

1ST QUARTER 2018  
NEWSLETTER

S

EN

KEEPING  
YOU  
CONNECTED



[www.lfcu.org](http://www.lfcu.org)



## Wrap Your **Holiday Spending** into a Lafayette Federal Holiday Loan **RATES AS LOW AS 2.74% APR\***

When it comes to paying off holiday and winter bills, we've got you covered. A Lafayette Federal Holiday Loan is the perfect way to finance all of the extra spending you may have done during the holidays! *For a limited time*, we're giving our members access to a reduced-rate loan, perfect for taking care of those expenditures.

- Rates as low as **2.74% APR\***
- Borrow up to **\$10,000 for 36 months**

### SEE HOW AFFORDABLE YOUR MONTHLY PAYMENT WOULD BE:

Loan Amount	\$5,000	\$10,000
Term	36 Months	36 Months
Rate	2.74% APR*	4.74% APR*
Monthly Payment (approximate)	<b>\$145.00</b>	<b>\$299.00</b>

Take advantage of this special offer today!

Learn more at [www.lfcu.org/holidayloan](http://www.lfcu.org/holidayloan).

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. APR of 2.74% for loan amounts up to \$5,000. APR of 4.74% for loan amounts \$5,000.01 up to \$10,000. Offer expires on January 31, 2018. Must be at least 18 years old with a minimum credit score of 660 to be eligible for up to \$5,000 and a minimum credit score of 700 to be eligible for \$5,000.01 up to \$10,000. Standard underwriting guidelines will apply. Sample payment: \$28.97 per \$1,000 borrowed for 36 months at 2.74% APR. \$29.85 per \$1,000 borrowed for 36 months at 4.74% APR. \$50.00 minimum balance required to open and earn 0.10% APY\*\* on LFCU share savings account balances. \$5 minimum balance required to open and earn 0.025% APY\*\* on Lafayette Federal checking account balances. \*\*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rates effective January 1, 2018. Rates may change at any time without prior notice, before or after the account is opened. Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the U.S. government.

## ENJOY **NATIONWIDE ACCESS** TO OVER 5,500 SHARED BRANCHES AND 100,000 ATMs

Our members have access to a massive network of ATMs, shared branches, and self-service kiosks in all 50 states, and even around the world, thanks to CO-OP Financial Services.

Here are just a few of the services available at participating shared branch locations:

- Deposits
- Withdrawals
- Transfers between accounts
- Purchase gift cards and official checks
- Fast cash
- Loan payments
- Cash advance
- Account balances



To find a location near you, visit [www.lfcu.org/locator](http://www.lfcu.org/locator).

# LAFAYETTE FEDERAL HONORS CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year is a major festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. The first day of the New Year falls on the new moon between January 21<sup>st</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally, the festival was a time to honor deities as well as ancestors. Chinese New Year is celebrated in countries and territories with significant Chinese populations, including Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Mauritius, Australia, and the Philippines.

Lafayette Federal proudly supports Chinese New Year, including the unique customs and traditions associated with it.



## The **PROS** and **CONS** to Paying Off Credit Cards with a Personal Loan

By Krystal Smalls, Lafayette Federal VP Product Development

There are several factors to consider before obtaining a personal loan to pay off credit cards. To qualify for the best personal loan rates, you will need a high credit score, and time to research. It is best to thoroughly search around the internet to spot any promotional rates being offered. Consolidating multiple credit cards into one loan simplifies paying off your debt by forming a definitive timeline and consistent payment amount to meet your debt-free goal. Personal loans are typically simple and quick and involve no fees. There are pros and cons to any type of financial decision, and consolidating from credit cards to a personal loan is no different.

### **PROS:**

- One monthly loan payment
- Reduction of interest rate
- Set term and payment
- No fees absorbing your savings

### **CONS:**

- Monthly payment increase is possible for higher balances
- Payoff eliminates balance on your card allowing for additional charging

Once you gather all of your monthly credit card bills, calculate all of the

balances. Then, calculate and aggregate all of your minimum monthly payment amounts. Finally, simply calculate your proposed monthly payment for the personal loan. You can now see the comparison of monthly payments now versus if you consolidate. The consolidation's monthly payment, interest rate, or interest paid over the life of the loan should be lower.

Are you willing to close your credit cards? This could have slight adverse credit score consequences, but in the end, if you need to in order to not reuse, or it is mandated by the creditor to approve your loan, then it is worth it. Just keep one or two for emergency use only and use them for a small purchase periodically to keep them active.

Do you have other items of value that can be used as collateral, such as a paid-in-full car, cash savings, 401(k), or equity in your home? These may be better options depending on the amount of outstanding debt you need to consolidate, interest rates being offered, and the monthly payment you can afford, or would like to pay. Many of these have lower interest rates, and allow for a longer term for those consumer with very high amounts in credit card debt.



3535 University Blvd. West  
Kensington, Maryland 20895-1701  
(301) 929-7990 • (800) 888-6560  
Fax: (240) 747-3379  
memberservice@lfcu.org  
[www.lfcu.org](http://www.lfcu.org)



Federally Insured  
by NCUA

