

# MyCreditUnionNEWS

Community 1st Credit Union &  
Generations, a Division of C1CU  
Quarterly Newsletter  
[www.myc1cu.com](http://www.myc1cu.com)

## FALL 2023



## Celebrating 2023 International Credit Union Day

We are excited to announce a week of celebrations and initiatives in honor of International Credit Union (ICU) Day 2023. C1CU is joining credit unions worldwide to highlight the credit union movement and its dedication to the community, culminating on October 19 with special member events.

A central feature of this celebration is the "Socktober" Sock Donation Drive. Throughout the week, members and visitors can drop off new socks at any C1CU branch. Each branch will showcase bins uniquely decorated by their dedicated staff, and these socks will be donated to charities within each branch's community.

Internally, C1CU staff is getting into the spirit of the celebration by participating in a friendly competition. They will submit pictures of their creatively decorated sock donation bins, and a winner will be selected for a special prize.

The festivities peak on ICU Day, October 19, when members are invited to any C1CU branch between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Here they can enjoy complimentary snacks, beverages, and a free giveaway item. Additionally, the first 25 members at each branch will receive an exclusive International Credit Union Day 2023 Non-Woven Shopper Tote Bag.

In addition to these events, C1CU remains dedicated to the education and empowerment of its members. An array of financial literacy articles and credit union education resources will be posted each day during the week of October 19 at [MyC1CU.com/ICU2023](http://MyC1CU.com/ICU2023). These will cover a range of topics from the history of credit unions and The Credit Union Difference to the story of Community 1st Credit Union itself, and practical tools like assistance with budgeting.

C1CU encourages everyone to get involved, whether it's donating socks, visiting a branch to partake in the celebrations, or enhancing one's financial literacy through online resources.

For more information about Community 1st Credit Union's celebration of International Credit Union Day 2023, please visit [MyC1CU.com/ICU2023](http://MyC1CU.com/ICU2023).

## 98 Years of C1CU: Honoring Legacy and Fostering the Future

The 98th Annual Meeting of Community 1st Credit Union was a big success, filled with exciting updates and plans for the future. Led by the Board Chairman, Frank Worden, the event celebrated the many ways the credit union has grown and helped its community.

One special moment was honoring Larry Williams, who has been a dedicated volunteer for the credit union since 1973. His many years of service on the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Committee exemplify what it means to be truly committed to helping others.

Mr. Worden encouraged others to follow Mr. Williams' example by volunteering. He shared great news for students too; the annual scholarships for high school seniors have gone up to \$2,500 each! It's easy to apply for them on the credit union's website or at [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com).

The credit union is succeeding financially. In 2022, they earned a net income of almost \$788,000 and their total assets grew to \$223 million. (Continued on page 3.)

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Credit Union  
Day 2023

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## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Mon, Oct 9th  
Indigenous  
Peoples' Day

Thur, Nov 23rd  
Thanksgiving

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tue, Oct 31st  
Halloween

Sun, Nov 5th  
Daylight Saving  
(End)



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# A THE SCAM AWARENESS GUIDE



## BEWARE AND BE AWARE.

Your guide to avoiding Romance, Lottery, and Gift Card Scams.

## Love or Lies? Navigating the World of Romance Scams



The age of online dating and social media has brought people closer than ever before. For all the love stories these platforms help create, they also give rise to bad activities like romance scams. Let's delve into what a romance scam is and how you can protect yourself.

### What is a Romance Scam?

Imagine this: You meet someone on a dating app who seems like your dream partner. You quickly move your conversations from the dating app to email, phone calls, or private messaging. This person claims to be in love with you but always has a reason they can't meet in person—perhaps they are overseas for work, or in the military. Just when you feel like the relationship is blossoming, they ask for money. Whether it's a plane ticket to visit you, medical emergencies, or other "urgent" needs, the requests for financial help start coming.

Scammers create fictitious profiles on dating apps or social media sites, aim to build trust by talking or messaging you several times a day, and then start asking for money. According to reports, losses to romance scams were a staggering \$547 million in 2021, an 80% increase from 2020. Payment methods often include gift cards or even cryptocurrencies, which can be difficult to trace or recover.

### The Red Flags

Romance scammers are crafty and tailor their stories to suit individual circumstances. Here are some warning signs:

- **Inability to Meet:** Scammers will often say they're working or living abroad, or perhaps involved in specialized jobs like oil drilling or international humanitarian work.
- **Requests for Money:** Once they sense that you trust them, scammers will request money for various reasons like medical emergencies, visas, or travel costs. They may even suggest you invest in cryptocurrencies.
- **Immediate Payment Methods:** Scammers want your money fast and untraceable. They'll often ask you to wire money through services like Western Union, or to load money onto gift cards and provide them with the PINs.

### Protecting Yourself

Here's the golden rule: Never send money or gifts to someone you haven't met in person. If you're concerned you might be a target of a romance scam:

- **Stop all communication:** Immediately cease talking to the person.
- **Seek Trusted Opinions:** Talk to family and friends about your online relationship; they can provide a less emotionally involved perspective. Listen to them.
- **Online Research:** Search for the profile or job details of the person you're in touch with to see if others have reported similar experiences.
- **Reverse Image Search:** Look for their profile image on other social media sites. If you find discrepancies or multiple profiles, it's likely a scam.

### Reporting Scams

If you've fallen victim to a scam, contact one of our branch associates and the platform where you met the scammer. You can also report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).



[www.generationscreditunion.com](https://www.generationscreditunion.com)



360.357.5660



[Olympia.Member.Services@myc1cu.com](mailto:Olympia.Member.Services@myc1cu.com)

# SHARING SCAM STORIES

TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

At Community 1st Credit Union, we take the financial well-being of our members seriously. Scams are an unfortunate reality in today's world, and the best defense is a well-informed community. That's why we're launching a new initiative: "Sharing Scam Stories to Protect Our Community."

### The Importance of Real-World Stories

We can provide guidelines, checklists, and expert advice, but sometimes there's nothing as impactful as a real-life story from someone who's been there. Knowing how a scam unfolded for a fellow member can help you see what to look out for, how to react, and what steps to take if you find yourself in a similar situation.

### People Helping People

This initiative is all about the collective power of our community. Together, we can look out for each other, share wisdom, and provide the kind of real-world education that makes us all more resilient against scams and fraud. It embodies the true essence of "people helping people," a cornerstone of our credit union's mission.

### How to Share Your Story

If you've been the victim of a scam, we encourage you to share your story. Personal stories may be submitted anonymously to [marketing@myc1cu.com](mailto:marketing@myc1cu.com). All stories will be reviewed, and potentially shared with our community, with all identifying details removed to ensure your privacy.

### What Your Stories Can Do

- **Educate:** Your experience can serve as a cautionary tale, helping others recognize the signs of a scam before it's too late.
- **Offer New Perspectives:** Scams come in all shapes and sizes. Each new story offers a different angle, adding layers to our collective understanding.
- **Strengthen Bonds:** Sharing a difficult experience can foster a greater sense of community, showing that we're all in this together.
- **Prompt Action:** Real-world stories can spur others to take protective steps, such as updating security settings or talking with loved ones about scams.

### Our Role in Your Protection

At Community 1st Credit Union, we remain committed to keeping your accounts and personal information secure. We offer various educational resources and hold regular informational sessions to keep you up-to-date with the latest scam prevention methods.

However, even the best security protocols can't replace the vigilance of an informed membership. That's where you come in. By sharing your story, you become an essential part of our community's defense against scams.

### Share to Care

So, if you've been impacted by a scam, think about contributing your experience to our initiative. Your cautionary tale could very well prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

In conclusion, your voice has power; let's use it to protect each other. If you ever have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're here not only to safeguard your money but also to empower you with the knowledge to keep it secure. Together, we can build a scam-resistant community.

## 98 Years of C1CU (cont.)

The President and CEO, Dan LeFree, spoke about new improvements, including becoming part of the Co-OP shared branch network to offer better services to all members.

Looking to the future, everyone is excited for the 100th Annual Meeting. Alan Walker, from the Nominating Committee, shared the results of the recent election of board and committee members, solidifying the strong leadership at the credit union.

Community 1st is more than a bank; it's a place where community comes first. It's all about working together, supporting each other, and building a stronger community.

Everyone is eagerly looking forward to the upcoming 99th and especially the 100th Annual Meeting, expecting them to be wonderful celebrations.

Thank you for being a part of the Community 1st Credit Union family. To stay in the loop, please visit the credit union's website.

### MEET COLE MCGUIRE: NORTH THURSTON HIGH ALUM AND PROUD C1CU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Cole McGuire

It is our pleasure to announce that Cole McGuire has been awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 from Community 1st Credit Union and Generations, a Division of Community 1st.

Cole graduated from North Thurston High School in June 2023 and plans to attend Centralia Community College this Fall. When Cole isn't prepping for college life and working at Dutch Brothers, he enjoys playing baseball, playing games and spending time with his friends.

In a letter of reference for Cole, J. Truschel said "I have been very impressed with Cole's maturity and commitment to his future. I am certain that he will continue to strive for success and will be very deserving and appreciative of any assistance he can receive to further his goals." Best of luck in your future endeavors Cole! You got this!



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