

## CCFCU raises \$8,854 for Ending Hunger in Maine

CCFCU raised \$8,854 at our Fifth Annual Bag Toss Tournament held at Keeley's Banquet Center in October. Contributions to the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger can be made at any credit union branch or online at <https://campaignforendinghunger.org/myccfcu/>. Since 1990, the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger has raised over \$12 million dollars to help end hunger in Maine with 100% of all funds raised staying in Maine.

CCFCU Employee  
Volunteers (L to R):  
Karen Rickett, Ross  
Biette, Amy Sithavady,  
Debbie Martin, Ryan  
Grund, Carrie Ann Dyer,  
Heather Cronin, & Jen  
Richards



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**Martin Luther  
King Jr Day\***  
Monday, January 15

**Presidents' Day\***  
Monday, February 19

**Patriots' Day\***  
Monday, April 15

\*Our Contact Call  
Center will be closed on  
the Saturdays' prior to  
MLK Jr Day, Presidents'  
Day, and Patriots' Day.  
Holiday & After-Hours  
Card Call Center is  
available at  
1-833-999-1097.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the face of another year marked by economic uncertainties and challenges, I am pleased to announce that Cumberland County had a successful year. Despite navigating a challenging interest rate environment, CCFCU continued to have strong earnings. The stability and security of a credit union are best evidenced by its capital, and I am proud to report that CCFCU is projected to end the year with over 9.00% capital, reflecting a capital growth rate of nearly 6%.

In 2023, CCFCU welcomed 1,275 new members and originated loans totaling over 75 million dollars. Notably, we achieved a milestone in dividend payments, disbursing a record-breaking 8 million dollars to our members.

The year also saw the introduction of several new products, including low down payment mortgages, a Visa rewards credit card, and our most exciting offering of 2023 – instant issue debit cards. Now, members can walk into any branch and leave with a new debit card instantly, eliminating the wait for mail delivery.

At CCFCU, our commitment to cybersecurity remains unwavering. In 2023, we continued to prioritize the protection of your data, installing state-of-the-art firewalls. Furthermore, plans are underway to implement new switches and routers in early 2024, reinforcing our dedication to data security.

As we embark on a new year, I urge you to remain vigilant against fraud. With fraud prevalent everywhere, if an offer appears too good to be true, it probably is. If you're not sure, ask questions, refrain from clicking on suspicious offers, or simply hang up.

In closing, I extend heartfelt thanks for your continued business and the trust you place in CCFCU. We recognize that you have various financial choices, and we value the confidence you have in us. From all of us at CCFCU, we wish you a safe and joyous New Year.



President & CEO

*Matt Hammar*

**We're here to help you  
grow your money!**

For all our current rates,  
visit our website at [myccfcu.com](http://myccfcu.com)  
or give us a call at 207-878-3441.



**5.06% APY\***  
**12 Month  
Certificate**

\*Annual Percentage Yield. Accurate as of December 1, 2023. Minimum balance requirement is \$1,000. A minimum daily balance of \$150,000 is required to earn the annual percentage yield listed. This is a limited time offer, available rates subject to change without notice. Once a certificate is opened, the rate remains fixed through maturity. New members must meet CCFCU's membership requirements and, at minimum, open a savings account. Early withdrawal will reduce earnings. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Federally insured by NCUA.

## Is Now the Time to Go Longer on your Certificates?



As interest rates have risen, share certificates (also known as CDs) have again become very attractive investments and most people have invested in shorter terms, usually 12 months or less. As rates peak, is now the time to go longer on these investments? Ken Tumin, founder of Depositaccounts.com thinks now might be the time to start investing in longer term certificates, "It's likely that we are past peak rates, and that rates will fall in 2024 and in future years. Thus, it makes sense to go long with CDs, such as 5-year terms. To hedge your bets, include terms from one to five years. Starting a CD ladder will provide this mix." <sup>1</sup> Regardless of the term you are looking for, CCFCU has great rates!

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/20/success/park-cash-save-interest-rates/index.html>

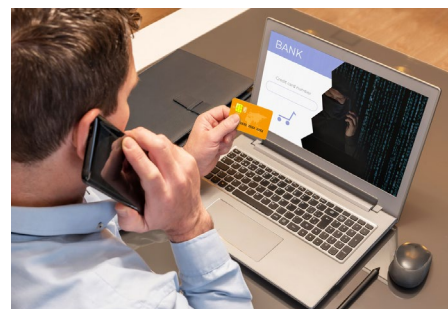
## Avoiding Travel Scams

If you are planning a trip somewhere, here are a few things you may not be aware of that you should be on the lookout for.

### Hotels Shouldn't Call Your Room for Payment

**Information:** Fraudsters call a hotel front desk and ask to be put through to a specific (yet likely randomly chosen) room. The scammer will pretend to be from the hotel and ask the guest to

"re-read" or verify their card information in some way. If this ever happens to you, tell the caller you will clear up any issues directly at the front desk, hang up, and walk down to a legitimate hotel employee to verify the request before providing any personal information.



**Be Cautious of Free Wi-Fi:** Beware of free Wi-Fi, especially in nearly empty or unfamiliar locations. Scammers can track your activity with any connected devices. They can steal your identity or financial information. It is recommended to turn auto-connect OFF for Wi-Fi, especially when travelling.

**The Best Deal Is Not Always the Best Outcome:** Many consumers are aware of the standard travel scams, such as winning a free vacation or cruise, but also be aware of online "tools" advertised to get you the best rates on your trip. As we collectively rely on technology more and more, fraudsters become more creative and sneakier in their attempts. If you don't recognize the website offering you a great deal on your vacation package, it's probably best to avoid booking through it and entering your payment information.

**Always use your best judgement when traveling.** Rely on trusted sources and make your arrangements directly with known businesses. Don't give information over the phone if you have the option to give it to a physical person face-to-face and keep these signs of fraud in mind so you can avoid becoming a victim.

### Falmouth

Contact Center  
101 Gray Road  
Falmouth ME 04105  
Fax (207) 878-5327

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Loan Fax  
(207) 797-4924

(207) 878-3441

Mon-Wed: 8:30 - 4:30  
Thu & Fri: 8:30 - 5:30

Phone Lines Open  
Saturdays: 8:30-1:00

### After Hours Cards Call Center

1-833-999-1097

### BRANCH HOURS

Mon-Wed: 8:30 - 4:30  
Thu & Fri: 8:30 - 5:30  
Saturday: CLOSED

### Gray

43 Lewiston Road  
Gray ME 04039  
(207) 657-4777  
Fax (207) 657-6352

### Portland

1345 Washington Ave  
Portland ME 04103  
(207) 797-6492  
Fax (207) 797-7470

### Windham

808 Roosevelt Trail  
Windham ME 04062  
(207) 892-3359  
Fax (207) 892-4109

### Yarmouth

808 US Route 1  
Yarmouth ME 04096  
(207) 846-5076  
Fax (207) 846-4964

### Westbrook

150 Main St  
Westbrook ME 04092  
(207) 854-9850  
Fax (207) 854-9844

myccfcu.com

