



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

Don't Fall for Impersonation Scams

Impersonation scams (or imposter scams) are on the rise. Criminals are using advanced technology to mimic trusted businesses, government agencies, or even people you know, such as celebrities.

Their ultimate goal? Trick you into handing over online banking passwords, credit card numbers, financial records, or your Social Security number and other personal identifying information.

How the Scam Works

Scammers use spoofed phone numbers, fake emails, and lookalike text messages to appear completely legitimate. They rely heavily on **fear and a false sense of urgency** to stop you from thinking clearly.

They will often claim you are facing:

- ⚠️ A fraudulent bank transaction
- 🏠 An internal "insider abuse" bank investigation
- 👮 A classified government inquiry
- 💰 An accidental overpayment refund
- ⚖️ Pending legal action or immediate arrest

Red Flags

Protect yourself and your finances by watching out for these major warning signs:

- **High-Pressure Tactics:** Demands that you act immediately or face severe consequences.
- **Unusual Payment Requests:** Demands to pay via gift cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers.
- **Demands for Secrecy:** Instructions to not tell your family, friends, or bank tellers.
- **Sensitive Data Requests:** Asking for PINs, passwords, or one-time login codes.
- **Slight Misspellings:** Email addresses or web links with altered letters (e.g., arnazon.com).

What to do next?

If you think you have been targeted, stop communicating immediately and contact Patriot Federal Credit Union for further assistance. Never log into accounts through links sent in a message. Instead, look up the official phone number independently to verify the claim.

New Branch Opening This Fall!

We're excited to share that construction on our new Inwood, WV branch is progressing right on schedule! As work continues, we're thrilled to bring this modern new facility to our members and the surrounding community later this fall.

With construction officially underway, each milestone brings us one step closer to opening our doors and expanding the personalized service and support you've come to know from Patriot Federal Credit Union.

We can't wait to welcome members to our newest location in Fall 2026. Stay tuned for more updates and progress photos as the project continues to take shape!

Inwood Branch
41 Duella Drive
Inwood, WV 25428



A Message from the CEO



Happy 250th Birthday America!

Like some of you, I can remember as a youngster the patriotic hoopla surrounding the bi-centennial celebration in 1976. A time that also marked a celebration for our credit union as we opened our first Letterkenny Federal Credit Union branch.

As we all know, much has changed in the last 50 years. The world has

undergone transformations in politics, economics, technology, and society so sweeping that they amount to a complete restructuring of global life. For example, beginning in the late 1970's deregulation, privatization, and free market policies became dominant. Capital and goods began moving across borders at unprecedented scale, driven by liberalized markets and new technologies.

And here we are today, celebrating an amazing (and certainly interesting) 250 years of freedom. Despite ongoing political turbulence and mixed economic signals, consumer confidence has held steady in 2026, supported by a labor market that remains resilient. Forecasts for the second half of the year lean cautiously optimistic, with most analysts expecting moderate GDP growth as inflation continues to ease (or at least we hope so).

Interest rates have stabilized following the Federal Reserve's cuts in late 2025 and early 2026. Across Fed communications, market pricing, and major research outlooks, the dominant sentiment is "higher for longer" interest rates through the rest of 2026, with at most one rate cut down from two earlier in the year and a chance of no cuts at all. In general, markets now anticipate a stable rate environment through year end, barring unexpected shocks.

Recession concerns persist, but the consensus frames it as a risk rather than an inevitability. Slower global growth, elevated tariffs, and reduced government spending all contribute to this uncertainty. At the same time, improving supply chains and easing trade tensions offer counterweights that could support continued expansion. Tariffs and the geopolitical environment remain major wildcards.

On the lending front, small business and home improvement borrowing remain strong, while mortgage activity continues to lag due to limited housing inventory, home prices, and still elevated mortgage rates.

The U.S. personal savings rate remains near 4%, well below historical norms. Although many households across the country and locally are financially challenged by higher prices at the grocery store and the gas pump, we see signs of resiliency. Savings account balances at Patriot have risen as member households have benefited from higher income tax returns, up over 11% on average when compared to last year, and by adopting a more cautious financial posture by holding larger amounts of cash amid market uncertainty and shifting economic conditions.

This is one contributing factor to the growth at Patriot and our strong start in 2026. Credit union deposits have grown more than \$35 million this year, average loan outstandings are up by 6.8%, and net income has grown by 28% over the same period a year ago, enabling us to add value to our members in the form of lower fees, better rates, and investments in technology and facilities.

In early June, we rolled out enhancements to our digital banking platform - the umbrella for online and mobile banking. The digital banking platform will offer streamlined, modern navigation with enhanced security protection including passkeys, one-time passcodes and multi-factor authentication. Overall, members will find a consistent, seamless experience across online and mobile banking systems with like menus and services.

And while upgrades to digital services are important, we understand that bricks support clicks, as many members choose Patriot for its physical convenience of having a branch location nearby while they prefer to handle more of their regular banking needs either online or on their mobile device. Construction has begun on our second West Virginia branch, this one located in southern Berkeley County in Inwood. We anticipate the branch will begin serving members in the fall of this year. And I am pleased to announce that plans are to open another West Virginia branch in 2027 in Jefferson County, so stay tuned for more information.

In a further effort to enhance the overall member experience and serve you better, later this summer we expect to introduce a new member convenience that integrates technology and branch convenience: online appointment scheduling. This service will enable members and prospective members to schedule an appointment at any Patriot branch location or through our contact center for a variety of needs - becoming a member, applying for a loan, adding services, account maintenance, and more.

The changes that we are making to our platforms and systems enable us to provide better service to you, our members. While we understand that changes are often viewed as disruptive to members who have gotten accustomed to the ways things used to work, not making improvements can be a hurdle in our efforts on being the very best local financial institution, not just credit union, and provide the best member experience that we can (and that you deserve). To that extent we know that at times there will be hiccups and we are not perfect. We greatly appreciate the grace that our members grant us when we stumble - it is how we often learn from our missteps and become better.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued membership in and support of your credit union and for allowing us to be part of your financial journey. We're very excited about the future of Patriot and we look forward to being the financial partner of choice for the individuals, families, businesses and organizations throughout our market area.

Sincerely,

Ron Celaschi - CEO - Patriot Federal Credit Union

Board nomination including those who are set to renew. 2026 Annual Meeting - Notice/Board Elections

Patriot Federal Credit Union's Annual Meeting will be held on:

- **Tuesday, September 22, 2026**
- **Doors open and registration begins at 1:30 PM**
- **Corporate Center - First Floor
1330 South Seventh Street, Chambersburg, PA**

You're Invited: 2025 Annual Meeting! Mark your calendar!

Join us to hear updates on Patriot's financial performance and key activities from the past year. This is a great opportunity to stay informed and involved in your credit union.

Light refreshments—including coffee, soft drinks, and cookies—will be served.

Please RSVP by September 17, 2026 by calling 717-262-4301.

We hope to see you there!

Nominations

Garry Gontz - Board Treasurer

Garry E. Gontz, a resident of Chambersburg, PA, is a retired Business and Industry Specialist for the U.S. Department of Defense-Office of Economic Adjustment with nearly 34 years combined federal service.

His work experience included working for the Pentagon coordinating defense department assistance, project management and grants at Base Realignment and Closure sites across the country and was the Base Transition Coordinator for Department of the Army at Letterkenny Army Depot.

Mr. Gontz holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in public relations from Shippensburg University and a Certificate in Strategic Planning from the Graduate School, Washington, D.C.

He is the Secretary on the Board of the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority and recently elected to serve as the president of the Cumberland Valley Business Park Association. Mr. Gontz has served on the Franklin County Assessment Board and most recently on the County's Board of Elections. Mr. Gontz has been a member of Patriot Federal Credit Union since 1973 and currently serves as Board Treasurer.

Matthew J. Zaborsky, Jr. - Supervisory Chair/Board Member

Matthew J. Zaborsky, Jr of Martinsburg, WV has retired after many years of working in the Financial Services Industry.

A graduate of George Mason University, Mr. Zaborsky attained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration.

Mr. Zaborsky initially sought to serve as a member of Patriot's Board because of his previous background in Financial Services working as a banker, credit union manager, and a self-employed mortgage broker. Mr. Zaborsky desires to give back to his community and to assist with the ongoing success of Patriot Federal Credit Union.

Interested in Serving on the Board of Directors?

Members who wish to be considered as candidates for Patriot's Board of Directors must submit the following to the Secretary of the Board no later than Thursday, July 9, 2026:

- A petition with 100 member signatures
- A written statement of qualifications
- A biographical information sheet

Complete details are available in the Volunteer Recruitment Kit, which you can pick up at any Patriot office or request by calling 717-262-4301.

Easier Loan Payments with Patriot

Patriot Federal Credit Union launched an enhanced Online Portal Payment experience on June 9, making loan payments faster and more convenient for members.

The updated portal now allows members to:

- Make payments online anytime, 24/7
- Use a debit card directly through the payment portal
- Submit payments without creating a login or account
- Complete payments quickly through a simplified one-page process

Alternatively, members can also connect external bank or credit union accounts within Online Banking or the Patriot Mobile App to schedule recurring payments and manage transfers conveniently in one place.

For additional payment options and more information, visit: <https://www.patriotfcu.org/make-payment/>

A Fresh New Digital Banking Experience Is Here!

Patriot Federal Credit Union is excited to announce that our upgraded Online Banking platform and Mobile App officially launched, bringing members a faster, more modern, and more secure digital banking experience. Designed with convenience and security in mind, the enhanced platform delivers an improved experience whether you're banking from your computer, tablet, or mobile device.

Members will notice a refreshed look with streamlined navigation and a more consistent experience across Online Banking and the Mobile App. The upgrade also includes enhanced security protections, including passkeys and One-Time Pin (OTP) multi-factor authentication for added account protection.

New Features Members Can Enjoy

Some of the new and enhanced features now available include:

- Security and account alerts
- Card controls
- Stop payments
- Recurring transfers
- Financial calculators
- Enhanced account organization with hide and sort options
- Improved navigation and user experience across devices

The upgraded Mobile App also supports biometric login options such as Face ID and fingerprint authentication, along with passkeys for a faster and more secure sign-in experience.

Important Updates to Know

As part of the upgrade, several security-related enhancements were implemented:

- Security images, phrases, and challenge questions have been replaced with One-Time Pin verification.
- Passwords are no longer saved directly within the app.
- Members signing in on a new device or browser will complete OTP verification for enhanced protection.

We're excited for members to experience these improvements and encourage anyone with questions to stop by a branch or contact our team for assistance. Thank you for your patience and support during this exciting upgrade!

Coin Counting Made Easy – No Wrapping Needed!

As a friendly reminder, Patriot members can bring unwrapped coins to any branch for quick and convenient processing—no rolling required! Depending on the volume of coins brought in, we may be able to process them while you wait. If additional time is needed, your coins will be counted and deposited into your account as soon as processing is complete. Skip the wrappers and let us do the work for you!



Upcoming Shred Days: Get rid of clutter and help protect your identity!

SHRED

Patriot has two upcoming Shred Days at our Shippensburg and Inwood offices. These

events are great opportunities to securely dispose of personal documents such as old bills, credit union statements, and other paper containing personal information to reduce clutter and help protect your identity. Please limit the amount of paper you bring to no more than two boxes. Also, no plastic, binder clips, cardboard, or 3-ring binders. We'll also be collecting food items to help stock local food pantries. Please bring canned and boxed food items to donate to local food banks.

Shippensburg Office

Saturday, September 12th, 9:00AM - Noon
or when shred truck is full
1095 West King Street, Shippensburg

NEW Inwood Branch

Fall 2026 - Date TBD, 9:00AM - Noon
or when shred truck is full
41 Duella Drive, Inwood, WV 25428

Find out about all our Shred Days at
<https://www.patriotfcu.org/shred-day/>