

# MORTGAGES

Dream it. Build it. Buy it.



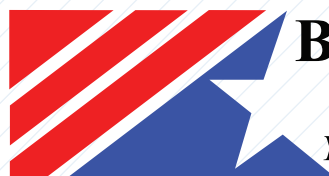
## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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# Congratulations to Our Scholarship Winners



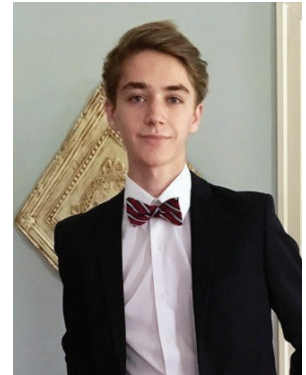
Katherine Gatti – Airline High School



Sloane Laborde – Leesville High School



Alyssa Linn – Airline High School



Keaton Russo – Caddo Magnet High School

## Barksdale Federal Credit Union Financials

	February 2017	February 2018
Loans	\$702,110,959	\$780,084,518
Assets	\$1,279,303,914	\$1,312,563,885
Deposits	\$1,136,827,463	\$1,161,134,423
Reserves	\$127,792,850	\$137,482,155
Members	121,234	128,013


All financials are rounded to the nearest dollar.


For more information, center locations and hours, visit [www.bfcu.org](http://www.bfcu.org), or call **318-549-8240** or **800-647-BFCU (2328)**. CO-OP shared branches can be found at [www.co-opsharedbranching.org](http://www.co-opsharedbranching.org).

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Members have saved nearly \$2 billion with Love My Credit Union® Rewards!


**Sprint** works for me™



 **to shop**

Get more from your credit union membership at [LoveMyCreditUnion.org](http://LoveMyCreditUnion.org)



 **LOVE MY CREDIT UNION® REWARDS**

# How to Dispute Inaccuracies on Your Credit Report



Patrick Gullatt  
CEO

Credit reports contain detailed information about your loan and credit history, including how much you borrowed and whether you missed any payments. The major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) are given this information by creditors and compile it to create your credit reports. These reports are used by lenders to determine whether you meet their qualifications for loans and may even be used to decide whether you qualify for insurance or if you can rent a house or apartment.

Considering how many financial situations depend on credit reports, it's important that the information contained on them is completely accurate. If you spot any inaccuracies on your credit report, you can submit a dispute to the credit bureau.

Here's how to write a dispute letter:

- 1 Provide your complete name and address.
- 2 Identify each item you are disputing, state why it is incorrect and request it be removed or corrected.
- 3 Include a copy of the credit report with the information you are disputing and circle it.
- 4 Keep a copy of the letter at home for reference.
- 5 Send the letter with a return receipt requested so you can track when the credit bureau received your letter.

The credit bureau is required to investigate any disputed items, typically within 30 days (unless the disputed items are considered frivolous). Once the investigation is complete, you must be given the results in writing and a free copy of your report if any changes are made. You may also request that the credit bureau sends notices of corrections to anyone who received your report in the last six months.



## How Credit Freezes Work

After the September 2017 revelation of a data breach at Equifax, you may be worried about the security of your personal information and the impact this could have on your credit report. One action you can take is placing a credit freeze on your files. Also known as a security freeze, this can make it difficult for someone to open a new account in your name.

### How Do I Place a Credit Freeze?

You can contact each of the credit bureaus at these numbers:

- Equifax: 1-800-349-9960
- Experian: 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion: 1-888-909-8872

You will need to provide your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information.

### Does a Credit Freeze Cost Any Money?

Yes, you will typically have to pay a fee to place and lift a credit freeze. The fee varies by credit bureau and where you live, but is generally between \$5 and \$10.

### How Do I Lift a Credit Freeze?

You will need to contact the credit bureau and request your credit freeze be lifted using the PIN you created when the freeze was placed. The credit bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after your request is received. To avoid loan approval delays, make sure your credit freeze has been lifted before applying for a loan.



# LEARN... THE SCIENCE OF SAVING™

at your credit union

## April Is Youth Month!

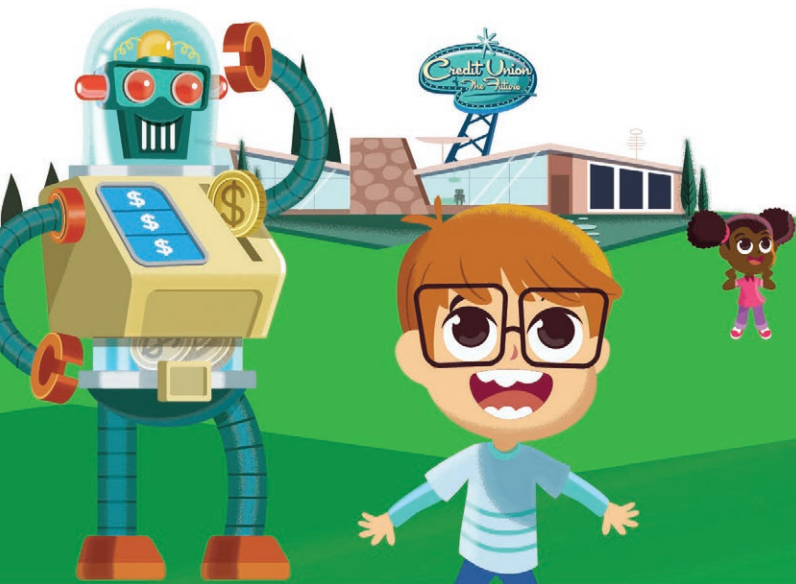
Every child dreams about their future. Some of those dreams may require money to come true. How do you help your children achieve their dreams?

One way is to help them learn how to save their money.

In April, BFCU is celebrating Youth Month, which is a program that helps teach and encourage kids to develop good financial habits.

The theme this year is “The Science of Saving,” showcasing fun, sci-fi-inspired characters. Science has proven that if you start with small goals, saving your money can become a regular habit. This year’s Youth Month inspires children to begin saving the money they earn so they can attain their dreams of a happy future.

Visit a center near you for more details, refreshments and more!



## 4 Financial Tips for New Parents

Is your family growing? Bringing home a new baby can turn life upside down in some unexpected ways – and completely shake up your family’s budget! Here are four smart financial moves that can help you manage the highs and lows of parenthood.

**1 Create a baby budget.** From diapers and onesies to strollers and car seats, baby gear is expensive. Make a list of your estimated expenses for diapers, formula, child care and equipment you’ll need to buy as baby grows. Doing so can help you plan ahead for expenses and avoid surprises. Also check with other families for creative ways to trim costs – potentially you could share baby gear among families or start a baby-sitting swap.

**2 Build a financial cushion.** Life doesn’t always go as planned. A parent who planned to go back to work after parental leave may decide to stay home for an extended period of time. Or, it may become clear that your home needs some baby proofing improvements before baby is on the move. Having an emergency fund to cover expenses that pop up can help you avoid using credit cards to bridge the gap.

**3 Start saving for the future.** It’s never too early to start saving for your child’s education. Open a savings account at Barksdale Federal Credit Union to get the ball rolling. You might also consider saving for college tuition with tools such as a 529 plan or Coverdell education savings account.

**4 Prepare for the unexpected.** It’s worth the peace of mind to protect your child’s future by making a will, naming a guardian and reviewing the beneficiaries on your financial accounts. Consider disability and life insurance if you aren’t covered already.

At BFCU, we offer a variety of tools to help your finances keep pace with your growing family. Call **800-647-2328** or visit **bfcu.org** to get started.



*Directors' Corner*

# Should You Tackle Debt or Invest?

Whether you're just starting out or nearing retirement age, it can be difficult to decide if you should focus on reducing debts or saving for the future. The answer is different for everyone, and may depend on your current savings, debt load and future goals.

## Hierarchy of Savings and Debt

Reviewing the types of debt you carry can help identify where you can make the most impact with your money. Paying off high-interest consumer debt such as credit cards is often the best place to start. However, if your employer offers a retirement plan with matching contributions, you may want to at least fund your plan to the matched level. Otherwise, you're missing out on free money.

Home mortgages and student loans are often considered good debt because interest rates are often low and the interest paid may be tax-deductible.\* That's why contributing to an individual retirement account (IRA) or other retirement plan may be more beneficial than paying off a mortgage or student loan early.

Here are some examples of investors faced with the decision to reduce debt or invest at different stages in life.

**Jamal**, age 24, recently landed his first job with full-time pay and benefits including a retirement plan. Jamal has student loans and high-interest credit card debt. He pays interest on credit card balances every month (and sometimes late fees, too).

**Debt/savings strategy:** Pay down credit card balances as quickly as possible while continuing to make payments on student loans. Set up auto pay for credit card bills to avoid late fees. Also enroll in the employer-sponsored retirement plan to take advantage of employer matching dollars (if offered).

Securities sold, advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution to make securities available to members.

**Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, May Lose Value, No financial institution guarantee. Not a deposit of any financial institution. FR-2051315.1-0318-0420**

**Andrea**, age 36, started her own business a few years ago. She is self-employed with no retirement plan and very little savings. Student loans are her biggest debt — she has multiple student loans with fixed and variable interest rates. **Debt/savings strategy:** Consider consolidating student loan debt to save interest and/or reduce payments. Build up emergency savings to cover three to six months of living expenses and then focus on retirement savings.

**Gina**, age 47, changed jobs frequently over the years and has a few different retirement plans with former employers. Her biggest debt is her home mortgage, which is at a low, fixed rate. **Debt/savings strategy:** Gina is in a good position to save more for retirement in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, IRA or both.

**Marco**, 55, recently inherited money from his parents. Marco has a retirement plan at work and he would like to pay off his mortgage before retiring. **Debt/savings strategy:** Take the opportunity to increase retirement savings and consult a financial advisor regarding how to save or invest the inherited money. At the same time, Marco may consider making extra principal payments on his mortgage.

## Set Your Strategy

Talk to a Barksdale Investment Services advisor at BFCU to review your options for paying down debt and investing for the future.

\* Check with your tax advisor regarding tax deductibility in your situation.

Investment products:  
Not federally insured  
Not a deposit of this institution  
May lose value



L to R - Arno Easterly, Al Oar, Virgil Barnette, Charleene Ringler, Bernie Hawk, Roy Walling, Steve Stakes

Talk to a Barksdale Investment Services advisor at BFCU to review your options for paying down debt and investing for the future.

## Step Up to Investing

Get started on a path to financial security with these important steps.



# Those “Other” Costs of Homeownership: How to Budget for the Big Picture



The price tag for a new home includes some obvious expenses: list price, monthly mortgage, and closing costs.

But for those of you who are new to the homeownership game, there are other, less apparent costs that require planning. Check it out:

## Insurance

Even if you pay renters’ insurance on your apartment, buying a home takes your costs to the next level.

As an owner, you’re responsible for the property, which means your coverage now includes electrical, plumbing, heating – anything that’s prone to problems, and could potentially affect the value of the home.

## Upkeep

You want your house to look good (you own it after all). So appearances – particularly landscaping and the lawn – will become a priority.

Planting new bushes and trees can get pricey fast. And even if you forgo hiring someone to take care of your lawn for you, you’ll still need to invest in a lawn mower, sprinklers, fencing and of course, your time.



## Property Taxes

When making your monthly budget, make sure you plan for property taxes. Simply take the yearly total, divide by 12, and add the amount to your monthly mortgage. Unfortunately, property taxes only tend to go up, so prepare for an increase in the years to come.

## AC/Heat

If you’re new to central air and heat, welcome to a more comfortable living experience. However, you may also get hit with big monthly bill if you use it.

Furnaces are expensive to run and determining their longevity can be tricky, no matter what your inspector tells you. So be prepared to absorb some new expenses and, at some point, to replace your heating/cooling system.

Buying a home is an exciting milestone and can be a great investment. As long as you’re ready for the additional costs, your finances will be just fine. We are ready to help you with your dream home today! We have a Mortgage Representative at every BFCU location. Stop by or call us at **800-647-2328, option 8.**



# NOW OPEN

8810 YOUREE DR. | NEXT TO ETHAN ALLEN

Lobby Hours: 9am–5pm M-F  
Drive-Thru Hours: 8am–5:30pm M-F  
Saturday 8-12

# BFCU Community News

**We wish we had room to list all of the community events – thank you for letting us be your community partner!**

## January

**11** BFCU was a table sponsor at the Beauregard Chamber of Commerce Banquet in which we were nominated for Large Business of the Year.

**12** Employees joined 350 Airmen and honored all the Airmen that have sacrificed their lives for us with the SrA Bryan R. Bell 5K Memorial Run.

**18** The Longview Chamber of Commerce held a round-table discussion where issues facing the region were brought to light during the 2018 Annual Banquet Reception.

**19** Employees helped kids attending the 6th Annual Boat, Sport, & RV Show at the Barksdale Federal Credit Union Trout Pond.

**23** BFCU celebrated the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce's 108th year of helping businesses succeed.

**26** Staff was present at Fort Polk's BOSS Town Hall meeting and treated Soldiers to a candy bar.

**30** BFCU learned about the plans for Bossier City at the 70th Annual Bossier Chamber of Commerce's Gala.

**30** Barksdale Federal held a blanket drive for the Vernon Council on Aging.

## February

**1** The happiness of Alzheimer and Dementia patients were supported with the purchase of baby dolls through a Partnership with Scooter Baby Ministries.

**10** BFCU participated in the Leesville Mardi Gras Parade, fun times had by all!

**10** We enjoyed and supported the Annual Shreveport-Bossier-DeSoto African American Scholarship Banquet.

**11** Cotton Valley served as a strong supporter of the North Webster 8th Annual Black History Parade.

**14** The fight against heart disease and stroke was intensified with the support of the American Heart Association's annual Go Red Luncheon.

**16** The credit union hit a bank-shot with Barksdale Air Force Base at the Kids Jamboree Basketball Tournament.

**18** Longview's economically disadvantaged children were given a safer space to learn and play through support of the Longview Child Development Center's fundraiser.

**21** Employees participated in Pollock's Bureau of Prisons Community Relations Board Luncheon in which we discussed what's new at the credit union.

**22** BFCU participated in Hornbeck High School's Career Fair and presented information on the importance of savings accounts

**24** Stockwell Elementary's Stallion Sprint 5K was a great way to raise funds to "go green" while teaching the kids about recycling water bottles and the environmental impact of using renewable resources.

**26** BFCU participated in Fort Polk's Military Saves Week by teaching classes on Building a Better Budget and Home Buying.

## March

**1** Springhill Dixie Youth Baseball & Softball can always count on BFCU to help with their mission of teaching our youth sportsmanship, respect for others, and to become well-rounded individuals.

**3** BFCU employees fundraised and participated in the Cenla Heart Walk in Alexandria. As a team combined, we raised \$1480.

**7** BFCU employees taught a class on Financial Independence to Oakdale High School's senior class.

## WELCOME SEGs

- Brennan Dodge, LLC of Ruston, LA
- Union Hunting Club of Quitman, LA

**8** Barksdale was a table sponsor at the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

**13** BFCU was present at the LSUA Job Fair in which we provided career information with the credit union.

**15** BFCU joined Captain Shreve High School's Z Club to help honor local students with financial support as they experience significant, life-threatening challenges this year.

**15** Our staff provided 19 Welcome Home Baskets to graduates of the Providence House's program to end homelessness in the Ark-La-Tex.

**15** BFCU sponsored and was present at the Louisiana Association of Business Educators Annual Convention in Natchitoches.

**20** Staff taught financial skills in a fun and interactive environment to over 750 Bossier High School students to help build a fiscally sound youth.

**22** Barksdale Federal welcomed 750 of our closest friends at the 64th Barksdale Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting.

**24** BFCU served as the Title Sponsor for the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center's Warrior Run to help our veteran heroes.



**Feb. 8:** BFCU was recognized for providing the Shreveport Community Oriented Policing Bureau with bike equipment to keep officers safe as they develop relationships in our local neighborhoods.

## Rates and Dates

Account	Rate	APY*
Prime Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Sp. Purpose Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Children's Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Christmas Club	1.50%	1.50%
IRA Prime Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Regular Checking	0.10%	0.10%
Plus Checking	0.20%	0.20%
High Five Checking	0.10%	0.10%

\* Annual Percentage Yield.

Rates effective December 18, 2017.

Rates subject to change without notice.



Federally Insured by NCUA



2701 Village Lane  
Bossier City, LA 71112

318-549-8240  
www.bfcu.org

## Holiday Closings

Barksdale Federal Credit Union will be closed for the following holidays:

Memorial Day, May 28  
Independence Day, July 4

Report lost or stolen Credit cards after hours: **800-543-5073** or **727-570-4881**. Debit cards: **866-724-2761**.

# SHRED DAY & Safetypalooza



**Summer Grove Baptist Church**  
**8924 Jewella Ave, Shreveport LA 71118**

**April 21, 2018 9AM – 12PM**

**Summer Grove Baptist Church 5k / 10K 8am**

**Child Safety Seat Fitting • Fire & Smoke Safety Simulators for Kids**  
**Weather Safety Simulators for Kids • Carnival Games**  
**Prizes for Adults and Kids • Bounce House • Free Snacks & Lunch**

Each person will be able to watch their private information run through the shredder and be destroyed. Please limit 2 bags per person.