

January 2023 Issue

# Community News

## How to manage your personal loan & save money

*Taking out a personal loan can be a helpful way to consolidate debt or pay extra expenses. However, when you take out a personal loan, it's important to understand how to manage it.*

Once you get the money from the loan, you will have to make monthly payments that include the loan amount and interest charged by the lender. Plus, you will be responsible for any fees that come with the loan. Making a plan to manage your loan will set you up for success as you work to pay the lender back.

### Be mindful when budgeting

Taking on a loan payment means adding another monthly expense you will need to account for as you plan your monthly finances. If you need to make space for the payment in your budget, consider eliminating or minimizing spending on eating out, streaming services, gym memberships, extra travel, alcohol, and monthly subscription services.

### Set up autopay

Setting up automatic payments can be helpful for a few reasons. First, it saves you the trouble of remembering to make the payments each month. Secondly, many lenders will give you a discount on your interest rate if you set up autopay. This will save you money over the life of your loan.

### Pay extra when you can

Paying any extra money towards your personal loan will help you pay off your debt faster. Additionally, paying off the loan early means you won't pay as much interest and the loan will cost you less — as long as there aren't any prepayment fees. Here are a few ways to contribute extra money towards your loan.

○ **Add to your monthly payment.** Making slightly larger monthly payments can make a significant difference in paying your loan off faster.

○ **Make bi-weekly payments.** Your monthly payment amount will be split in half and charged every two weeks. Paying this extra amount will save you interest.

○ **Pay a lump sum amount.** If you have landed a large chunk of money or are suddenly making more money, you may be able to make one big payment towards your loan, called a lump sum payment. This type of payment is made just once.

When you make a lump sum payment, your monthly payment amount will stay the same, but it will reduce the amount of interest you have to pay over time.

### Consider consolidating

If you can qualify for a loan with lower interest rates, consolidating multiple high-interest loans into one loan with lower interest rates

can help you pay off debt in a shorter time.

### Refinance if it makes sense

Refinancing a personal loan involves working with a new lender to get a loan for your remaining loan amount with lower rates, different payment terms or both. Refinancing can save you money by saving you interest over the life of the loan.

**Visit [westerlyccu.com/calculator](https://westerlyccu.com/calculator) to check out our Click-Compare-Save calculator to see how much money you can save consolidating or refinancing with WCCU!**

### Alternatives to refinancing

Refinancing isn't the only option. Consider these other options:

○ **Open a balance transfer credit card.** These cards typically allow you to transfer debt with minimal fees. And they sometimes have promotional periods where they won't charge any interest.

**WCCU's VISA® Credit Card offers 0% introductory APR<sup>1</sup> on purchases and balance transfers for the first 15 months, and only a 2.90% balance transfer fee. After, the variable APR will be 12.40% - 21.00%.<sup>1</sup>**

○ **Borrow from a friend or relative.** If someone you know personally will lend you the money to pay off the loan, you can save money on interest and make your payments to them. Have a clear agreement and go in knowing how much strain it can put on a relationship.

Managing a personal loan means adding a monthly expense, but it's a good idea to pay as much as you can toward the loan each month. Even a little extra will save you money on the loan.

## It's Time to Celebrate

WCCU'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY!

**GET  
.75% OFF  
Personal & Auto  
Loan Rates!<sup>2</sup>**

**Visit [westerlyccu.com/75th](https://westerlyccu.com/75th) for details!**

Article adapted from 'How to manage your personal loan and save money' 12/22/22, by Emma Woodward, bankrate.com 1) An introductory APR of 0% as of 1/1/2023 will apply to purchases and balance transfers made through the first fifteen billing cycles of your account. After, the variable APR will be 12.40% - 21.00%. This APR will vary with the market based on Wall Street Prime & credit worthiness. 2) For more details about rates, fees, and other important cost information, a card application, Disclosure and Agreements, or to apply online, please visit [westerlyccu.com](https://westerlyccu.com). Offer may change at any time. Restrictions may apply. 2) Offers as of 1/1/2023. Subject to change and credit approval. The 0.75% point interest rate reduction requires automatic loan payments deducted from an "active" WCCU Checking account ("active" Checking is 6 transactions or more per month and direct deposit) which must be scheduled at the time of loan closing. The 0.75% reduction is also valid for Home Improvement and Refi Home Loans.

# What's New at WCCU!

## WCCU Awards Grants to Local Teachers

WCCU is proud to announce we recently awarded (20) WCCU Teacher Grants, totaling over \$9,000!

Congratulations to the following Recipients:



### Coventry & Exeter-West Greenwich

- Pam Betres, Andrew Gervasini, Adam Knight, Michele Pelletier, Carolyn Wynne, Jennifer Jendzejec and Lisa DelBove of the Coventry School District
- Carin Corcoran, Shade Ortiz, Anne Barbour and Gina Kilday of the Exeter-West Greenwich School District



### Narragansett & South Kingstown

- Kristy Behbehani and Tara Reddington of the Narragansett School District
- Tiffany Court, Michelle Manning, Amber Lambert and Rita Toolin of the South Kingstown School District



### Westerly & Stonington

- Sally Motycka, Jennifer Norcross, Elaine Temel, Marika Heughins, Noreen Elliot of the Stonington School District
- Ide Koulbanis and Megan Lacey of the Westerly School District

Visit [westerlyccu.com/teacher-grant](http://westerlyccu.com/teacher-grant) for details!

Celebrate 75 Years  
with WCCU All-Year-Long!

Specials • Raffles • & More!

Plus, donate 3 canned goods  
at any branch & be entered to

**WIN \$750!**

Visit [westerlyccu.com/75th](http://westerlyccu.com/75th) for details!

\*No purchase necessary. Offer valid until 2/28/2023. Winner will be selected at random by 3/15/2023. Subject to change and not valid for WCCU Board Members, Employees and their families. 1 entry per person when donating new, unexpired, non-perishable items.

## WCCU Discusses Fraud Protection Tips

Jamal Paire, WCCU's Director of Asset Quality & BSA Officer appeared on WPRI, Channel 12's The Rhode Show to discuss tips on how you can protect yourself from fraud.

Watch the interview  
on our Social Media:



## Complimentary Virtual Seminars

Below is a schedule of upcoming topics:

**Wed., Jan. 11:** Social Security & Your Retirement

**Tue., Jan. 24:** Understanding Medicare

Register at [westerlyccu.com/seminars](http://westerlyccu.com/seminars)

## Dates to Remember

**Mon., Jan. 16, 2023:** Closed in observance of  
MLK King Jr. Day

**Westerly  
Community  
Credit Union**

Westerly ~ Richmond ~ Wakefield ~ Coventry

[www.westerlyccu.com](http://www.westerlyccu.com)

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