

NOVEMBER &  
DECEMBER  
2023

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

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

## Reminder

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

**Saturday, Nov. 11  
(Veterans Day)**



**Thursday, Nov. 23  
(Thanksgiving)**



**Monday, Dec. 25  
(Christmas)**



## 12 Days of Holiday Budgeting

Holiday budgeting may seem sort of Scrooge-like. But, it also may be a way to help you avoid overspending on gifts and all the tempting holiday festivities. And, in turn, it may help you take better control of your money, particularly at the end of another year. So consider the tips below to stay off the naughty list.

1. Make a comprehensive shopping list (e.g., gifts, shipping, wrapping supplies, meals, decorations, charitable donations, activities, travel costs, etc.).
2. Set and stick to a price limit to remain within your budget.
3. Buy ahead to avoid price spikes.
4. Build holiday savings with a Christmas club account for next year.
5. Price check to find the cheapest option or look for coupons or sales.
6. Create homemade gifts instead of buying new ones.
7. Propose a gift exchange to spend less.
8. Consider older versions of the latest tech gadgets.
9. Repurpose decorations or exchange with friends for a new look.
10. Suggest potluck dinners to lower meals costs.
11. Track your spending and save receipts.
12. Earn extra money by selling things or finding seasonal employment.

Now, after reading this far, treat yourself with milk and cookies!!

*(Source: Mint "Holiday Budgeting: A 3-Step Guide to Control Your Holiday Spending" Updated July 25, 2022)*

# November & December

## Fake Bank Scams

Scammers are constantly trying to steal your money and your personal information, and they use a variety of ways to do it. Fraudsters often pretend to be from an organization you know and trust, like an FDIC-insured bank.

They may try to reach you via phone call, email, text or on a website. Criminals create fake bank websites to entice people into transferring money or disclosing personal information. Some even use the FDIC name or "Member FDIC" logo to instill a false sense of security.

Scammers also develop banking apps that may install malicious software on your phone or tablet. Be careful of apps or websites that ask for odd permissions, such as granting access to your contacts, text messages, usernames, passwords and credit or debit card numbers.

Always be wary of emails/texts with typos, obvious mistakes, unusual fonts, that create a sense of urgency or just seem off. Be skeptical of any attachments described as coupons, rebates or payment forms. Watch for scams where they request you send money or pay "FDIC insurance fees" to receive a large amount of money in return. The FDIC does not charge or collect fees from consumers.

*(Source: FDIC Consumer News "Scammers and Fake Banks" September 29, 2023)*

## Three Forever Free

Great news! The three national credit reporting agencies — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion — have permanently extended the program that lets you check your credit report at each of the agencies once a week for free.

Visit [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://AnnualCreditReport.com) to request free copies of your credit reports. Keep in mind that other sites may charge you or be fraudulent sites set up to steal your personal information.

Your report shows things like how many credit cards and loans you have, whether you pay your bills on time and whether any debts have been turned over to collections. Creditors, insurers, some employers and other businesses use it to decide if they want to do business with you and the terms they'll offer you.

*(Source: FTC "You now have permanent access to free weekly credit reports" by Colleen Tressler Updated October 13, 2023)*

