

# THE SFCU TELLER

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Members,

Ah, spring—the season of renewal, growth, and fresh possibilities. As we embrace this vibrant time of year, I'm filled with excitement about the journey ahead and the many opportunities it brings to further enhance your banking experience with SFCU. As the financial landscape continues to evolve, we remain deeply committed to ensuring our service is not only personal and professional but also relevant and responsive to your needs as a valued member. Our focus is on continuous improvement, always striving to provide you with the best tools and resources to meet your financial goals.

With recent upgrades and transformative changes already in place—and even more exciting developments on the horizon—we are thrilled to elevate your banking experience to new heights. We're embracing innovation with enthusiasm, and our team is fully committed to staying ahead of trends to ensure you have access to the most advanced technology and exceptional service. In the coming months, we'll be rolling out new initiatives to equip our team with the latest tools and knowledge, ensuring we provide you with a seamless, enjoyable experience while laying a strong, resilient foundation for the future.

Thank you for choosing us as your trusted financial partner. Your success is our success, and we're excited to be part of your journey.

At Somerset Federal Credit Union, we are

*focused on you.*

Joe Lajoie,  
President & CEO, SFCU



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
MONDAY, MAY 26TH

**JUNETEENTH**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
JULY 4TH

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Introducing Banzai

Beware of Tax Scams

Save the Date(s)

Budgeting Tips: Spring

## SFCU'S MISSION

At Somerset Federal Credit Union, we are dedicated to providing the highest quality of personal financial services in a friendly, professional manner that focuses on our members' needs and best interest.

# COMING SOON!

## SFCU'S FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM THROUGH BANZAI

**Banzai is a financial literacy program designed to support SFCU's mission of financial education while also strengthening our presence in the community.**

Through Banzai Schools, we will provide interactive digital simulations and educational resources to local schools, helping students develop essential money management skills. This initiative also allows SFCU to build relationships with future account holders by creating opportunities for in-classroom presentations and engagement.

Banzai Direct extends these resources beyond the classroom by offering a comprehensive financial education hub on SFCU's website. This platform includes youth-focused simulations, as well as tools for adults, such as financial calculators, articles, and coaching sessions. By making

these resources easily accessible, we empower our members to make informed financial decisions at every stage of life.

Additionally, Banzai serves as a powerful marketing tool for SFCU. The platform allows us to seamlessly integrate our products and services into financial education, guiding members toward solutions that align with their financial goals. Whether it's promoting savings accounts, loans, or investment opportunities, Banzai provides an organic way to connect members with the right financial resources while reinforcing SFCU's commitment to their financial well-being.

## TAX SEASON ALERT: SCAMS TO WATCH OUT FOR!

Tax season isn't just a busy time for you—it's prime time for scammers looking to steal your money and personal information. Stay one step ahead by watching out for these common frauds:

**IRS IMPERSONATION SCAMS :** If you get a call or email demanding immediate payment or threatening arrest, it's a scam. The IRS will always contact you by mail first and never ask for payment via gift cards or wire transfers.

**SHADY TAX PREPARERS:** If someone promises an unusually large refund or bases their fee on your refund amount, be cautious! Only trust licensed professionals with your tax return.

Your best defense? Stay informed, verify sources, and never share personal details with unverified contacts. Protect your finances this tax season!

## SOUTHCOAST OPEN AIR MARKET KID BIZ SPONSORED BY SFCU

### Kids Can Join the Southcoast Open Air Market for FREE!

The Southcoast Open Air Market (SOAM) has a program made for kids called SOAM Kid Biz. SOAM Kid Biz is for young entrepreneurs, ages 7 - 18, who want to sell their goods at SOAM alongside regular vendors. The program is fully sponsored by SFCU. This allows for the business owned and operated by children to participate in the market for FREE!

There are a limited number of Kid Biz spots, and the market does have a few spots left for Kids to join the 2025 season. If you know a creative kid who would love to sell his or her creations, visit [www.soamsomerset.com](http://www.soamsomerset.com) for a SOAM Kid Biz application.

### SOAM Location & Hours:

**Dates:** June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th and October 25th

**Event Hours:** 10:00am - 2:00pm

**Event Locations:** Chick Marchand Memorial Park, 100 Newhill Ave., Somerset, MA

**Parking:** Grass lot located right next to Grace Bible Church, 802 Riverside Ave., Somerset, MA





**SATURDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**



**COMMUNITY SHRED DAY:  
9AM-12PM**

Bring your old financial statements, tax documents, or any other personal documents to our FREE Community Shred-It Day for secure destruction—no need to remove paper clips, staples, or small binder clips. Loose DVDs, CDs, cassette tapes, and floppy disks can also be shredded.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**



**ANNUAL MEETING:  
5:30PM**

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Somerset Federal Credit Union will be held at 740 County Street, Somerset, MA at 5:30PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 for the transaction of all business which may properly come before said meeting.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>**



**SOMERSET RECREATION  
ANNUAL EGG HUNT: 9AM**

This FREE event is open to all kids in grades 5 and under, with designated hunt areas for ages 3 & under, 4–7, and 8–11. Each egg has surprises and candy, plus special prizes for each group. Enjoy games, activities, and photos with the Easter Bunny—don't forget your basket!

**AUTO LOAN SPECIAL: JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> & JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>**

June brings another chance to hit the road in style with our upcoming Auto Loan Special on June 13th and 14th! Whether you're upgrading your ride or buying your first car, this limited-time offer is your chance to save big. Mark your calendars and stay tuned—more details are on the way!

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 2, 2025**



SFCU, through its employee-sponsored ReachOut! Program, is proud to offer three \$2,000 scholarships: the SFCU Scholarship, the Oliver C. Perry, Jr. Scholarship, and the ReachOut! Scholarship.

Open to graduating high school seniors who are SFCU members or dependents of members, applicants must submit a completed application, a 500-word essay on "people helping people" and how their goals will make a difference, proof of college acceptance, and a list of extracurricular or community service activities.

Applications are due at any SFCU branch by May 2, 2025. Forms are available in all SFCU lobbies or can be downloaded online. Recipients will be notified in May or June 2025.

**APRIL IS BOOK DRIVE  
MONTH**

Donate new or gently used books by April 30 and help spark a lifelong love of reading!

For more information about any of these events, be sure to visit our website. You'll find all the details you need, including dates, times, and how to participate—we're always updating with the latest news and opportunities!



## BUDGETING TIPS : SPRING

*Prepare Your Budget for Spring's Challenges*

Spring is a season of renewal, making it the perfect time to refresh your budget and financial goals. Here are some strategies to optimize your budget while ensuring financial stability:

### REVIEW AND REVISE YOUR BUDGET:

Assess your current budget. With the new season, it's a good time to adjust your budget based on any changes in income or expenses.

### SET SEASONAL FINANCIAL GOALS:

Establish specific financial goals for the spring. Whether it's saving for a summer vacation, paying off debt, or setting aside

money for home improvement projects, having clear goals can help guide your spending.

### CONSIDER CONSOLIDATING DEBT:

If you have multiple debts, look into our Debt Consolidation loan option. Reducing the number of payments and potentially lowering interest rates can ease your financial burden.

### CELEBRATE FINANCIAL MILESTONES:

Create small rewards for yourself when you hit financial milestones, like sticking to your budget for a month or reaching a savings goal. This can help keep you motivated!

### LIMITED TIME: 7-Month Term Share Certificate



SAVE FOR THE FUTURE!

LIMITED TIME  
7-Month Term\*\* Share Certificate

**4.05%** APY\*

Visit our website for the latest terms and conditions.



## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR SWANSEA LOCATION?

Located at 1723 Grand Army of the Republic Highway— Experience the same convenient hours, welcoming atmosphere, and the friendly faces you know and trust. Our team is excited to help you with all your financial needs, ensuring you receive the personalized service you deserve!

Photo: Swansea Assistant Branch Manager, Joshua Darlington — and the Assistant Vice President/ Branch Manager, Diane Medeiros

## ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNTS ANYTIME!



ONLINE  
BANKING

[somersetfcu.com/online-banking/](https://somersetfcu.com/online-banking/)



MOBILE  
BANKING

[somersetfcu.com/mobile-banking/](https://somersetfcu.com/mobile-banking/)



TELLERphone  
BANKING

To enroll, simply dial  
800-495-2081 from a touchtone phone,  
and you're banking!



ATMS

[www.allpointnetwork.com/locator](https://www.allpointnetwork.com/locator)

**SOMERSET BRANCH:** 740 County Street | Somerset, MA 02726  
**SWANSEA BRANCH:** 1723 G.A.R. Highway | Swansea, MA 02777



(508) 678-2851



[somersetfcu.com](https://somersetfcu.com)



[info@somersetfcu.com](mailto:info@somersetfcu.com)

### CONNECT WITH US!



SomersetFCU



[somersetfcu](https://www.instagram.com/somersetfcu)



[company/somer-set-federal-credit-union](https://www.linkedin.com/company/somer-set-federal-credit-union)



[SomerSetFCU](https://twitter.com/SomerSetFCU)

Credit Union NMLS ID: 421594

