

# SKYWARD

CREDIT UNION

Aim higher.

March 2022

# You've Earned It.

**2.74%** APR\* Until  
April 1, 2023  
on a Home Equity Line of Credit  
Standard Variable Rate as low as 5.00% APR\*

## No Closing Costs!

\*Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) promotion applies to loans up to 90% Loan to Value (CLTV) for owner occupied residences. 2.74% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) promotion applies to new loans and existing HELOC loans with \$5000 advance if available limit. Promotional rate is effective until 4/1/2023. After the promotional period, the variable rate is equal to Wall Street Journal Prime Rate with a floor of 5.00% APR up to 80% CLTV or 5.75% APR up to 90% CLTV, maximum increase of 1% per adjustment in February and August and will not exceed 12.75% APR. The finance charge begins to accrue on the date each advance is posted to the HELOC and accrues each day the balance remains unpaid. \$5000 minimum advance must be taken at closing; \$500 minimum subsequent advances; first three advances per quarter are free then \$5 per additional advance. Minimum payment is \$100. All approvals are subject to credit qualification, membership, as well as other terms and conditions. No closing costs or application fees. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest. Limited time offer.



# PRESIDENT'S NEWS

## Cyber Security

The war in the Ukraine has brought attention to the use of cyber warfare by nations as an additional way to battle a country. I receive warnings every week from our vendors and service providers about expecting increases in cybercrime focused on the credit union and our members' accounts. Business cyber attacks are up 125% this year with ransomware and extortion leading the methods used.

Skyward has invested heavily in increasing our cyber security monitoring and network security. Our data center is in an extremely secure location with very tight access controls. We have 24/7 monitoring of our network to identify potential threats.

We encourage you to take steps to protect yourself personally. Visit the Skyward website home page, select the Resources tab, click on the Security Center. Stickley on Security, a nationally recognized cyber security firm, provides the information in our security center. Skyward provides this free to all and hope this will help protect you from cyber criminals. You can also sign up for free email updates directly from them to stay on top of the latest threats.

If you work at Textron Aviation, you can receive discounted rates for Norton LifeLock packages to help protect your identity as well as your mobile devices and home computers. TransUnion credit bureau also offers identity theft protection for free. It only takes a few minutes to take steps to protect yourself.

Kevin Wilmoth  
President

# Staff Spotlight

**Alexis Danielson**

Member Service Representative



**When did you start at Skyward?**

December 2018

**What do you like best about working at Skyward?**

My favorite part of Skyward is being part of a friendly and knowledgeable team. The people I work with are always helpful and willing to share knowledge freely. Being on a team where everyone leads by example is extremely fulfilling. I also enjoy getting to know our regular members and especially their pets. It's always a highlight of my day when one of our regulars comes through the drive-thru to introduce us to their furry friends.

**What do you like to do when you aren't working?**

I love a good book. One of my favorite things to do with "me time" is to cuddle up under a warm blanket with my dogs and read a great story.

**What are your three most memorable life events so far?**

The day my baby sister was born. She is 13 years younger than me

My Wedding day

The day we purchased our home

**What is your motto?**

I don't have a personal motto, per se. But one of my favorite quotes is from Theodore Roosevelt. "Comparison is the thief of joy". This helps me stay grounded. It keeps me from wanting what others may have and allows me to be happy with the things I have and have done.

**What's your favorite piece of financial advice?**

My favorite piece of financial advice is to keep a good budget. Keep accurate information about what you are earning and what you are spending. You can't get to where you want to go without knowing first where you are.



**TANGANYIKA**  
Wildlife Park



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Member Appreciation Day**  
Private Event

Come hang out with us!

**Where:** Tanganyika Wildlife Park

**When:** Sunday, June 26th from 2- 8pm

**What:** Park & splashpad access, animal encounters & photo ops, interactive feedings

Watch for more information coming soon!

## Credit Score Enhancement Seminar Online

Do you know what your credit score is and how it is calculated? What can your credit score be used for and how does it affect your ability to get a low-rate loan? How can closing a paid-off credit card lower your score? We can answer these questions for you and more. Skyward now offers the Credit Score Enhancement Seminar online for you to view at your convenience. Learn what makes up your credit score, how to read a credit report and what you can do to improve your score.

To view the seminar, go to:

[www.skywardcu.com/credit-score-enhancement-seminar](http://www.skywardcu.com/credit-score-enhancement-seminar)

# Avoid scams: Know the facts on how the IRS contacts taxpayers

(Article shared from the IRS.GOV website)

Crooks impersonating the IRS either by phone, email or in person cost people their time and money. The IRS urges people to stay vigilant against schemes and scams and avoid becoming a victim.

Here are some important tips for taxpayers to keep in mind to avoid scams:

## How the IRS initiates contact

The IRS initiates most contacts with taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. However, there are special circumstances in which the IRS will call or come to a home or business, such as:

- When a taxpayer has an overdue tax bill,
- To secure a delinquent tax return or a delinquent employment tax payment, or
- To tour a business, for example, as part of an audit or during criminal investigations.

Even then, taxpayers will generally first receive a letter or sometimes more than one letter, often called notices, from the IRS in the mail.

## Avoid telephone scams

Criminals impersonate IRS employees and call taxpayers in aggressive and sophisticated ways. Imposters claim to be IRS employees and sound very convincing. They use fake names and phony IRS identification badge numbers. They're demanding and threatening – and do not reflect how the IRS handles enforcement matters.

## Note that the IRS does not:

Demand that people use a specific payment method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS will not ask for debit or credit card numbers over the phone. For people who owe taxes, make payments to the U.S. Treasury or review IRS.gov/ payments for IRS online options.

Demand immediate tax payment. Normal correspondence begins with a letter in the mail and taxpayers can appeal or question

what they owe. All taxpayers are advised to know their rights as a taxpayer.

Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers or other law enforcement agencies to arrest people for not paying. The IRS also cannot revoke a license or immigration status. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into believing their schemes.

## IRS employees may make official, unannounced visits

IRS employees may make official and sometimes unannounced visits to discuss taxes owed or returns due as a part of an audit or investigation. Taxpayers generally will first receive a letter or notice from the IRS in the mail. If a taxpayer has an outstanding federal tax debt, IRS will request full payment but will provide a range of payment options.

Here are the facts:

All IRS representatives will always provide their official credentials, called a pocket commission and a HSPD-12 card. The HSPD-12 card is a government-wide standard form of reliable identification for federal employees and contractors. Taxpayers have the right to see these credentials. IRS employees can provide an additional method to verify their identification. Upon request, they're able to provide a toll-free employee verification telephone number.

Collection employees won't demand immediate payment to a source other than "U.S. Treasury."

IRS employees may call taxpayers to set up appointments or discuss audits but not without first attempting to notify taxpayers by mail.

IRS employees conducting criminal investigations are federal law enforcement agents and will never demand money.

Find more information about Criminal Investigation and how to know it's really the IRS calling or knocking on doors for audits and collection on IRS.gov.

## Avoid email, phishing and malware schemes

Scammers send emails that trick businesses and taxpayers into

thinking the messages are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry. As part of phishing schemes, scammers sometimes ask taxpayers about a wide-range of topics, such as refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts and verifying personal identification numbers.

The IRS does not use email, text messages or social media to discuss tax debts or refunds with taxpayers.

## Calls from IRS-contracted private collection agencies

The IRS assigns certain overdue tax debts to private debt collection agencies or PCAs. Here are the facts about this program:

The IRS will send a letter to the taxpayer letting them know the IRS has turned their case over to one of the four PCAs. The PCA will also send the taxpayer a letter confirming assignment of the taxpayer's account to the agency.

The IRS will assign a taxpayer's account to only one of these agencies, never to all four. The IRS authorizes no other private groups to represent the IRS.

It's important to know that PCA representatives:

Will identify themselves and will ask for payment to "U.S. Treasury,"

Will not ask for payment on a prepaid debit or gift card, and

Will not take enforcement action.

## How to report scams

Taxpayers can use these options to report phone, email and other impersonation scams:

Report impersonation scams to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. on the "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" webpage.

Report phone scams to the Federal Trade Commission using the FTC Complaint Assistant. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

Report an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS or an IRS-related system like the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System to the IRS at [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov).



Bringing the Branch to **YOU**

*Open Accounts  
Apply for Loans  
Make Payments*

*[skywardcu.com/aim](http://skywardcu.com/aim)*

# Branch Locations

## Maize Branch

10315 W 13th St. N  
13th St & Maize

## West Wichita Branch

4 Cessna Blvd  
K-42 West of Hoover

## Greenwich Branch

275 S Greenwich  
North of Kellogg

## Pawnee Branch

5800 E Pawnee  
Pawnee & Woodlawn

## Southwest Wichita

Credit Union Center  
31st St S & Meridian

## Independence, Kansas

Independence Branch  
One Cessna Blvd

Federally  
Insured  
by NCUA



APRIL						
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JUNE						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## Holiday Closings

May 30th 2022: Memorial Day

## A Better Way to Repay Your Student Loans

Are you juggling multiple costly student loan payments every month? Let Skyward help streamline your debt with our student loan refinance solution! Our student loan refinance option comes with:

- Competitive interest rates
- Loan limit up to \$100,000
- Flexible repayment terms to fit your needs
- No origination fees or prepayment penalties
- Easy online application and instant credit decision
- A relationship with a local, not-for-profit lender you can trust

Visit [www.skywardcu.com/student-loans](http://www.skywardcu.com/student-loans) to learn about our student loan program!

**Picture  
THE  
Possibilities**

**Rates as low as  
7.49% APR\*  
Signature Loan**

\*Annual Percentage Rate. Rates and terms may vary based on creditworthiness and other qualifications. New signature loans only. Offer does not apply to refinances of existing Skyward loans. Subject to credit approval. Does not apply to any other unsecured loans and cannot be used in conjunction with other offers. Minimum loan amount \$1000. Maximum term is 36 months. No application fees. Membership and certain other restrictions apply. Promotion ends 04/30/2022.

### Board of Directors

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**Kim Anderson**, Secretary/Treasurer  
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**Jenny Faust**, Member  
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**Thomas Butherus**, Member  
**Amanda Bishop**, Member