

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

HEART OF LOUISIANA CREDIT UNION NEWSLETTER | FALL 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This time of year brings cooler weather, colorful leaves, and, for those of us in Louisiana, the heightened awareness that comes with hurricane season. While we can't control the storms, we can certainly prepare for them—and that's where we come in.

We're here to help you stay financially ready for anything life throws your way. Building an emergency fund is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family, and we're here to offer support and resources to help you get started. In times of emergencies, access to your finances is crucial. Our digital services are available to make sure you can manage your money easily and securely, even when you can't make it to a branch.

I'm also excited to share that we're currently offering rates as low as 5.9% on loans for boats, trailers, RVs, and ATVs this season! If you're thinking about hitting the water, exploring the open road, or getting off the beaten path, now is the perfect time to finance your next adventure.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming auto loan campaign! If you're in the market for a new or used vehicle, stay tuned for more details on rates and special offers that could make your next car purchase easier and more affordable.

Take care and stay safe,

Cindy Beaugard
Cindy Beaugard, CEO



The Importance of Building Your Financial Safety Net

Life is full of surprises—some good, some not so good. Whether it's an unexpected medical bill, car repair, or sudden job loss, having an emergency fund can be a lifesaver. An emergency fund is a crucial part of any solid financial plan, providing a cushion that can help you navigate financial challenges without going into debt or compromising your long-term goals.

Why You Need an Emergency Fund

An emergency fund is essentially a safety net designed to cover unexpected expenses. Without it, many people resort to high-interest credit cards or loans to cover emergencies, which can lead to a cycle of debt that's hard to break. A well-funded emergency account provides peace of mind, knowing that you can handle life's unexpected twists without financial stress.

How Much Should You Save?

The general rule of thumb is to have three to six months' worth of living expenses set aside in your emergency fund. This amount should cover essential expenses like rent or mortgage, utilities, groceries, insurance, and transportation. However, the exact amount may vary based on your lifestyle, family size, and personal comfort level. If you're just starting out, aim for at least \$1,000 as a starter emergency fund and build from there.

Where Should You Keep Your Emergency Fund?

Accessibility is key when it comes to an emergency fund. Consider keeping your funds in a savings account that allows easy access while earning some interest. At Heart of Louisiana Credit Union, we offer competitive savings accounts that provide both safety and growth for your emergency fund.

Tips for Building Your Emergency Fund

1. Start Small and Be Consistent: If saving three to six months' worth of expenses sounds overwhelming, start with smaller, more manageable goals. Commit to saving a certain amount each month, even if it's just \$25 or \$50. Over time, these small amounts will add up.

Continued on back...

SAVE THE DATE

2025 ANNUAL MEETING

March 18, 2025



The Importance of Building Your Financial Safety Net continued from front...

2. Automate Your Savings: Set up automatic transfers from your checking account to your savings account to make saving effortless. This way, you're consistently building your fund without having to think about it.

3. Cut Unnecessary Expenses: Review your budget to identify areas where you can cut back and redirect that money into your emergency fund. Even small changes, like dining out less or canceling unused subscriptions, can make a difference.

4. Use Windfalls Wisely: Consider putting tax refunds, work bonuses, or any unexpected windfalls directly into your emergency fund. These lump sums can significantly boost your savings.

5. Review and Reassess Regularly: Life changes, and so do your financial needs. Revisit your emergency fund periodically to ensure it still aligns with your expenses and financial goals.

When to Use Your Emergency Fund

It can be tempting to dip into your emergency fund for non-emergencies, but it's essential to use it only for true emergencies—unexpected expenses that are urgent, necessary, and unavoidable. This helps preserve the fund for when you genuinely need it.

A Safety Net for Life's Ups and Downs

Having an emergency fund is one of the smartest financial moves you can make. It provides a sense of security, reduces stress, and allows you to handle unforeseen expenses without derailing your financial plans. At Heart of Louisiana Credit Union, we're here to help you build that safety net. Reach out to us today to learn more about our savings options and how we can help you achieve your financial goals.

For more tips on building financial security, visit our website or contact your local branch. We're always here to help you on your journey to financial wellness!

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

OCT 14 COLUMBUS DAY	NOV 11 VETERANS DAY	NOV 28 THANKSGIVING	NOV 29 DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING	NOV 30 SATURDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING	DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY	JAN 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
----------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	--	---	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Board Elections

The Nominating Committee nominated the following members to fill three available Board of Director positions for a three-year term:

- Ms. Nelleanne Davis
- Mr. Scott Pousson
- Mr. Ervin Norwood

At this time, any qualified member seeking nomination must participate through the petition process and will have until December 6, 2024, to secure 171 member signatures on the petition.

Each nominee by petition must submit a statement of qualifications and biographical data with the signed petition to Board Secretary, Heart of Louisiana Credit Union, PO Box 4030, Pineville, LA 71361.

Any nominations by petition will be published in the next quarterly newsletter.

Heart of Louisiana CREDIT UNION

RATES AS LOW AS **5.9%** APR

YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

BOATS, TRAILERS, ATVs, & RVs • AFFORDABLE LOANS FOR ALL YOUR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Actual member, Eddie

Heart of Louisiana CREDIT UNION

APPLICATION NOW OPEN

SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

HEARTCU.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP

Heart of Louisiana CREDIT UNION

318.473.4562
heartcu.org

NCUA MEMBER SINCE 1966

Edgewood (Pineville)
303 Edgewood Dr
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday
9:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Saturday
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Coliseum (Alexandria)
4407 Coliseum Blvd
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday
9:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Saturday
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Commerce (Alexandria)
3616 Commerce St
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday
9:00 AM to 5:30 PM
Saturday
Closed

Avoyelles (Marksville)
348 Center St
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday
Closed
Saturday
Closed

Member Care Center
Monday - Thursday
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Friday
8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturday
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM