounts in your name. Alternatively, place a free fraud alert on your credit to make it more difficult for an identity thief to get new credit in your name.

**Visit [IdentityTheft.gov/databreach](https://IdentityTheft.gov/databreach) for more steps to take, depending on what information was exposed.**



### **Oraldio "Odie" Ozuna, Vice President of Lending**

Odie comes to Fort Worth City Credit Union with three decades of experience in the financial industry. He is a graduate of UT Arlington with a B.S. in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management and Accounting. More recently, he attended the Southwest Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

Over the years, Odie has worked with various organizations including JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Texas Trust Credit Union, and most recently GM Financial. He brings retail and commercial experience to the credit union, as well as construction lending and real estate financing. **Please join us in welcoming Odie to FWCCU!**



## Holiday Shopping is Around the Corner!

The holiday season is a great time to open a Fort Worth Proud Visa Credit Card!

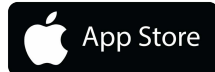
Our Fort Worth Proud Visa Credit Cards are designed to give back to our great city every time you go shopping, while still offering competitive rates and plenty of extra benefits.

Every purchase you make with your Fort Worth Proud Visa Card helps support the local community, as Fort Worth City Credit Union will donate one percent of the interest paid every quarter to Cook Children's Medical Center and the Fort Worth Zoo.

[Apply Now](#)

## Banking At Your Fingertips

Mobile banking made easy. Download the FWCCU mobile app today!



# Saving Money When There's Not Much to Save

Many Americans are struggling financially, living paycheck to paycheck, hoping they have enough to cover all their bills at the end of the month. Life is easier if you have a cash cushion or an emergency fund, but how do you save when there is not much fat in your budget? First, you need to find out where your money is going. Start by tracking all your spending for 30 days. Everything, even a pack of gum, should be noted using any tracking method you prefer – SyncUp, a notebook, your smartphone, a spreadsheet, whatever works best for you. Then categorize each expense. Start with these essentials:

- Rent/mortgage
- Utilities
- Food
- Transportation to get to your job
- Healthcare – prescriptions and co-pays

These five are priorities that must be paid each month. Everything else, like clothing, cosmetics, gym membership, etc., are areas where you can cut back and save a little. Here are a few other saving suggestions:

**Entertainment** – Look for low-cost ways to have fun.

- If you have a streaming service, discontinue it for a few months. For example, a service that costs \$25.00 per month means you're spending \$300 per year – that's a month's worth of groceries.
- Get a library card to check out movies and video games instead of renting them.
- Listen to podcasts. There are over a million to choose from on all subjects.
- Learn a new language or start a new hobby. Here again, the library can be your friend by providing free resources.

**Food** – Try to spend no more than 11% of your take-home pay on food.

- Shop for generic store brands instead of name-brand items. Many generic versions can be up to 60% cheaper.
- Use coupons and download your grocery store's app for more deals. Consider using the curbside pickup option instead of shopping in-store to help you better plan ahead and stick to a list and budget.
- Buy fruit and vegetables in their natural form. Washed and pre-cut vegetables can be twice as expensive. Give meal-prep a try, as packaged and frozen food is also more expensive.
- Buy only what you know you can eat in a week or two to avoid throwing away food. Use free meal-planning apps to help you shop.
- Make at least 75% your own meals instead of ordering from restaurants, and when you do, always pick up your meals to avoid paying delivery fees and tips.

**Energy bills** – Changing habits can save you big money.

- Use an air fryer, slow cooker, toaster oven, or other small appliances instead of the oven.
- Wait until the dishwasher when it's full before using it and turn off the heated dry setting.
- Utilize power strips so you can turn off or unplug unused appliances to avoid phantom loads.
- Switch out incandescent light bulbs for LED bulbs, and turn off lights when you leave a room.

**Stop Paying Fees** – Missing payment due date comes with a heavy price.

- To avoid late fees and protect your credit score, set up automatic payments on your bills and credit cards to pay at least the minimum payment by the due date.
- If you can't pay your bill in full each month, contact your biller to get on a payment plan or change your due date.
- If your credit card has a high interest rate, look for one with a lower interest rate and transfer any existing balance. Check out Fort Worth City Credit Union's Fort Worth Proud VISA credit card rates.
- Look at your accounts and see if you're paying fees - if you are, figure out why and if there's a way to avoid it. If not, research other options.

By cutting costs even just a little and putting those savings into an account, you will be able to pay bills with less worry and maybe even have a little left over for something special.

## LET'S GET SOCIAL!

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@Fort.Worth.City.Credit.Union

Federally Insured by

**NCUA**



Federal law requires that we disclose how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Fort Worth City Credit Union values our members and your privacy. We want you to understand how we use the information you provide and our commitment to ensuring your personal privacy. Our privacy policy has not changed, and you may review our privacy policy practices online at [fwccu.org/disclosures](http://fwccu.org/disclosures) or you may request a free paper copy at any time at any of our locations or by contacting us at (817) 732-2803.

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