



## Upcoming Closures

**Monday, January 20 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Monday, February 17 | Presidents' Day**

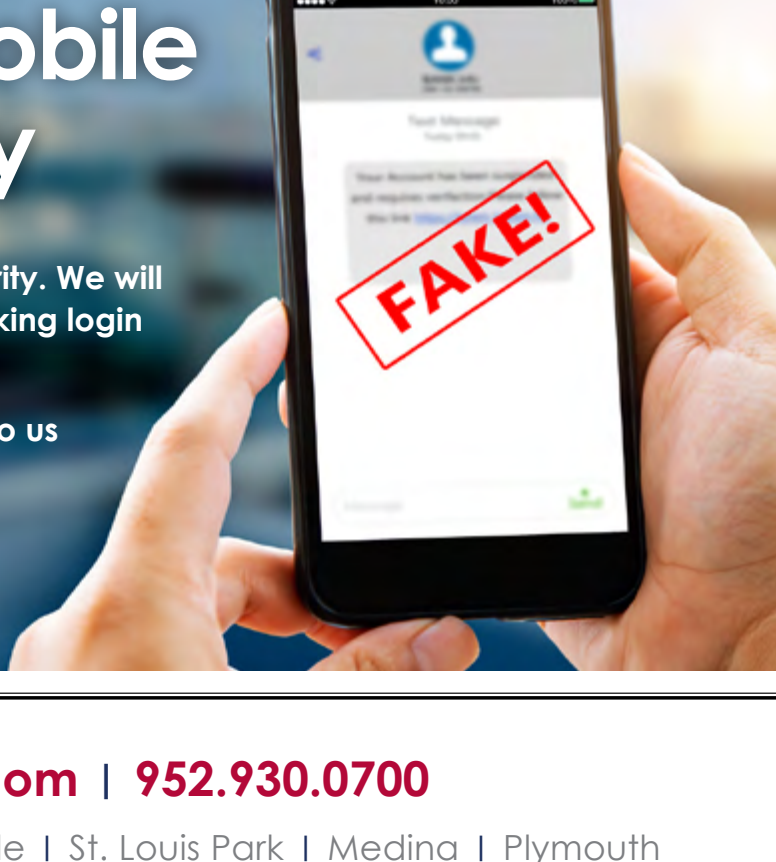
# SHAREPOINT CONNECTION

CREDIT UNION

## Online and Mobile Banking Safety

**IMPORTANT:** Your security is our top priority. We will never ask for your Online or Mobile Banking login credentials by phone, text, or email.

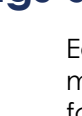
If you're ever unsure, please reach out to us directly at 952-930-0700.



[sharepointcu.com](http://sharepointcu.com) | 952.930.0700

Andover | Bloomington | Burnsville | St. Louis Park | Medina | Plymouth  
(France Avenue & Hyland Greens Drive)

\*Federally insured by the NCUA. Equal Housing Opportunity. NMLS #527701



## CEO Corner – Greetings and Happy New Year!

A New Year is a time for people to reflect on the past year and plant a new set of goals for the future. At SharePoint, we perform this same exercise. Reflecting on a successful 2024 with growth and advancement of our Membership, SharePoint is helping more members today than ever before! And looking forward, we maintain our capacity to grow and help more current and future members of our community!

With the changes in the economy that we see today, and the challenges our members are experiencing, we want to help. The cost of everyday items is advancing faster than wages. The expense of automobiles and the related costs to operate, insure, maintain and fuel them continues to increase. The price of a home or rent is extremely high. Our members are smart and make good decisions in dealing with these challenges. Many have decided to drive their current car longer or stay in their home longer. And why not, when the interest rates associated with those current assets are much lower than what's available today! However, cars need maintenance, and homes may need some improvements as we stay with them longer and longer. Can we help you with that? If you need some options to finance this maintenance or home improvements, please give us a call.

Each year we receive many suggestions from our members concerning future services. Thank you for these suggestions, including some that have informally risen to the top of the list.

**1) Get more digital!** The member has less time to come to the branch and wants more technology to access their banking or apply for loans.

**2) No more paper!** E-Statements are more secure and easily accessible by mobile and online banking.

**3) Increase the phones or secure messaging coverage.** The member wants to be able to communicate with the credit union on a call or click basis.

**4) Offer the best rates so we don't need to shop.** We hear you. Pricing is not always easy in this economy, and it moves fast.

We hear you. Each of these suggestions are being worked on, and you will see resources added or promotions to help in each area.

Lastly, for all of us at SharePoint, our goal is to serve you and help you. We thank you for your business, and we wish you and your families a very prosperous New Year.

-Phillip Kopischke

## Refer a New Member and You Could Earn up to \$500!\*

- New member that opens a checking account or qualifying loan will earn \$50!
- Current members will receive \$50 for each new eligible member referred!
- Promotional funds will be deposited to each eligible member within 60 days of account opening or loan closing.

[Refer a New Member Today!](#)

\*All accounts subject to approval. Referral must be a new member and be eligible for membership. Existing member must be in good standing and fill out Referral Form online to be eligible to receive promotional funds. The existing member will receive \$50 for each new eligible SharePoint CU member they refer, up to ten referrals total. Members can earn up to \$500 in a calendar year. New member will receive \$50 with a checking account OR qualifying loan. One \$50 incentive per new member. This offer is eligible on all consumer checking accounts and consumer loans. Excludes home mortgages and savings accounts. Promotional funds will be deposited into each eligible member's Savings account within 60 days of account opening or loan closing. Member is responsible for any related taxes according to MN laws. Employees are not eligible for these promotional funds. Offer effective 4/1/2022 and subject to change without notice. Other restrictions apply.



## Protect Yourself Against Romance Scams

Everyone craves genuine relationships; it's part of what makes us human. Unfortunately, scammers know this all too well. And increasingly, scammers are using online dating platforms and social media to swindle people out of large sums of money. American consumers lost \$1.14 billion to romance scams in 2023, with median losses per person of \$2,000. Knowing the warning signs associated with these scams can help you protect yourself and your loved ones.

### What is a Romance Scam?

A romance scam is a type of impostor scam. Using a fake profile on an online dating or social media platform, the scammer will work to gain the victim's trust and form an emotional connection with them, then request money. Scammers target men and women of all ages, but they especially target older individuals who are recently widowed or divorced. These seniors often have more financial assets and are less familiar with online scams.

### Know the Warning Signs

Be mindful of these common indicators of romance scams:

- **Claims to be overseas:** Many scammers say they live or work abroad, providing an easy excuse to not meet in person. This also makes it more plausible when they ask for help paying unexpected legal or medical fees.
- **Promises to meet soon:** Although they will claim to live abroad, scammers will almost always express a desire to meet in person. But these plans will always fall through for various reasons.
- **Requests to move the conversation off the dating or social platform:** Scammers often meet their victims on public platforms but quickly try to move the conversation to text or communication apps like WhatsApp. This helps them avoid scam detection programming that is built into dating apps.
- **Request money or sensitive information:** These



scammers' ultimate goal is to steal money from their victims. They may claim they need money to cover legal fees or medical emergencies, or that they need help paying a transfer fee so that they can send you an even larger sum of money.

### Stay Safe Online

Always exercise caution when communicating with people online. Never send money or sensitive information to someone you've never met in person. If you suspect you're being targeted by a scammer, stop all communication with them and contact SharePoint Credit Union immediately. We can be reached at (952) 930-0700 or by emailing [memberservices@sharepointcu.com](mailto:memberservices@sharepointcu.com).

## Introducing Our Real All-Stars

These inspiring individuals from our community are here to make banking and credit unions simple, relatable, and easy to understand.

[Learn More](#)

SCAN ME!



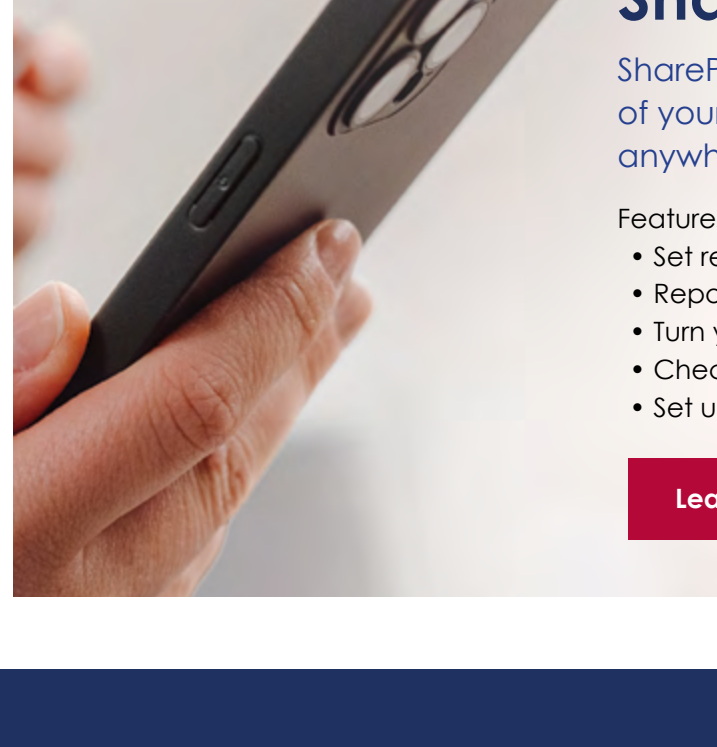
## SharePoint Cards App

SharePoint Cards App provides complete control of your Visa® Credit or Mastercard® Debit card anywhere, anytime.

### Features and Benefits:

- Set real-time purchase alerts and notifications
- Report a card lost or stolen
- Turn your card on and off
- Check transaction and payment history
- Set up notifications for travel

[Learn More About the Cards App](#)



## Budgeting for the New Year

The beginning of the new year is the perfect time to reassess your spending habits and set yourself up for financial success. Follow these tips to help you get started on your budget for 2025.



### Assess Your Current Monthly Spending

- **What was your monthly income last year?** If your income varied, take an average. There is an average of 4.345 weeks per month. Knowing your income is vital for determining how much you can afford to spend.
- **How much money did you spend in each category?** Break your spending down into specific categories: rent/mortgage, groceries, social activities, entertainment, etc. Be thorough when examining your spending—don't let any dollar go unaccounted for.
- **How much did you save?** A common rule of thumb is to spend 50 percent of your income on needs, spend 30 percent on wants, and save the last 20 percent.
- **How much did you have left over?** If you didn't have much money left over after all your expenses, you may need to cut back in certain categories.

### Plan for the Future

- **Has your income changed this year?** If you have received or anticipate receiving a raise, that should affect your budget. Remember to also account for any secondary sources of income, such as side hustles, dividend stocks, and rental properties.
- **Have your expenses changed this year?** Perhaps you've signed a new lease or taken out a loan on a home or car.

### Make Adjustments

- **Evaluate your priorities.** You may decide you don't need to spend as much in a certain category, or that you should be spending more in another.
- **Start an emergency fund.** Even with careful budgeting, you're likely to have unexpected expenses at some point in the future. You may lose your job, your living situation might change, or you could experience a medical emergency. Most financial experts recommend setting aside three to six months' worth of expenses so that you're covered in the case of these events.

Your financial circumstances can change greatly in 12 months. But with these tips, you'll be well prepared to manage your money responsibly this year.

## Ready to Hit the Road?

Fetch your dream car with a new auto loan.

Whether you are purchasing a new or used vehicle, or want to refinance an Auto loan to SharePoint, you will benefit from value, convenience and choices!

[Discover Exclusive Offers](#)



## Turn Holiday Wishes Into New Year Joy!

The holidays may be over, but the joy doesn't have to stop with a Holidays Dollars Loan from SharePoint CU.

With rates as low as 8.99% and flexible repayment terms, you can borrow up to \$5,000 to cover your holiday expenses.

[Apply Today](#)

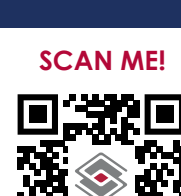
\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Holiday dollars loan is subject to approval. All rates are as low as and may vary based on credit history. Rate is intended for new loans and not valid for refinancing of existing SharePoint loans. An additional \$25 fee will be charged at the time of loan origination which will increase the final APR. Rates are subject to change without notice. Time of first payment will vary based on credit approved loan terms and cannot be subject to negative amortization. A \$1000 loan at 8.99% would be 12 payments of \$87.44. Contact a SharePoint Representative for full details. Offer valid through January 31, 2025.

## Take Control of Your Money

SharePoint Credit Union has partnered with Banzai to bring you clear, in-depth lessons that help you dive into the financial topics you care most about.

[Learn More](#)

SCAN ME!



### TOPICS

- Saving
- Insurance
- Retirement
- Taxes
- Life Changes
- Borrowing and Credit
- Investing
- Budgeting
- Running a Business