

SPRING 2024

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HOLIDAY CLOSURES

- May 27 - Memorial Day
June 19 - Juneteenth
July 4 - Independence Day
September 2 - Labor Day
October 14 - Columbus Day

Love Your New Car But Not Your Payment?

If your car was financed through a dealer or other financial institution and you are struggling with high payment amounts, contact PHCU about refinancing today! We offer very competitive rates, loan terms including biweekly, monthly, and semi-monthly, as well as local and personalized service.

Apply Now

<https://www.palmettohealthcu.org/apply-now-new.php>



STOP LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK

If your paycheck seems to disappear as quickly as it hits your account, you're not alone. According to CNBC, more than 60% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, which makes them more vulnerable to accumulating high interest credit card debt.

According to Ramsey Solutions¹, there are some strategies you can implement to eliminate money stress and create a financially healthy future:

1. **Get on a budget** - Identify where every single dollar goes. Once you know how you're spending it, you can start making changes to not only cover basic costs, but also plan for your future.
2. **Focus on the essentials** - Prioritize your top financial expenses: food, utilities, shelter, & transportation.
3. **Cut extra expenses** - Stop eating and drinking out. You may be surprised how much money you spend on going out to eat and drink each month!
4. **Start an emergency fund** - By creating a safety net for those "life happens" moments, you may be able to pay cash for an unexpected expense instead of going into debt.
5. **Ditch debt** - If you're paying off Christmas presents in June and your beach vacation in December, you can't get ahead. Stop taking on new debt. If you can't pay for it now, don't buy it.
6. **Increase your income** - Are you able to work extra shifts or longer hours? Take on a side job such as waiting tables, driving for Uber or Lyft, cleaning houses, or dog sitting to make extra money.
7. **Remember your why** - Making big changes with your money and your life is tough. It may help you to focus on the big future goals you're working toward - buying a home, giving your children a better life, or traveling during retirement. Let your vision of where you want to be push you to keep going.

You can learn more about Ramsey Solutions suggestions for breaking the paycheck to paycheck lifestyle [here](#).



IRA WITHHOLDING

Payments from your IRA are subject to federal income tax withholdings unless you elect "No Withholding." You may change your withholding election at any time prior to your receipt of a payment. To change your withholding election, please complete the appropriate form provided by Palmetto Health Credit Union.

Withholding from IRA payments, when combined with other withholding, may relieve you from payment of estimated income taxes. However, your withholding election does not affect the amount of income tax you pay. You may incur penalties under the estimated tax rules if your withholding and estimated tax payments are insufficient.

This financial institution does not give tax advice. Consult your tax advisor for information specific to your situation.



Home Values HITTING RECORD HIGHS

Homeowners may now have the opportunity to access more money than ever from their homes.

With a Home Equity Line of Credit, you can use the equity in your home to pay down debt, complete home improvement projects or repairs, or just have the peace of mind of knowing you have an established line of credit available to use if unexpected expenses arise.

You can learn more about a PHCU HELOC loan [here](#).



ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Palmetto Health Credit Union's Annual Meeting was held on February 9, 2024. President, Hansel Hart, discussed the current financial condition, took a look into the past year, and discussed upcoming news for 2024.

The election of the credit union volunteers was held in accordance with the procedures and requirements established by the bylaws of PHCU. Below are the volunteers elected in 2024:

Board of Directors

- Pamela Burgess
- Eureka Farrell, LMSW
- Mary McKissock

Supervisory Committee

- Rachel Goode
- Stewart Cooner, MHA

We would like to thank our Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee members who volunteer so much of their time and knowledge to serve Palmetto Health Credit Union and its members.

Board of Directors

- BJ Traynum - Chair
- Nancy McLendon - Vice Chair
- Fay Parker-Brown - Secretary
- Pam Burgess - Treasurer
- Shanna Perry
- Mary Winstead
- Eureka Farrell
- Tim Walker
- Mary McKissock

Supervisory Committee

- Jonathan Morse - Chair
- Stewart Cooner
- Louis Johnston
- Rachel Goode - Secretary
- April Robinson

UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING YOUR CREDIT SCORE

Your credit score is determined by how well you've managed your credit. Understanding the factors that go into credit scores can help you maintain or build healthy credit over time. According to U.S. News & World Report², there are 5 factors that make up your credit score:

Factors That Determine Credit Score

- 1. Payment history (35%)**
 Paying your bills on time is the No. 1 factor to maintain a good FICO score. Even one or two missed payments can seriously hurt your score. Payment history accounts for about 35% of your FICO® Score.
- 2. Amounts owed (30%)**
 The total amount of debt you owe compared with your total available credit is another important factor. This is often referred to as your credit utilization ratio; the lower your ratio, the better. Paying off a high-balance credit card one month can boost your score once the payment is reported to the credit bureaus. Amounts owed are responsible for about 30% of your FICO® Score.
- 3. Length of credit history (15%)**
 Lenders want to know that you've been in the credit game for a while. Your credit score will continue to improve as your credit history grows. The length of your credit history accounts for about 15% of your FICO® Score.
- 4. Credit mix: (10%)**
 The diversity of your accounts helps boost your credit score. It shows that you can handle a variety of debts, such as credit cards, student loans or mortgages. Your accounts need to be in good standing or they'll damage your FICO® Score. Credit mix comprises about 10% of your FICO® Score.
- 5. New credit (10%)**
 Too many hard inquiries and new accounts within a short period of time will throw up a red flag that you might be struggling to keep up with your bills. If you're rejected for a credit card, don't try your luck elsewhere; wait several months and improve your credit first. New credit is responsible for about 10% of your FICO® Score.

To learn more about your credit score, please visit [here](#).



Sources:

1. Warshaw, Jade. "How to Stop Living Paycheck to Paycheck." Ramsey Solutions, October 2023, ramseysolutions.com/budgeting/stop-living-paycheck-to-paycheck
2. Bond, Casey. "Everything You Need to Know About Credit Scores." U.S. News & World Report, June 2023, money.usnews.com/credit-cards/articles/everything-you-need-to-know-about-credit-scores