

Tri-CU was proud to sponsor some great community and charity fundraising events this past summer, including the County Fair Diaper Derby, and the See3Slam!



### ACH "Direct Deposit" Early Pay: Coming Soon!

Don't want to wait 1-3 extra days for a "pending" paycheck or Social Security deposit to hit your Tri-CU account? In the coming months we will offer a new online banking feature, allowing you to get instant credit on these, so you don't have to wait days for them to post. Sign up for online banking to take advantage of this new "Early Pay" feature as soon as it is launched. (Note: There will be a nominal fee for Early Pay deposit postings).

### FEE ALERT: Loan Payments using "other bank" VISA cards?

Due to high costs from our card processing company, making loan payments with a "different bank" card will incur an \$8 processing fee, beginning October 2024 (note: this fee is less than others charge). In addition, the loan payment link on our www.tri-cu.com public website will be discontinued, while we seek a new (less expensive) card processing company.

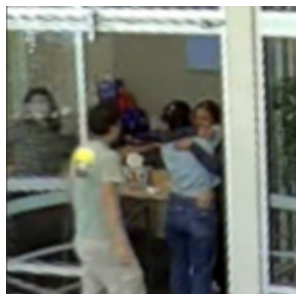


**KEEP IT FREE!** You can set up a free recurring "ACH external transfer" loan payment from inside our online banking, or with your other bank (setup takes a few days to verify). You can still make your loan payment with a check (by mail, in our lobby, or with the night drop), or by cash. Of course, if you have your paychecks deposited into your Tri-CU account it is always free (easy and automatic) to make your loan payments. We offer free checking and bill-pay, and would love all your business!

### Tri-CU Foils Kidnap Scam

Did you see us on TV a few weeks ago? We had a distraught Hispanic mother come into our lobby to withdraw all her money to pay a ransom, claiming her daughter had been kidnapped. Sindy (our Mortgage Manager) instantly recognized the scam, which had happened at Gesa, just a few days before. We assured her it was fraud, and helped reunite the family, while preventing her from losing thousands of dollars to a scam.

The fraudsters appear to have hacked her cell phone (there was a Life360 app data breach in June), which allowed them to track her location in "real time," and obtain her personal address and contacts list. Beware fraudsters: when in doubt, ask us!



# TRI-CU CREDIT UNION

Fall Newsletter (October 2024)

## Don't be the next Victim

Not sure if something is a scam? If they claim to be the IRS, SSA, Microsoft, or a computer technician... and want access to your computer, your account information, or to be paid with GIFT CARDS, bitcoin, or a cash-transfer phone app... It is FRAUD.



Don't give out your personal information and don't let strangers connect to your computer. If you suspect you were recently scammed, contact us immediately, so we can help lock down your accounts immediately, to protect your money!

YES, we have that!



That's what friends are for

We are proud to \*still\* be the only local financial institution that has **eliminated all NSF Return fees**, and we did it years ago! We also reduced overdraft fees to only \$10 (instead of \$30). That's what friends are for.



## Reasonable Mortgage Refinances



The Federal Reserve kept rates historically high for a couple years now, trying to slow down red-hot inflation caused by government overspending and Covid lockdown supply-chain issues. This resulted in high loan rates, which reduced consumer buying power, and then stymied business growth, which eventually slowed down the economy for us all. This is where we find ourselves now, which is why the FED is lowering rates again, finally! Is that good or bad? Well, it depends, but it does mean loans will get less expensive (and that IS good).

As interest rates likely continue to drop over the coming months and years, car and home loans will become more affordable. If you got stuck with a high-priced mortgage, you might **significantly** decrease your monthly payment with a refinance at a lower rate!

When shopping around for better mortgage rates, be sure and compare “apples to apples,” so you don’t get a rotten deal. For example: Compare the APR (not just the interest rate), which includes the cost of extra fees which some lenders charge. Also, compare the APR without any “points” factored in (fees which “buy down” to a lower rate). Competitive financing will usually keep the Origination Fee at about 1%, and some lenders may waive some costs, like the appraisal (YES, Tri-CU can sometimes waive both, but some restrictions apply).

Refinancing can increase your mortgage balance by \$10k or more, so wait until rates are considerably better than what you have now, especially if you don’t anticipate staying in the home long-term. IE: Don’t spend more money on fees for a refinance, than you would spend with your current interest rate over that same period of time! If you would like help deciding when it’s right to refinance (to save the most money), give our mortgage department a call. As a not-for-profit community cooperative, we are here to help you (and we are an Equal Housing Lender).



### Privacy Policy:

Please contact us if you would like a copy, or see the link at the very bottom of our website at [www.Tri-CU.com](http://www.Tri-CU.com)

## Do you like REWARDS?

Log In today to enroll your Tri-CU credit card in our excellent program at [www.uchooserewards.com](http://www.uchooserewards.com)! You will need to re-register replacement cards (if the previous one was lost, expired or closed for fraud).



## FREE ATM Networks

Look for these logos to avoid an ATM fee. You can also check our website or download the app to find the nearest near you!



### Starting Loan Rates (Sept 2024)\*

	APR*
New Auto Rates	5.24-18%
Used Auto Rates	5.24-18%
HVAC, Landscaping, Home Improvement	6.75-13.85%
10, 15, 20 & 30 year Home Loans	5.89-6.34%
Bare Land Loans	7.49-15.05%
Signature Loan or Credit-Line	7.65-18%
Citizenship Loans	11.65-18%
New Boats and RVs	6.74-18%
Platinum Credit Card (with active checking)	8.90%
Classic Credit Card (with active checking)	12.90%

\*Annual Percentage Rate. Some restrictions apply, subject to credit approval, rates may change at any time without notice. Rates quoted are for best credit and shortest term. Home Equity line of Credit is variable based on the WSJ Prime Rate and can change each quarter. Other rates, terms and restrictions apply. Equal Housing Lender. Credit card rates are 2% higher without active checking.

Asset size: \$74,331,583

Members: 5,781

Employees: 14

Founded in 1969 by IBEW Local #112

Membership for anyone who “lives, works or worships” in Benton or Franklin County, WA.

Federally Insured by NCUA



3213 W. 19th Ave.  
Kennewick, WA 99337  
[www.Tri-CU.com](http://www.Tri-CU.com)

T: 509.735.8331  
1.800.873.3354  
F: 509.783.6166