

Quarterly Newsletter

from Brewer Federal Credit Union

President's Corner

Happy New Year from Brewer Federal Credit Union. With all that has been happening the last couple of years, it seems refreshing to start a new year with hopes that 2022 will be amazing.

As you know, Brewer FCU was approved for an expansion in 2021 and in October we began to welcome new members from Hancock and Waldo Counties. As always, we remain dedicated to all of our members and available to be your partner in your financial success.

Please reach out with any issues you have regarding your Brewer FCU accounts. Call us at (207) 989-7240, email us at memberservices@brewerfcu.org, or stop by either of our conveniently located branches. And, remember, you have access to your accounts all day, every day via our online account and mobile app.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Dave DeFroschia
 CEO



BREWER
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Digital Wallets

Digital wallets, or e-wallets, allow you to make payments electronically and instantly with your mobile phone or other connected device. Download your digital wallet app depending on your device's requirements. You'll enter your card info once, and you're ready to go!

To make a mobile payment, simply open your digital wallet app and select your Brewer FCU credit or debit card, holding your device up to the reader—just like tapping to pay, but all your cards secured and in one place. Digital wallets can also hold:

- Hotel reservations
- Concert tickets
- Gift cards
- Coupons
- Loyalty rewards cards

Digital wallets are not only convenient but also safer than carrying around your physical cards. No more fishing in your purse or wallet at the checkout! Load your Brewer FCU debit and credit cards and safely make in-person or online purchases with ease.



Make the Most of President's Day Deals!

All holidays have something they are known for. Christmas has trees and lights, Hanukkah has menorahs, and Valentine's Day has conversation hearts. But what comes to mind when talking about President's Day? While often underappreciated (other than the welcome day off for some of us), President's

Day is a great time to buy a car!

Dealers everywhere offer great sales on both new and used cars on this day, and with the day off from work, it's a great time to go shopping!

A great way to make the buying process easier is to get preapproved for an auto loan at Brewer FCU.

Known for our low rates on auto loans, we can simplify the process even more by offering online loan applications. President's Day is February 15, so visit Brewer FCU online or in-person and get ready to enjoy your new car smell!



Mobile Payment App Scams

Mobile payment apps are becoming increasingly popular across all demographics. The apps provide a quick way to send or receive money and are linked to either a card or financial institution account. While mobile payment apps can be used as an alternative to credit or debit cards, many apps like Venmo, Zelle, or Cash App are used to send money to friends or family members. With the increase in popularity among peers, fraudsters are taking advantage of users with transfer and request scams. Here is what to watch out for:



An "Accidental" Transfer

In this scam attempt, a fraudster will send you a message on your mobile payment app. It will read something along the lines of, "Uh-oh! I didn't mean to send you that. Can you please send the money back?" After checking your account, you'll see that you now have money you weren't expecting—maybe even thousands of dollars. They surely made a mistake and meant to send the money to someone else, right? Wrong. The scammer likely sent you the money using a stolen credit card. After sending, they remove the stolen card's information from the mobile payment app and link their own card details or account information to it instead. When you send the money back, the scammer immediately withdraws the funds.

In the meantime, the victim whose credit card details were stolen contacts their provider. After the card is blocked and charges are reversed, the money is removed from your account. This means you sent away potentially thousands of dollars and your money is gone.

If you receive a message from someone who claims to have sent you money accidentally, contact the mobile payment app's support team. Explain that you received money you didn't request and that you're concerned about fraud. Instead of engaging with the sender, let the app's support team handle the situation.

An Unexpected Request

Much like an unexpected transfer, unexpected requests can be something to watch out for. Fraudsters sometimes use the tactic of impersonating a friend or family member to request payments. They will create a profile using the photo of someone close to you. Additionally, they will create a username very similar to that of the person they're spoofing—often by simply adding a number or removing a letter. At a quick glance, the profiles can be very convincing. The request may be accompanied by a message offering an explanation. For example, it could read, "Ugh, my job messed up payroll and I need to pay rent! Can you cover for me? I'll pay you back after I get my paycheck." Because of the convincing profile and your willingness to help, maybe you will send the money over. After doing that, the scammer immediately withdraws the funds and deletes the profile. Unfortunately, you may not be able to get that money back. You can report the charge to the mobile payment app's support team, but there is no guarantee you will be refunded for falling victim to fraud while using their service.

If someone you know (or think you know) sends you a money request on a mobile payment app, call or text them to confirm their request. If you can't get in contact with them, go to their profile to view their transaction history and information. That information may help you spot anything suspicious. To be safe though, simply wait until you're able to connect with them before sending any money.

Being aware of common mobile payment app scams is one of the best ways to avoid them. It's anticipated that these apps will continue to play a prominent role in the payment space, so it's important to stay up to date on popular fraud tactics to protect your finances. The Federal Trade Commission maintains a list of scams and how to avoid them.

Club Accounts — Are You Ready for 2022?

Brewer FCU offers you many ways to save, including club accounts. You can open your club account for as little as one penny! Using automatic payroll deductions, you can save without even thinking about it. We will automatically deduct from your direct deposited paycheck with the amount you have selected and put it into your club account. Watch your savings grow with your community credit union!

Credit Union Hours

Lobby and Drive-Thru

Monday–Wednesday

8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Thursday and Friday

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Saturday

8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Saturday hours offered at
77 North Main Street only

Office Locations

77 North Main Street · Brewer

p: 207.989.7240

f: 207.989.7857

229 Dirigo Drive · Brewer

p: 207.989.7240

f: 207.989.5985

Mailing Address

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brewerfcu.org

Holiday Closings

Martin Luther King, J. Day
Monday, January 17

President's Day
Monday, February 21

