



1ST EDITION

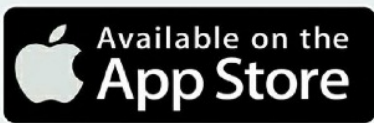
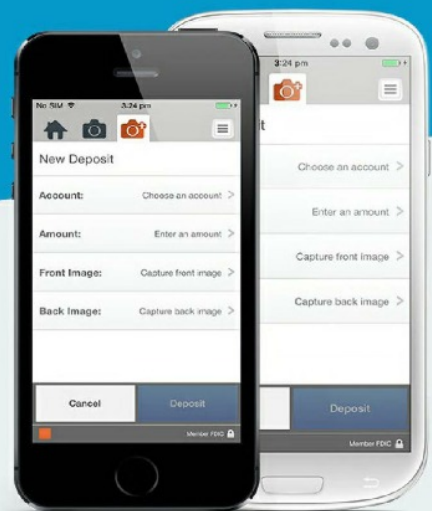
Fall 2016

A Newsletter for Shareholders of 1ST Gateway Credit Union



we know **YOU'RE BUSY**
why **NOT SAVE** a TRIP
to the **BRANCH?**

Save time and gas by easily depositing your checks wherever you may be. Now you can make a quick and secure deposit of your checks with our Mobile Banking App.



SEARCH FOR 1ST GATEWAY CREDIT UNION

Camanche Clinton DeWitt Fulton Morrison

www.1stgateway.org

International Credit Union Day Thursday, October 20, 2016

International Credit Union Day (ICU Day) has been celebrated on the third Thursday of October since 1948. The day is recognized to reflect upon the credit union movement's history and to promote its achievements. It is a day to honor those who have dedicated their lives to the movement, recognize the hard work of those working in the credit union industry and show members our appreciation.



Join us in the celebration by visiting any of our five 1st Gateway Credit Union locations for a free lunch from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Thursday, October 20th
International Credit Union Day
(Free lunch at all branches)

Friday, November 11th
Closed for Veterans' Day

Thursday, November 24th
Closed for Thanksgiving

Monday, December 26th
Closed for Christmas

Monday, January 2nd
Closed for New Years

Monday, January 16th
Closed for Martin Luther King Day



We are proud to have won back to back "Best Credit Union" by the readers of the *Clinton Herald*. Thanks to everyone for voting for us!

Is Fall the Best Time to Buy a House?

Sometimes it's smarter to buy certain items according to the season, like sweaters near the end of winter and swimsuits in late summer. But what's the best season for buying a house?

The answer is the fall. As temperatures cool and trees shed their leaves, enough factors break in the buyer's favor to make it the No. 1 [season for homebuying](#). Here's why.

Less competition

Many homebuyers are families who want to minimize a move's effect on their kids' schooling. They want them to start at a new school on the first day, not midyear. And so if their spring and summer searching didn't work out, they might well wait for the next go-round. This means fewer buyers bidding on the same houses you're interested in and more negotiating power when you do.

Of course, this works both ways: Sellers might not want to uproot their families in the middle of the school year either. But while this brings housing inventory down, you might just find it easier to focus and pinpoint exactly what you really want in a home.

Sellers are more motivated

Spring and summer are the high seasons for homebuying: Days are longer, the weather's nice, and open houses are well-attended. And that means sellers can sit back and be a bit choosier with offers.

But as Labor Day recedes in the rearview mirror, sellers start to wriggle in their seats. The prospect of trying to sell during the holiday season or, more likely, waiting until the next year, is dispiriting. And so these sellers can become, in a sense, settlers — willing to reduce their prices and conditions. There is some variation by region, but overall in the U.S., [prices have peaked](#) by the end of August.

Buyers can use this increased motivation to their advantage, offering less and asking for more during negotiations.

Taxes and discounts

Buying a home costs a lot of money but comes with good tax breaks as well. The IRS allows deductions for the interest you pay on your mortgage, on the premiums you might pay for mortgage insurance, on property taxes and more, including some of these that went into your closing costs. Buying a home in the fall means seeing those tax breaks sooner, the following April.

Also, much like those motivated sellers, many homebuilders discount their inventories during this time of year to help them meet year-end sales goals.

The decision to buy requires serious consideration of where you are in life, what your goals are and [how much you can afford](#). But if you are indeed ready, buying during the fall can be a good call. Just try to find time in between football games.

What you should know when traveling with your credit and debit cards

Before you go:

- Inform financials of your travel dates and countries you will be visiting.
- Some ATMs will take funds only from checking accounts - not savings - so make sure your checking account balance is high enough before you go. (or vice versa)
- Bring at least one credit card and one debit card, ideally with a Visa or MasterCard logo.
- Make sure you know your PIN number for all of your cards, even your credit card. Request a new PIN if you don't know it (allow time for the credit card company to mail it to you).
- Take copies of your cards should they be lost/stolen.
- If traveling out of the country take a copy of passport and driver's license with you in the case of theft.
- Sign up for online banking for all of your accounts so that you can check balances while traveling.

When making a withdrawal:

- Try to use ATMs at banks during banking hours. If there's a problem, someone in the bank can probably help.
- Avoid non-bank ATMs. "Independent" ATMs charge outrageous fees.
- Grab your cash and card quickly; some ATMs suck back the cash after 30 seconds.
- Take out large amounts at one time to avoid frequent ATM trips and repeated withdrawal fees.
- Don't use your credit card to withdraw cash unless it's an emergency; you'll be charged a high cash-advance interest rate.
- When traveling and making a purchase at a merchant, it is beneficial to use your pin as a debit transaction the first few times you use the card. This lowers fraud fighting indicators and could help to avoid having a block placed on the card until purchases can be verified.

If your card doesn't work:

- Try a different ATM. (Do not re-enter your PIN if the ATM eats your card).
- Try a lower amount; the ATM may have a withdrawal limit.
- Try later. Your card's 24-hour withdrawal maximum is based on US time, or the bank's network may be temporarily down.

Have different types of payment options:

- Take cash, debit, credit and prepaid cards.
- If you have more than one card, bring both should an account be blocked.
- Do not keep cards together. Should your wallet be stolen all means of payment are gone.

The summer of 2016 has flown by!



Camanche Party in the Park



DeWitt 4th of July Parade



Credit Union Night with the Lumberkings



Camanche Days Parade



Camanche Days Bingo



See the new look of our van out in the Gateway area!

New Horizons Bus Trip November 16th



Our next bus trip for the New Horizons Club will be on Wednesday, November 16th to see Circa 21's "Holly Jolly Christmas". Tickets for New Horizon members are just \$50 and includes transportation, the pre-show performance, lunch, and ticket to the show.

To purchase your tickets please contact Lisa Steines or Brett Cornish at the Camanche branch at 243-4121

1st Gateway Named a 5-Star Credit Union



1st Gateway Credit Union is honored to announce it has earned BAUERFINANCIAL Inc.'s highest 5-Star Superior rating. A 5-Star rating indicates that 1st Gateway Credit Union is one of the strongest credit unions in the nation, excelling in such areas as capital, loan quality, profitability and much more.

5 Financial Tips for Fall

Fall means dreams of pumpkin spice lattes, turkey dinners and a cozy holiday season just around the corner. Here are five ways to make sure you're financially well-equipped for the last stretch of the year.

1. Tackle back-to-school shopping wisely

Whether you're shopping for your kids or yourself, approaching back-to-school sales with a clear focus can ensure you're spending on the right things.

It might be tempting to buy something just because it's on sale. To guard against impulse buys, make a list of what you need, not what you want. Set a budget and stick to it. If you must make large purchases such as laptops, look for reliable models that should last through several school years.



2. Winterize your home: Save energy, save cash

As temperatures drop, home heating bills rise. But properly sealing and insulating a house can save an average of about 11% a year on energy costs, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Keep your expenses to a minimum by sealing gaps and cracks in windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk. Clean and inspect your furnace to ensure it's running as efficiently as possible. Also consider increasing your insulation. Though your wallet will take a hit for the season, you'll probably get more than your money's worth in a few years.

3. Start your holiday gift hunt

We all know that the sale to beat all sales — Black Friday — comes on the heels of Thanksgiving. But don't forget about the little guys: Labor Day, Columbus Day and Veterans Day usually mean smaller but still significant discounts. As the year winds toward its close, expect sales on appliances, cookware, clothing and electronics. Beat the winter rush and get started on your holiday shopping.

4. Traveling in December? Book your trip now

If you're flying for the holidays, now is the time to book if you haven't already. Follow your favorite airlines on Twitter or Facebook, or sign up for their email announcements for deals. This is also a great time to cash in your travel credit card miles, especially if your earned perks are due to expire at the end of the year.

5. Check your flexible spending account balance

If you've been putting money aside in a health care flexible spending account, or FSA, make sure you spend it before your money effectively disappears at year's end. Book yourself a dentist or eye appointment, or get an annual physical.

And check with your company to see whether there's any wiggle room. Your employer might allow you to roll over up to \$500 to the next year or give you a few months' grace period.

With a little planning in the fall, you can save enough money to get through the long (and often pricey) holiday season that's just ahead.

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Would you Like An Early Payday?

If you have direct deposit set up at 1ST Gateway Credit Union you may get paid up to two days early!**



This great feature is called **EARLY PAY CHECKING**. Early Pay Checking is provided automatically to all our members who have a direct deposit payment going into their checking account!

*Must have direct deposit of payroll into a 1ST Gateway checking account to qualify. Early Pay Checking offers immediate credit of your direct deposit of net pay to your 1ST Gateway Checking account up to two (2) days early based upon when we receive your payroll from your employer or government agency. 1ST Gateway cannot assume any liability for not depositing these funds to your account early.

NEW CARDMEMBER EXCLUSIVE OFFER!



PROMOTIONS AVAILABLE

for new 1st Gateway ATIRAcREDIT MasterCard cardmembers!

Visit www.ATIRAcREDIT.com/1stGateway499 for more information including terms and conditions.

- Quarterly Statistics -

August 2016 August 2015

Total Assets	\$129,889,637	\$121,162,556
Total Loans	\$110,416,213	\$102,928,719
Total Deposits	\$106,546,362	\$101,298,510
Total Reserves	\$13,993,902	\$12,566,728