

# CONNECTIONS

Rendering of the new Norwalk branch provided by Janotta & Herner.



## Building a Better Future

In the previous issue of our newsletter, we announced plans to build a new branch in Norwalk. We are happy to report that plans are underway for the construction of our new location at 26 Executive Drive. The site was cleared in mid-December with construction of the new branch starting in spring of 2023. If all goes as planned, the doors will open in August of 2023. At the same time, our branch on Route 250 South will close.

**You can expect an invitation for a grand opening event as we get closer to this exciting day!**

### Toys Made the Holiday Brighter

We want to thank everyone who donated to the 11th Annual VLFCU Toy Drive! This event benefits children served by the Erie County Department of Jobs and Family Services and the Reach Our Youth organization in Huron County. We can't do this without the generosity of our members, community residents, and our staff.

**Thank you for making a child's holiday brighter!**



## NEW YEAR, NEW FINANCIAL YOU!

### Credit Card Balance Transfer Special

**3.99% Introductory APR for the first 15 months. 11.90%-18.00% APR after promotion ends.**

**Earn 10,000 ScoreCard Rewards Points when you transfer a balance over \$5,000**

- No balance transfer fees!
- No cash advance fees!
- Consolidate merchant and major credit card debt!
- Offer ends February 28, 2023!



SCORECARD



Membership eligibility is required with a minimum deposit of \$25.00 in a Share/Savings Account. Member must be in good standing with VLFCU. No promotions are eligible with any other offer or discounts. APR—Annual Percentage Rate. Promotional rate of 3.99% APR applies for fifteen months after you transfer a balance. Offer valid from January 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023. Balance transfers may not be used to pay down an existing VLFCU Visa. After the promotional period ends, the APR will be (Prime + 5.90 to 17.90% as published in the Wall Street Journal), based upon your creditworthiness. APR may vary but will not exceed 18%. ScoreCard Rewards Bonus Points are only available on select Visa Credit Cards. Foreign Transaction fee up to 1% of each transaction amount applies to purchase made outside of the U.S., regardless of whether you are located inside or outside the United States at the time of the transaction. Subject to change or cancellation without notice.



# Your Business is Their Business

*If you have been traveling around Erie or Huron County lately, then you have probably seen at least one of these individuals on a billboard. Our current marketing campaign focuses on our business lending services and the people who find solutions that make sense for our business members. Whether you're expanding, purchasing new equipment, or want a line of credit for inventory, our Business Lending Team will listen to your needs and recommend the best option and terms that fit your goals. You can't go wrong with this experienced and caring team at VLFCU!*

## Steven R. Frankfather VP, Member Business

Steve Frankfather has more than 19 years of experience in the banking industry with a current focus on commercial lending. According to Steve, "It is very rewarding to assist clients as they achieve their business and personal financial goals. My commitment to our members is to understand their financial challenges and to meet them with solutions tailored to their specific circumstances."

Steve earned a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from the University of Toledo and Master's Degree in Finance from Walden University. He currently resides in Sandusky, OH with his wife and three children.

**You can reach Steve at 419-625-9025, ext. 1339 or [sfrankfather@vlfcu.org](mailto:sfrankfather@vlfcu.org). He will be happy to discuss the financial needs of your business.**



## David Jennings AVP, Portfolio Manager

David Jennings has been in banking for 21 years. Over that time he was a consumer lender, commercial lender, mortgage lender, indirect lender, floor plan lender, branch manager, indirect underwriter, commercial analyst, commercial appraisal manager and now a portfolio manager.

David earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting & Management from Defiance College. He grew up in Milan, but currently lives in Bellevue. He is the proud

father of two teenage daughters. When asked about his position at VLFCU, he stated that "no two days are the same." He enjoys the variety of his job, the work environment, and the people at VLFCU.

**If you have questions for David, you can reach him at 419-625-9025, ext. 1457 or [djennings@vlfcu.org](mailto:djennings@vlfcu.org). His experience can be a benefit to your business' bottom line.**



## Cassidy Haas Business Lending Relationship Admin

Cassidy Haas started her financial career at VLFCU five years ago. She is experienced in opening and managing personal and business accounts. Her positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile make her an asset to the Business Lending department.

Cassidy graduated from New London in 2013 and moved to Bay View two years ago with her husband and three stepchildren. She is currently enrolled in

Leadership Erie County to expand her knowledge of area businesses and organizations, as well as, the needs of our local community.

**If you have questions for Cassidy, you can reach her at 419-625-9025, ext. 1463 or [chaas@vlfcu.org](mailto:chaas@vlfcu.org). She invites you to experience the credit union difference!**





## Paying It Forward

Did you buy a candy bar (or several) over the last year while visiting a VLFCU branch? If so, you helped provide \$1,000 worth of food and household goods for Care and Share in Sandusky. Care and Share is a non-profit organization that serves qualifying residents of Erie County fairly and with dignity, in providing supplemental and emergency food, clothing, linens, and housewares as available.

**Visit their website at [careandshareerieco.org](http://careandshareerieco.org) to learn how you can help.**



## Tax Season Is Approaching

As 2022 comes to a close, we want to pass along information about how tax forms and related information is processed at year-end. VLFCU uses year-end account statements (paper and eStatements) as substitute 1099-INT forms and fair market value (FMV) statements instead of mailing separate forms. The 1099-INT tax information reports earned account dividends to the IRS. The FMV statement reports to the IRS how much an individual's IRA account is worth. This number is what is used to calculate required minimum distributions (RMD) if applicable.

This information will be printed at the end of your fourth quarter statement, and applies to both paper statements and e-Statements. All other tax forms (1098, 1099-R, 5498, etc.) will be sent via paper mail accordingly. 1098 and 1099-R must be postmarked by January 31, 2023, while 5498's are not sent until May.

**Substitute 1099-INT forms & FMV statements will be printed on all account statements for the following:**

- All active accounts regardless of the amount of dividends received (including \$0.00).
- All closed accounts which were closed during the final statement period (prior to December 1, 2022).

Accounts closed prior to the final statement period will receive a standard 1099-INT form and FMV statement in the mail to the last known address in our system.

**Let us know if you have any questions regarding tax-related forms.**

## Scholarship Reminder

Each year we award six scholarships to eligible graduating high school seniors. The program, established in 1996, recognizes and honors six student members of the credit union for their leadership and citizenship. Eligibility is based on the applicant being a current primary account holder of a regular or minor account with VLFCU for a minimum of one year. To qualify for one of the \$1,000 scholarships, the student member must be a senior in high school, plan to participate in post-secondary studies at a professional, vocational, or academic institution, and submit a completed application postmarked by March 1, 2023.

An impartial Scholarship Selection Committee will review the applications and evaluate applicants' leadership qualities, their involvement in school and community activities, as well as their response to the requested essay. Winners and their school guidance offices will be notified in May of 2023. Checks will be made payable to the student's chosen education institution.

**Applications are available at local high schools, all of our VLFCU branches, or can be downloaded from our website at [www.vlfcu.org](http://www.vlfcu.org).**

## Celebrating Members!

Back in October, we celebrated International Credit Union Appreciation Day. Free shredding, cookies, and giveaways were provided, as well as a drawing for gift cards. Between all of our branches, 10 names were drawn for gift cards. We congratulate the winners and remain committed to all of our members!



# Upcoming Closings

All VLFCU branches will be closed to observe the following holidays. Online banking, the VLFCU mobile app, Telephone Banking, and ATMs are available around the clock for your convenience.

- Monday, January 2  
New Year's Day (observed)
- Monday, January 16  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, February 21  
Presidents' Day

VacationLand Federal Credit Union  
P.O. Box 2257  
Sandusky, OH 44871-2257

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SANDUSKY, OH  
44870  
PERMIT #35

## SENIOR CONNECTIONS

### FTC, Secret Service & Financial Elder Abuse Investigator Tell Real Stories on Digital Thievery

You're invited to **BGSU – Firelands ElderCollege**, inside the **Cedar Point Center building, February 23, 2023, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**, to dialogue with Secret Service Agent Steve Snyder; Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Attorney Fil De Banate; and Financial Elder Abuse Investigator Dan McLaughlin from the Erie County Prosecutor's Office, as they explain scams and exploitation. Admission is free.

Listen to real stories about unsuspecting people getting ripped-off via the computer, by phone or both. They will talk about the tactics used by scammers, the red flags their victims did not detect and show some actual illustrations used to exploit the trusting person.

**STEVE SNYDER, Agent with the Secret Service**, recalls one cyber-scammer who took on the identity of a soldier, and told a woman he never met he wants to marry her and start a life with her. He stole \$275,000.00 from her, by deception, and she took a second mortgage out on her home, to help this man who said he loved her.

The Secret Service was able to trace the money and found that this person was an imposter operating out of Jamaica.

It's not all doom and gloom. They have a few (not many) success stories, too.

Reserve your seat no earlier than February 1, 2023 at <https://www.firelands.bgsu.edu/offices/eldercollege.html>. For help getting registered contact BGSU Firelands Office of Technology Support Services 419-372-0743 or e-mail [otss@bgsu.edu](mailto:otss@bgsu.edu).



(L to R): Fil De Banate, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Attorney. Dan McLaughlin, Financial Elder Abuse Investigator with the Erie County Prosecutor's Office. Steve Snyder, Secret Service Agent.



Your lifestyle. Your banking. **Connected.**

#### Sandusky

2409 E. Perkins Ave.  
2911 Hayes Ave.  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
T: 419.625.9025

#### Norwalk

295 Milan Ave., Ste. C  
Norwalk, OH 44857  
T: 419.668.6346

#### Huron

2402 University Dr.  
Huron, Ohio 44839  
T: 419.433.3229

#### Vermilion

Vineyard Square Plaza  
1607 State Rd., Ste. 11  
Vermilion, OH 44089  
T: 440.967.5155

/VacationLandFCU  
 /VacationLandFCU  
 /VacationLandFCU

/VacationLandFCU  
 /company/VacationLandFCU  
[vlfcu.org](http://vlfcu.org)

T: 800.691.9299 • Telephone Banking: 419.621.8328

**ESI EXCESS SHARE**  
INSURANCE  
Federally Insured by NCUA.

