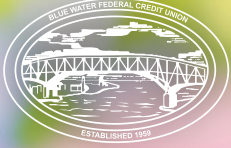


Blue Water Federal Credit Union News

Spring 2025



Mission Statement

"To provide personalized financial services to our members/owners and their families in a cooperative spirit while maintaining long-term financial stability."

BOARD of DIRECTORS

President-

A. Raymond Kerr

Vice President-

Rick E. Little

Secretary-

Carol A. Weichsler

Treasurer/Manager-

Theresa L. Millsap

Board Members-

Kenneth Madis

Kathleen Bennett

Tim Morse

Supervisory Committee-

Richard H. Edie

Kenneth Madis

Terry Wolff

Jan Bond

Henry Chmielewski

Loan Officers-

A. Raymond Kerr

Rita R. Golonka

Jeanne Dawson-Collins

The Credit Union will be closed

Monday	05/26/25	Memorial Day
Thursday	06/19/25	Juneteenth
Friday	07/04/25	Independence Day
Monday	09/01/25	Labor Day
Monday	10/13/25	Columbus Day



Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(810) 985-6993 All Hours

(810) 985-6371 Loan Office

member.services@bluewaterfcu.org

[Facebook.com/BlueWaterFCU](https://www.facebook.com/BlueWaterFCU)

www.bluewaterfcu.com

24 HOURS/7 DAYS



At Christmas time, I watched a movie called "Hidden Figures." The movie had nothing to do with financial institutions, but it gave me pause to think that financial institutions do have hidden figures. I want to mention some of these to make my point.

One of the most blatant hidden figures is RATES BASED ON CREDIT RATING that most financial institutions practice. Thus, the low rate quoted goes to those who can afford the loan most, not those who need the loan most. Our listed rates are true rates and are not based on a person's credit rating. Everyone gets the same rates.

Another hidden figure in which only Blue Water Federal Credit Union offers is Credit Life insurance. We offer this FREE of charge on vehicle and signature loans for our members up to the age of 80 years. In case of your death, we pay up to \$40,000 towards the loans you have with us.

BWFCU does not require a minimum balance in your checking account. This is something many institutions require, or they charge a fee to write checks.

Another whopper of a charge is the interest rate you pay on credit cards that businesses and stores offer to you. Most of these are in the 20% and 30% rate. Check for yourself on what rate Kohls, Walmart, Meijer, and grocery stores are charging you compared to 12.96% we charge on our credit cards.

One of my pet peeves is being charged by financial institutions for NOT making a transaction. If you make even a \$1.00 transaction over a certain period of time, you are not charged a \$5.00 or \$10.00 fee, but if you don't bother them by making at least one transaction, you are penalized.

Other institutions are now charging a monthly fee to send your statement. We charge nothing to do this same service. We also charge nothing to perform notary services or make copies for you. I almost forgot, free faxing!

These are some of what I call hidden figures of which you may not be aware. Combine that with friendly service where everybody knows your name, you have good reason to be a member and will want to encourage others to join our family!

Raymond Kerr
President



JOIN US FOR

Blue Water Federal Credit Union's 66TH ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to attend Blue Water Federal Credit Union's **2025 Annual Meeting**. We will talk about the financial status of the credit union and goals for the upcoming year. We will also hold elections for the 2025 Board of Directors. Call in your reservations today. See below for additional details.

Alexander's Banquet Facility

1200 Gratiot Blvd
Marysville, MI 48040

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

- 6:30 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner and Regular Beverages
Cash Bar
- 8:00 p.m. Business Meeting

All members are welcome to attend at no cost. Reservations are not mandatory to attend the meeting, however, as a courtesy, please R.S.V.P. dinner reservations to the credit union by Monday, May 5, 2025 at 985-6993.

When you make reservations, the credit union is obligated to pay for all reserved dinners, so please mark your calendar and attend.



EIGHT SMART WAYS TO LOWER YOUR FOOD COSTS

Groceries take up a huge portion of people's monthly budgets, especially when there are children involved. Since food prices will more than likely continue to climb, wouldn't it be nice if you could find ways to cook for less? With a few small changes, you can easily create affordable meals that are still tasty and nutritious.

Plan ahead. Think about what you and your family will be eating for the next week or two and make a grocery list of the ingredients you will need. Before hitting the store, check your cupboards and plan a few meals around food items you already have.

Stick to your list. Once you hit the store, resist the temptation to buy items not found on your list. Impulse purchases can really stack up, and if you plan your meals ahead of time, you will know the food on your list is enough to get you through the week.

Forget brand loyalty. Try out generic brands of your favorite products. You will often find equal quality at a lower price.

Buy seasonal. The best-priced fruits and vegetables are those that are in season. Consider buying locally grown produce as well. It is often cheaper than items shipped from far-off places.

Look up and down. Stores often stock their most expensive items at eye-level. Look at the top and bottom rows for similar food items, often at a cheaper price.

Do it yourself. Pre-cut fruit and grated cheese are convenient but more expensive to buy. Purchase items whole and do the prep work yourself.

Go vegetarian. Cooking a few meatless meals every week is a good way to save money. Keep protein in your diet by adding beans, nuts, and dairy to your meals.

Love your leftovers. Find ways to create new meals out of your leftovers. Use brown rice from a stir fry for a casserole later in the week. Also, consider freezing portions of large dishes, such as chili, for re-heating at a later time.



BIG CHANGES COMING TO BLUE WATER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Blue Water Federal Credit Union is excited to announce we are preparing to upgrade our core processing system on August 1, 2025.

What is a core processing system?

The core processing system is the computer system that BWFCU uses to maintain members' accounts and loans, and to process transactions.

Upgrading our core processing system will allow us to offer new services such as e-statements and remote deposit capture.

Stay Tuned for more information to come as our conversion date gets closer!!!



AVOID TAX TIME SCAMS

Tax time can be stressful enough without having to worry about scams. Unfortunately, tax season scams have been on the rise in recent years, particularly via phone and email. As a reminder, the IRS will **NEVER**:

- Call and demand immediate payment over the phone.
- Threaten to involve police or have you arrested or deported for not paying.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer.
- Ask for credit or debit card information over email or the phone.

The IRS will always send you a bill via mail first. If you have received a bill or think you may owe taxes, always call the official IRS line at 800-829-1040 to talk to an IRS agent.