

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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April 2021

Fast & Easy Approvals



**For All Your Home Loan Needs –
Apply Online Today!**



P3 | Fraud Alert

P4 | Buying a Home in a Competitive Market

P5 | Tax Preparation Services at BFCU

P6 | SEG Spotlight

P8 | Be a Credit Union Saver

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Fraud Alert.....	3
Buying a Home in a Competitive Market	4
Tax Preparation Services at BFCU	5
5 Ways to Build a Healthy Credit History.....	5
Business Services	6
SEG Spotlight.....	6
Community News	7
Be a Credit Union Saver	8
Rates and Dates.....	8

Barksdale Federal Credit Union Financials

	January 2020	January 2021
Loans	\$875,890,793	\$968,433,053
Assets	\$1,484,478,519	\$1,841,914,400
Deposits	\$1,306,451,930	\$1,646,448,079
Reserves	\$162,965,479	\$174,122,600
Members	134,467	146,241

All financials are rounded to the nearest dollar.

For more information, center locations and hours, visit 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.

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Congratulations to Our Scholarship Winners!



Nathaniel Bonts

Caddo Parish Magnet High School
Shreveport, LA



Taylor James

Rosepine High School
DeRidder, LA



Robert Rollins III

Oakdale High School
Oakdale, LA



Dominic Ross

Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA) Bossier
DeRidder, LA

Fraud Alert



Patrick Gullatt
CEO

You've likely heard of phishing scams that use fraudulent emails as bait. Now there's a new twist on the same scam – vishing, also called voice phishing.

Vishing scammers set up phone numbers through internet-telephone services, then lure victims to disclose account numbers and other personal information over the phone with automated voice prompts. The operation moves so quickly that con artists can steal sensitive information and shut down phony telephone numbers in a matter of days.

The Voice Behind the Curtain

Vishing is initiated by an email or text message that may appear to be from your financial institution or an online merchant. The message may claim that your account has been disabled due to unauthorized access, or that your information needs to be verified to continue using the account or to prevent fraudulent activity.

Rather than linking to a look-alike website made for gathering information, as phishing scams do, vishing scams provide a phone number to call. These phone numbers

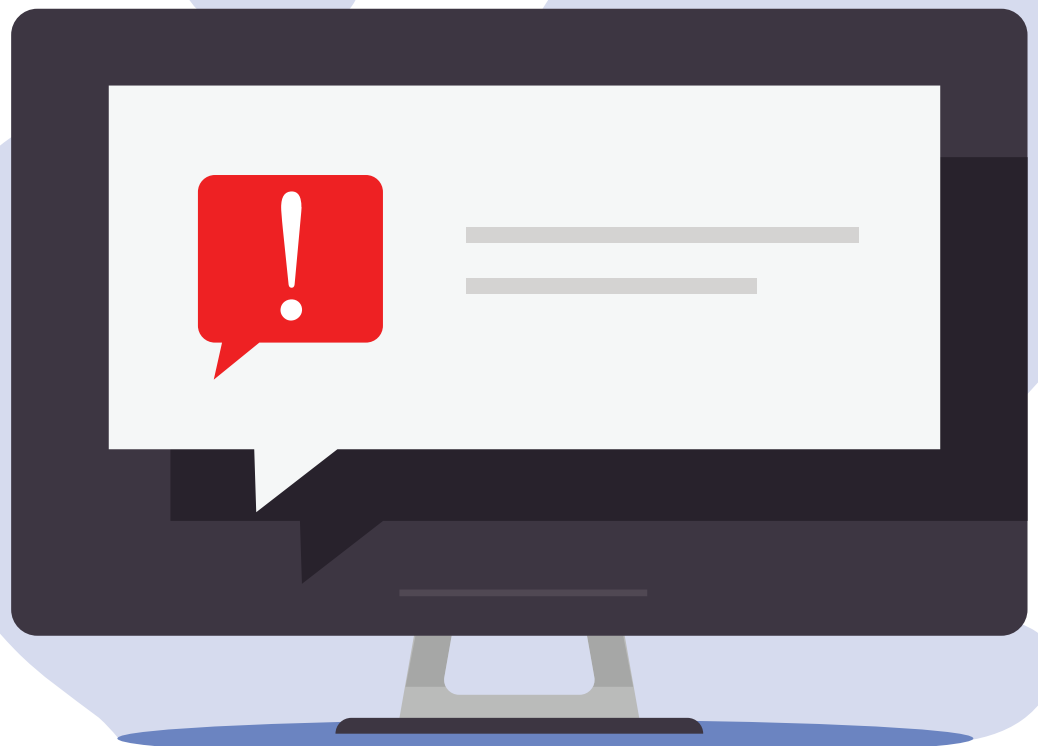
can be set up with local area codes and designed with voice prompts that sound perfectly legitimate. Since consumers are already accustomed to entering account numbers before speaking with a representative, it's easy to enter the numbers before thinking twice.

Safety Tips

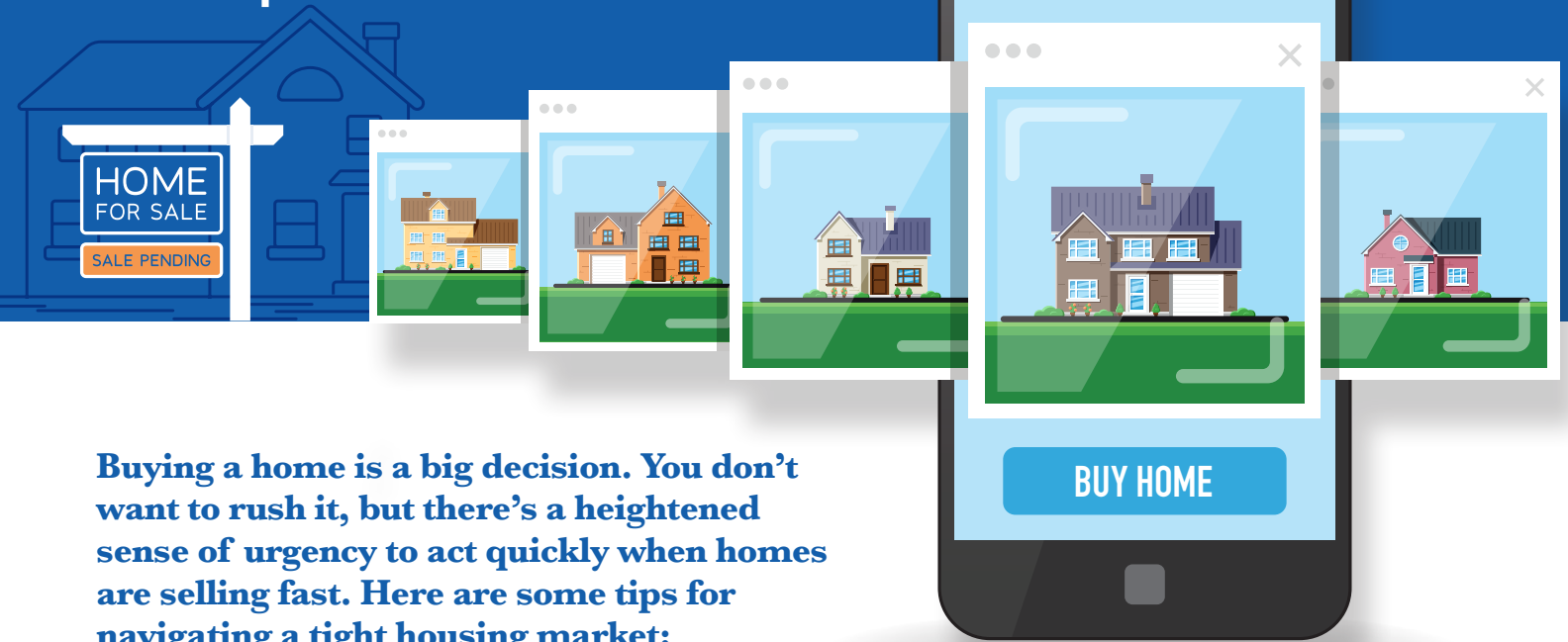
- Protect yourself from these scams by not responding to requests for your personal information or your online/mobile banking username or password.
- Don't call or click on phone numbers listed in "phishy" emails or text messages. These numbers may look legitimate, but you could be calling back a fraudster. Instead, dial BFCU's number directly.

Contact us if you suspect you've been scammed. You can also file a complaint on the Federal Trade Commission's Web site, **www.ftc.gov** or call **1-877-FTC-HELP**.

- Watch out for spoofed phone calls – the call looks like it is coming from BFCU, but the representative on the phone says they need your online banking username and password. We will never ask you for this information. The Federal Trade Commission recommends never turning over private information based on an email or text request.



Buying a Home in a Competitive Market



Buying a home is a big decision. You don't want to rush it, but there's a heightened sense of urgency to act quickly when homes are selling fast. Here are some tips for navigating a tight housing market:



Work with an experienced real estate agent. Save time and stress by working with an agent who knows how to compete in a fast-paced market.



Get preapproved for a mortgage. Having an approval letter puts you in a strong position to make an offer on a home.



Make a strong offer. A lowball offer isn't likely to win the home you want in a competitive market.



Keep it simple. Sellers may be more likely to accept a "clean" offer that doesn't have contingency clauses or demands to make changes to the home.



Prepare for a bidding war. Decide on your maximum bid ahead of time so you don't get carried away in a bidding war.



Put up more earnest money. Increasing the amount of earnest money shows you're serious about the deal (and you get it back if your offer is not accepted).



Be flexible. Flexibility with move-in dates and other details could make a seller more willing to accept your offer.

Is a New Home in Your Future?

Barksdale Federal is here to help. Start the mortgage preapproval process online at bfcu.org.



Director's Corner

Tax Preparation Services at BFCU

April 15th is almost here, and BFCU offers a year-round tax service to its members.

For over 30 years, C. Taylor and his team have been providing tax preparation and advice to BFCU members. These services include individual, partnership and corporation returns. They also complete

all state returns to better serve our military members, and speedy electronic filing ensures you will receive your refund quickly.

With prices below most other tax services, and BFCU members receiving a special discount, this is your best buy in income tax service. Call **318-549-4017**



L to R - Arno Easterly, Al Oar, Dr. Ryan Jacobsen, Charlene Ringler, Bernie Hawk, Roy Walling, Steve Stakes

Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for an appointment to see C. Taylor and his staff at Northgate Center, 720 Northgate Road, Bossier City, LA.

5 Ways to Build a Healthy Credit History

If you've ever watched TV's "The Biggest Loser," you know that it's easier to maintain a healthy weight now than try to lose weight and overcome possible health conditions later. (Or as some people say, "A moment on the lips, forever on the hips.")

The same is true of your credit history, which affects everything from your purchasing power to your ability to get a reasonable loan rate or land a job. Building a healthy credit history from the start – rather than trying to overcome mistakes later – can save you time, energy and money.

To get an idea of your credit history, potential lenders will examine your credit score. A high credit score can make it easier to get a credit card or loan and may result in the lender setting a lower interest rate. To boost your credit score, remember these tips:

1 Pay your bills on time. Learn more about our bill pay and automatic payment transfer options at bfcu.org > Personal Banking > Online Banking > Pay Bills.

2 Pay down your debt. Consider our low-rate loans to consolidate your debt. A financial counselor can also help you create a debt management plan.

3 Reconsider closing accounts. You may be tempted to close an old credit card account because you no longer use the card. But the longer your responsible borrowing history, the better your score.

4 Only use a Secured Credit Card. Our Visa Platinum Secured credit card is perfect for individuals with little or no credit. Whether you're just starting to build credit or trying to repair bad credit, this card is a great way to



achieve your goal. This card has a low interest rate and no annual fee to help when you need it most.

5 Fix errors. Review your official records from all three major credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) and be sure any incorrect information is corrected. You can order a free credit report from each agency once a year at www.annualcreditreport.com.*

With healthy rates on savings and low-rate loans and credit cards, Barksdale Federal can help you achieve fiscal fitness and a healthy credit history. Contact us at **318-549-8240** or visit your closest BFCU location to learn more.

* Website provided for information only. No endorsement is implied.

Set Up Your Small Business for Success

Small businesses play an important part in our nation's economy. Whether you're considering setting up a small business or you're a seasoned owner who wants to expand, Barksdale Federal has the financial products and tools you need.



Business checking. We offer several types of business checking accounts designed to meet the needs of your business. It's easy to make payments and monitor your account with online banking, electronic transfers and online statements.



Business credit card. Use a business credit card to track everyday expenses and separate your business and personal expenditures. Barksdale Federal has Visa® credit cards with the features you need to run your small business such as competitive rates, no annual fee or balance transfer fees, and no fees for cash advances. BFCU Business Visa cards even come with Reward points!



Merchant services. We offer merchant services with credit card processing and payment solutions so you can concentrate on running your business. Rates and fees are based on sales volume, average transaction rates, types of credit and debit cards you accept, as well as the point of sale systems, payment gateways and e-commerce platforms you use.



Line of credit. A business line of credit lets you manage cash flow with easy access to working capital. Pay only on the amount you borrow – funds are made available as your outstanding balance is repaid. We offer competitive interest rates and flexible repayment terms.



Small-business loans. A small-business loan can help your business grow. Use it to purchase equipment, fleet vehicles or to upgrade your brick-and-mortar

Are you ready to move forward with your small-business plans? We're ready to help you find the financial products you need. Email one of our business services representatives at **BusinessServices@bfcu.org**, stop by your favorite location or visit **bfcu.org** to learn more.

location. Barksdale Federal offers fixed- and variable-rate loans with flexible repayment terms.



Commercial real estate loan. Use these loans to acquire property or refinance commercial properties you already own. Funds can also be used to make improvements on apartments, hotels, offices, warehouses and manufacturing facilities. We offer a variety of commercial real estate loan options with affordable rates and terms.



SEG Spotlight

Southernly Stitched Designs

Southernly Stitched Designs (SSD) offers a local and personalized touch for all your embroidery needs. Located on E. 70th St. since 2019, SSD specializes in applique and embroidery for children and adults. The storefront includes a place to shop for children, baby showers, gifts and any holiday celebration. Along with items they have for purchase, you can also bring in items to be personalized with embroidery.

Visit the Facebook page Southernly Stitched Designs *VIP* shop the website **southernlystitcheddesigns.com**, call **318-670-7560** or stop in to see what they have to offer!

Shop Small, Shop Local, Shop SSD



BFCU Community News

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

December

1 Police Officers are able to bond with children in need while shopping for school clothes and a game or toy through donations to the Shop with a Law Officer Christmas Program.

4 Soldiers and their families received holiday cheer to kick off the season at the Fort Polk Snow Flake Festival.

5 BFCU helped children with Cerebral Palsy obtain costly medical equipment by participating with the No Limits Just Faith 5K.

12 Children of all ages enjoyed Sarepta's Rock Around the Christmas Tree with the help of our Cotton Valley location.

15 Children in foster care in Northwest Louisiana were shown the magic of Christmas through a partnership with Santas in Blue.

18 Employees and community members drew together with gifts to ensure the children of Providence House felt the love and support of their neighbors.

January

1 Homebound elderly in Caddo Parish were provided meals with credit union support.

9 Employees cheered on participants of The Arc of Caddo-Bossier's Go For the Gold 5K, an annual event raising funds for the Goldman School that serves students with disabilities.

13 The credit union held a blood drive at our Leesville Center to help restore the critical supply of donations needed for our community.

16 Staff dug deep to plant 5 trees donated by the credit union to help Keep Bossier Beautiful and enhance the beauty of our city.

22 BFCU was honored to sponsor the Annual SrA Bryan Bell Memorial 5K, honoring a Barksdale Air Force hero.

23 People helping Pets was the goal at the Run Like An Animal 5K, benefitting local animal rescue groups.

February

3 Students of the Week at Leesville High School were provided with prizes and a pizza party to reward them for their hard work and determination.

4 Help was given once more to Scooter Baby Ministries, an organization that helps our older neighbors' quality of life through the use of lifelike dolls.

8 BFCU's support of the Longview High School's LOBO Invitational Golf Tournament helped coaches provide their teams with sporting equipment for a successful year.

22 The credit union partnered with the Shreveport-Bossier African American Awards Scholarships to reward local youth with financial aid and ease their path toward a college degree.

26 Third and Fifth graders at Ware East Texas Montessori Academy learned about positions within the credit union industry at a Virtual Career Expo.

March

6 Employees partnered with Keep Bossier Beautiful to perform a Community Litter Assessment as we work toward protecting Bossier's image.

12 The credit union sponsored the St. Jude's Radiothon and presented a donation to help support the children served by this critical organization.

18 Employees learned about making healthy decisions and heard stories of those affected by heart disease at the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Virtual Dinner.

Welcome SEGs

- 8 oz Burger Bar of Bossier City, LA
- Calcasieu Soil and Water Conservation District of Leesville, LA
- Certified Auto Repair Specialists of Leesville, LA
- Front Porch Designs of Oakdale, LA
- Glamour and Grace Photography of Shreveport, LA
- Haymon Ashworth Construction of Pitkin, LA
- Interstate Skater Transportation of Jonesboro, LA
- JKW Oilfield Consultants of Hallsville, TX
- Leed Construction of Anacoco, LA
- ME Designs of Leesville, LA
- Nothing Bundt Cakes of Shreveport, LA
- PB&J Land Effects of Hornbeck, LA
- Pinnacle AC and Heating of Leesville, LA
- Professional Mental Health Services of Monroe, LA
- Quality Electrical & Controls Services of Jonesboro, LA
- Salad Station of Alexandria, LA
- Saladwerx of Leesville, LA
- Sanders and Comstock of Leesville, LA
- Taylor Fam Farms of Jonesboro, LA
- The Garage of Leesville, LA
- TMTJ Enterprises of DeRidder, LA
- Touns Cajun Kitchen of Leesville, LA
- Yellow Pine Lodge No. 282 F&AM of Oakdale, LA
- ZiZi Treats of DeRidder, LA

25 The 67th Annual Meeting was held at the NorthGate location. Members who were unable to attend can find a recording of the meeting on our website.

26 Care was shown for children of the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Pines at the 15th Annual Odis Hills Memorial Golf Tournament in Longview.

27 Staff were on hand to support local sportsmen and youth at the Shreveport Chamber's Shoot Happens Sporting Clay Shoot.

27 Employees helped beautify and clean up the city during the Leesville Mayor's Women's Commission Trash Bash.

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	1.50%	1.51%
Regular Checking	0.10%	0.10%
Plus Checking	0.20%	0.20%
High Five Checking	0.10%	0.10%

* Annual Percentage Yield.

Rates effective Nov. 9, 2020.

Rates subject to change without notice.



Federally Insured by NCUA



**Barksdale Federal
Credit Union™**

Your Financial Partner for Life™

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:

MAY
31

Memorial Day

JUL
5

Independence
Day



Report lost or stolen Credit Cards: **800-647-2328**, option 6

After Hours: **800-543-5073** | International: **727-570-4881**

Debit cards: **866-724-2761**

**BE A CREDIT UNION SAVER &
YOUR SAVINGS WILL NEVER GO EXTINCT™**



**youth
month**

