

Money Management For Members

All members have access to our new website feature Money Management. Valuable information like Personal Finance, Consumer Tips, Money Basics and more provide learning tools for members to sharpen their Money Management skills.

Visit firstfedcu.com/money-management and explore the topics that will help you manage your money!



Employee Spotlight Krista Swyers

Krista recently celebrated her 25th Anniversary with First Federal!

Hometown:
Born and raised in Cedar Rapids

Education:
Graduated from Prairie High School and much on-the-job learning since starting as a Member Service Representative and then working as a Personal Banker here at FFCU

Work:
After High School I worked for a short time at Buresh Rentals before being fortunate to be hired with FFCU in 1999 where I've had the pleasure of working for 25 years, and have enjoyed my role as a Personal Banker and the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people

Family:
Married my junior high sweetheart, Jake, in 2002 and we have two wonderful teenage sons, Jack (18) and Jonny (16)

Things I Like to Do
In addition to spending time with family and friends I enjoy running, reading, cooking and baking and anything summertime!

Spencer Eco-Branch Now Open!

"We're very pleased to announce the opening of our latest office", said Tom Chalstrom, President & CEO of First Federal Credit Union. "Opening a stand-alone office has been in our plans for several years. Our Eco-Branch aims to deploy environmentally friendly features and practices, like solar power, with a focus on digital and online technology." Justin DeFord, Vice President and



Spencer Market Manager, noted, "The Spencer Eco-Branch is an ideal location for our members and is part of First Federal's continued commitment and approach to providing outstanding service and convenience to our members where, when, and how they use our products and services." The Spencer office serves members in Clay, Dickinson, and Buena Vista counties.

Spencer Flood Disaster & Disaster Relief Loans



The community of Spencer and surrounding communities was greatly affected by recent heavy rains and flooding. While our new office was not damaged, we know that there are First Federal members that have suffered significant losses. First Federal sent personal items, supplies, and water to Spencer to assist those that have suffered losses in the recent disaster. Special Disaster Relief Loans with 0% Interest for 120 days are available. See FirstFedCU.com/disaster for details.

Coming Soon: Early Direct Deposit

Do you want to get paid up to two days early? Coming in August, 2024 members with a payroll direct deposit will automatically receive their paycheck up to two days early through Early Direct Deposit! Having early access to your funds allows you to pay your bills ahead of time. This a free service that doesn't require enrollment or activation – it will just happen! Look for more details coming soon.

Money Machine

The First Federal Money Machine has been a big hit at Cedar Rapids Kernels games! Lucky contestants get 30 seconds in the Money Machine to grab as much cash as they can! Stop our on August 1, August 15th and September 5th for your chance at FREE money!



Stay Alert: Protect Against Check Fraud

Check fraud has become increasingly popular among criminals, resulting in billions in losses per year — more than twice what it was five years ago. There are many actions members can take to protect themselves to avoid becoming a victim of check fraud.

1. **Be careful with your mail:** Criminals often steal checks through the mail, either taking them directly out of your mailbox or robbing them from the blue U.S. Post Office mailboxes. If you are mailing a check, it's best to physically take it into the post office.
2. **Keep your checks in a secure location:** When you're not using it, keep your checkbook and checks in a secure location, such as a safe or lockbox.
3. **Don't become an unwitting accomplice:** Be wary of "fast money" offers on social media. Some fraudsters will inundate social media with offers of \$200 or more simply for going into a bank and opening an account. By accepting such an offer, you make yourself an accomplice in an illegal check fraud scheme.
4. **Review your accounts frequently:** Checking your accounts regularly for suspicious activity is a critical step in stopping fraudulent activity and catching criminals who commit check fraud. Report an unauthorized transaction immediately to us to reduce the risk of financial loss.

Scholarship Recipients

Three graduating seniors were recently awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the First Federal Credit Union Foundation. Selected for the 2024 scholarships are graduating high school seniors Bryce Kramer from Xavier High School, Emerson Fleming from Center Point-Urbana High School, and Ty Jensen from Midland Community High School (Wyoming, IA "These outstanding young adults were selected for their scholastic achievements, community involvement, and leadership qualities", stated Mary Lawrence, president of the First Federal Credit Union Foundation. "They each have demonstrated they are worthy of the Foundation's support of their educational goals".

In The Community



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Tom Chalstrom



President & CEO

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I love everything there is about summer! I love the warm – no, I mean hot weather! The early daylight of summer mornings is a perfect way to start the day and I revel in the evening twilight that extends days I don't want to end. Baseball, cookouts, and cold Coca Cola are the perfect ingredients for my summer days. I realize that not everyone shares the same sentiments; employees groan when they hear me announce it's a beautiful 90 degrees! Even within my own household there is a different perspective of summer weather! The same goes for the products and services we provide our members. There are some members that think the perfect product is the highest rate on a 12-month certificate while another member thinks the most competitive thing we do is offer a free checking account that earns rewards and doesn't require a minimum balance. Some members use our mobile app on a daily basis while others are still using telephone banking because that is what is convenient for them. Regardless, our employees acknowledge that each member is different: each has their own personal preferences and tastes, and it is important to tailor recommendations, advice and assistance to meet our members' individual needs. Our hot take is that we work hard to make sure our members have the right product that fits their needs – no matter the temperature or the season!

As always, stop in and say hi, introduce yourself or even comment on what you want First Federal to do for you!

