

NOVEMBER &
DECEMBER
2022



MON - FRI: 9AM - 4:30PM | SAT: 9AM - 12PM | OPEN 24/7 @ WFSAVINGS.COM

322 MAIN ST, LATROBE, PA 15650 | (724) 539-9755

Reminders

Westmoreland Federal Savings will be closed on the following upcoming holidays . . .

Friday, Nov. 11,
Thursday, Nov. 24,
Monday, Dec. 26,
Monday, Jan. 2 and
Monday, Jan. 16.

Please ask us
about our special
certificate of
deposit rates. It's
never too early to
start saving!



4 Tips for a Financially Happy Holiday

If you're worried that inflation, recession concerns and other factors may cut into your holiday fun this year, you may be able to trim your spending with a few money-saving tips.

- 1) **Set a Holiday Budget.** It's easy to throw financial caution to the wind during the holidays, but reckless spending can sabotage bigger financial goals. Review your finances and set a realistic holiday budget to keep your holidays merry.
- 2) **Make a Little List.** As you jot down gift ideas, consider who you can pass on. We're all feeling the pinch of inflation, so family and friends will probably be grateful if you suggest dialing down the gift giving this year. Maybe consider Secret Santa and Yankee Swap exchanges. Buy gifts the whole family can use, like board games or zoo memberships.
- 3) **Shop Strategically.** The best deals aren't always on Black Friday or Cyber Monday. Armed with your list, search for specific items and compare prices for the best deals. Try to shop early. Panicky last-minute purchases can blow your budget and cause unnecessary stress.
- 4) **Don't Buy Anything.** Give the gift of your time and do something with or for someone. Think presence, not presents. Make coupons for chores, errands and homemade meals. Or start a tradition of volunteering during the holidays — nursing homes, animal rescues, homeless shelters and children's charities are always looking for extra help this time of year.

Cutting back a little will not make you a Scrooge. Focus on making memories and not the material things. Enjoy the warmth of the holidays.

(Source: Karen Axelton September 26, 2022)



November & December

How to Avoid Utilities Scams

When temperatures drop, it often costs more to stay cozy in your home — and scammers know that. And they know how to take advantage of that too. Utility imposters work year-round, but they really shine around the winter holidays.

Here's how to recognize these bad guys:

- Scammers say you're behind on your bill and, unless you pay right away by gift card or wiring money through companies like Western Union or MoneyGram, they will shut off your utility service. **Stop! That's a scam!**
- Fraudsters knock on your door saying they need to repair or replace equipment, and that you have to pay on the spot. **Don't let them in! That's a scam!**
- Con artists inform you that you overpaid your bill, and they only need to confirm your personal information to process your refund quickly. **Bah humbug! That's a scam!**

If you encounter a situation like this, notify your utility company and also report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

(Source: FTC "How to save money on utilities this winter and avoid scams" by Colleen Tressler October 6, 2022)

Cutting Energy Costs

The less you're worried about energy costs, perhaps the easier it will be to ignore a call from someone (a scammer) pretending to offer ways for you to save or get money this winter.

- ◆ **Do a home energy audit.** It will tell you how efficient your heating system is and where your home is wasting energy. Many utility companies offer free or low-cost energy assessments.
- ◆ **Seal air leaks** around windows, doors and places where pipes and wires come through walls. Check caulking and weatherstripping for gaps or cracks, and then fix them.
- ◆ **Lower the thermostat** before you go to bed or leave for the day, or get a programmable thermostat to do it automatically.
- ◆ **Increase your insulation** to levels recommended by the U.S. Department of Energy.
- ◆ **See if help is available.** Determine if you're eligible for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

(Source: FTC "How to save money on utilities this winter and avoid scams" by Colleen Tressler October 6, 2022)



Westmoreland Federal wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season!