

Have you heard about... **Identify Theft?**

Here's how it works:

Someone gets your personal information and runs up charges in your name. They might use your Social Security or Medicare number, your credit card, or your medical insurance - along with your good name.

Signs that someone is using your identity:

- You receive bills for things you didn't buy or services you didn't use.
- Your bank account has withdrawals you didn't make.
- You don't receive bills you expect.
- You check your credit report and find accounts you never knew about.

What to do:

Protect your information. Shred documents before throwing them out, give your Social Security number only when you must, and use strong passwords online. Check your monthly statements and your credit. Read your account statements and explanations of benefits. Be sure you recognize what they show. Once a year, get your credit report from **AnnualCreditReport.com** or by calling 1-877-322-8228. The law entitles you to one free report each year from each credit bureau. If you see something you don't recognize, take action right away.

Reporting Identity Theft. If you suspect identity theft, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

Visit: IdentityTheft.gov to report identity theft and get a personal recovery plan. It will walk you through the steps to take.

Call: 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338) or TTY 1-866-653-426

MCU will never ask you for your personal information over the phone or by email!

Upcoming Holiday Closings

- Juneteenth WEDNESDAY, June 19th
- Independence Day **THURSDAY**, July 4th

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Financial Advice for Recent College Graduates

Getting started right away and learning how to manage your finances upon graduating from college, is paramount to long-term financial success. Follow this checklist of 6 key topics to help get you moving in the right direction.

- 1. Start and build up an Emergency Fund. Generally, three to six months' worth of living expenses in savings, which would pay for essential expenses in the event of unexpected bills or loss of income.1
- 2. Create a budget. Use this written tool to plan for what money comes in (Income) and is spent (Expenses) each month. Tracked regularly, the budget helps you ensure there is enough money available each month to cover expenses. Choose from a variety of free budgeting templates available online or just break out the pencil and paper.2



Joseph D. Murphy Financial Advisor

- 3. Pay Yourself First. Set aside money for savings before paying the bills and making new purchases. Monthly bills of course still must be paid. The easiest way to start is to decide how much you can save (determined from the budget) and set up an automatic transfer from your paycheck into a savings and retirement account.3
- 4. Start Saving for Retirement. Invest in your employer's 401(k) or 403(b) retirement plan as soon as you can. Taking advantage of the company's matching contributions can accelerate your savings.4
- 5. Build up your Credit Score. Using your credit card for everyday purchases and then paying off the balance in full every month is a "tried and true" method of building and improving your credit history.
- 6. Seek Professional Advice. The benefits of working with a financial advisor are numerous and most importantly include experience, expertise, objectivity, unbiased advice, and peace of mind.

*Non-deposit investment products and services are offered through CUSO Financial Services, L.P. ("CUSO Financial")("CFS"), a registered broker-dealer (Member FINRA/SIPC) and SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Products offered through CFS: are not NCUA/NCUSIF or otherwise federally insured, are not guarantees or obligations of the credit union, and may involve investment risk including possible loss of principal. Investment Representatives are registered through CFS. The Credit Union has contracted with CFS for investment services. Atria Wealth Solutions, Inc. ("Atria") is a modern wealth management solutions holding company. Atria is not a registered broker-dealer and/or Registered Investment Advisor and does not provide investment advice. Investment advice is only provided through Atria's subsidiaries. CUSO Financial Services, LP is a subsidiary of Atria.

^{1,3} cnbc.com; ^{2,4} success.com