



## What's New This Quarter

As we roll into the third quarter, we are delighted to embrace the longer days and warmer temperatures that truly highlight the beauty of summertime in the Upper Peninsula. Our team has been diligently working to provide greater value to our members by introducing new products and services and promoting the value of our existing offerings.

We're excited to announce our latest partnership with Trust & Will, through Love My Credit Union Rewards. This collaboration provides our members with access to essential tools to protect their assets and ensure clarity for their loved ones when the time comes. Our team often assists members and their families after a loved one's passing, and without account beneficiaries, a trust, or will, these families are left to navigate the challenging probate process. This can lead to significant attorney fees. Trust & Will is an online tool that enables you to create necessary documents, ask questions, and even connect with an attorney if needed. Limestone FCU members now receive a 20% discount on these services, allowing for secure planning to protect your assets and your loved ones (see page 2).

We encourage all our members, regardless of your current estate plan, to at the very minimum review your account beneficiaries and designate a trusted person to manage your account after your passing.

Another benefit we are highlighting this quarter is our Military Benefits Program. This program is another example of how LFCU provides members with benefits aimed at building a better financial future.

Designed to provide value to those who are actively serving, veterans, or Gold Star Families, this program includes refunds on ATM fees, free checks and money orders, bonus dividends on Certificate Accounts, and lower loan rates. Additionally, we donate \$5 per club member annually to the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight. If you have a DD214, stop by LFCU and sign up.

Want to do a quick check-up? Just like an annual physical (though maybe a little less invasive☺), meeting annually with our team can be a valuable way to ensure you are receiving the maximum value from your membership and are protected if you experience a significant life event. This annual review can help you stay on top of any changes, ensure your beneficiaries are up to date, and that you're taking full advantage of all of the products and services we offer.

As we look forward to the second half of 2024, I am excited to continue to forge relationships with vendors and others who bring value to our membership. Thank you for being part of the cooperative. We know that when it comes to banking, you have many choices. Our team continues to stay dedicated to our mission to earn your business every day.



Jennifer C. Watson, CEO of Limestone FCU.

*Jennifer C. Watson*



[Learn More](#)

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2024**

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Downtown Manistique - The Social District

# Securing Futures with New Products

## trust&will

Limestone FCU members can now receive exclusive savings of 20% off on any estate plan with Trust & Will, a partner of Limestone FCU. Trust & Will is the leading online estate planning platform offering:

- ✓ A convenient, and easy-to-use online platform.
- ✓ Legally binding documents customized to fit your needs.
- ✓ The best in-class, top-rated member support.
- ✓ Fast estate planning – plans can be completed in 30 minutes.

[Learn More](#)



## Meet Limestone's Summer Interns

We're thrilled to welcome four outstanding students to the Limestone FCU family this summer:

Carson (MHS '22) is entering his junior year at St. Norbert College, where he is studying Business Administration and Marketing. Elle (MHS '20) graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's Degree in Film, Television, and Media & English Language and Literature. JoLynn (MHS '25) is entering her senior year with plans to study Accounting in college. Emma (MHS '24) is heading to LSSU in the fall to study Business Administration and Marketing and play volleyball.

Welcome!

## Employee Spotlight

This quarter's Employee Spotlight goes to Katana Freed, Branch Manager of The Hub inside of Jack's Fresh Market. Katana's leadership is characterized by her commitment to excellence, her ability to anticipate and address challenges, and her genuine care for the team. Katana's efforts have significantly contributed to creating a positive and supportive environment at Limestone FCU.



"Katana exemplifies dedication in her role as the Branch Manager of The Hub inside of Jack's Fresh Market. Her proactive approach to member service and team support is truly commendable. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that both our members and team have the resources and assistance they need."

-Alyssa Swanson, COO, at Limestone FCU.

Congratulations goes to Katana on this well-deserved spotlight! Her hard work has made a lasting impact, and we are grateful to have her on the Limestone team.



## Meet The Hub @ LSSU Summer Intern

Domenic (LSSU '26) is entering his sophomore year at LSSU and pursuing a degree in Finance and Economics.

# Business Account Checking Products

Enhanced business account checking products are now available!

## ✓ Online Business Banking

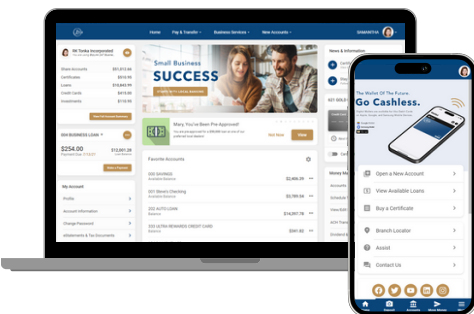
Individual sign on capabilities with greater security features such as limits and individual permissions. Business can manage users, reset passwords, etc.

## ✓ ACH Direct

With a Limestone Business Account, qualifying account holders gain access to ACH Direct. This service allows you or your business to instantly pay bills, invoices, or employees.

## ✓ Check Logic & Equipment Rentals

Limestone Business Accounts gain access to Check Deposit Equipment, made possible by Check Logic. This equipment provides a faster way to deposit large amounts of checks instantly into accounts. Business Account holders can utilize this equipment at their business location for a small monthly fee.



## LFCU Business App and Online Business Banking

We now offer Business Account access through our Online Business Banking and the LFCU Business Mobile App. It's a convenient solution for managing your business accounts, transferring funds, paying bills, and more.

[Learn More](#)



## Let's talk about our Military Program

For all veterans, retired, or active duty service members.

- ✓ Free Checks
- ✓ Refunds of ATM Surcharges
- ✓ Loan Discounts
- ✓ Certificate Bonus Rate and more!



[Learn More](#)



# Cybersecurity Update

## The Impacts of AI and How We're Safeguarding Operations



By Jennifer Benedetto, Information Technology Director & Security Officer

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently a hot topic in the technology world. The potential applications of this technology are virtually limitless, although somewhat intimidating. At Limestone FCU, we are in the beginning stages of AI utilization. We recognize its immense potential to enhance the effectiveness of our operations. Understanding any limitations associated with the use of AI is equally important.

On a regular basis, our team is training to increase their knowledge on best practices while using AI. While there may be many potential uses for improving internal performance and user experience, we take careful steps in adopting new technology. Ensuring AI meets our internal standards, and that our team is staying well informed on safeguarding the integrity of our current operations is our main focus.

If you're looking for ways to safeguard your personal information while using AI, Limestone FCU members have access to KnowB4 training at no cost (details below).

### Best Practices When Using AI

- ✓ AI is new for many of us. Pay attention to the changing landscape as we become more familiar with it.
- ✓ Be aware of the information you are providing to the AI program.
- ✓ Choose the right AI for your needs.
- ✓ Fact-check data provided by AI; many people are inputting data.
- ✓ Avoid plagiarism and copyright infringement.
- ✓ Understand the limitations of AI. Lack of context, common sense, and human understanding are a few.

KnowBe4



### Login To KnowB4

When you login to KnowB4, use the password 'homcourse' to access.

[Access KnowB4](#)

JOIN US FOR

### Bring Your Own Device Day

October 1, 2024 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Limestone FCU

131 River St in Manistique

**SINETECH** LLC



# A Day in The Life of The Hub Branch Manager

By Katana Freed, Branch Manager, The Hub inside Jack's Fresh Market

Every morning, I walk into Jack's Fresh Market and scan the ATM, watching for the green light that indicates the ATM is running and ready to use. I grab my laptop and log in to all the essential programs so I can be ready to help members whenever they stop by. I finish my opening duties by cleaning the tables and emptying the receipt trash can conveniently located next to the ATM.

Once my opening duties are complete, I set up at the table so I can greet people as they do their shopping. I try to be at the table as much as possible to answer any questions they might have. If I am ever in my office when you stop by, come on in, I will be happy to help! The door is always open!

The day continues like any other day: greeting people with a smile or hello as they walk by, chatting with members, answering phone calls, assisting members with their debit cards or mobile app, giving ATM tutorials, and working on whichever project I have set aside time for that day.

Closing time at The Hub is 6:00 p.m. So, if making it to the main branch by 4:30 p.m. is not an option for you, stop by The Hub!

Once 6:00 p.m. rolls around, barriers go up, the laptop is shut down, and doors are closed and locked. The final step is checking the ATM for that familiar blinking green light before pulling the final barrier line across and securing it to the next post.

If you have any questions about The Hub or any of Limestone's products and services, stop by, and I will be happy to answer them! We offer ATM tutorials, notary, instant issue VISA Debit Cards, coin redemption, new member accounts, and extended hours. See you at The Hub!



Text The Hub at 906-341-3416  
kfreed@limestonefederal.com

### The Hub Hours

Monday - Friday: 9AM - 6PM  
Saturday: 10AM - 1PM  
Sunday: Closed

## Member Financial Tip

When creating a budget, it's critical to think of needs vs wants. Needs are things that are necessary for survival – think food and shelter. Wants are things you decide to buy, but don't actually need – think subscription services and new clothes.

[Learn More](#)



## What's In Your Wallet?

How-to save money on your phone bill.

We spend a lot of time on our cell phones, so it's no surprise that phone bills can be quite expensive. Thankfully, there are some ways to keep your bill low.

[Learn More](#)



# Advocacy & Community

## Alyssa Swanson, COO, Presents at MCUL Annual Convention & Expo

Alyssa Swanson, COO at Limestone FCU, attended the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL) Annual Convention & Expo (AC&E) in June. Alyssa was asked to present during the Ignite Breakout Session. These sessions are intended to enlighten the audience with a five minute presentation on a topic of the presenters choice. Alyssa chose to present on Limestone's coffee shop success story, The Grind Coffee House.



## The Charles Burley Memorial Scholarship

The Charles Burley Memorial Scholarship was presented to Austin Hinkson during the Manistique Area Schools Honors Night on May 14, 2024. This \$1,000 scholarship presented annually is awarded to a student pursuing a degree in Accounting, Business, or Education. Applicants who have participated in our education projects such as The Grind Coffee House are given preference. Austin will be attending the University of Michigan-Flint in the Fall of 2024 pursuing a degree in Business/Finance. Congratulations to the entire Class of 2024!

## The First Summer Street Party of 2024

We kicked off summer with the best Summer Street Party yet! Thank you to The Grand Design Band for performing live in Manistique, to Scoops A Daisy for the ice cream, to our co-sponsors, Schoolcraft Tourism & Commerce, and the Manistique Merchants, and to everyone who came downtown to party with Limestone!

Mark your calendars for the next Summer Street Party on Friday, August 16, 2024!



## Financial Reality Fair at Rudyard High School

Team Limestone, The Hub @ LSSU, MSU Extension Extension of Schoolcraft County, and our volunteers had the opportunity to share money management skills with 7th and 8th grade students at Rudyard High School during a Financial Reality Fair! We couldn't be more proud of the engagement and interest these students showed during the fair.

# Advocacy & Community

## LFCU Annual Business Meeting

We hosted our Annual Business Meeting on May 2, 2024. Congratulations Andy Bertapelle, James Blanchard, Sydney Chartier, and Dr. Kristina Hansen on their election to the 2024 LFCU Board of Directors! We look forward to continuing to make a lasting impact on our membership in the years to come.



## Manistique Middle & High School Career Fair

In April, we participated in a Career Fair at Manistique Middle & High School. The students were very engaged, and our team was excited to share the benefits of working in the credit union industry.

## UP Chapter of Credit Unions Annual Meeting

Our team had a great time learning about cybersecurity, mortgage lending, and compliance, gaining new skills, and networking with fellow credit union professionals at this year's UP Chapter of Credit Unions Annual Meeting. Looking forward to next year!



## We Welcomed Students at Campus Browse

The Hub @ LSSU Team spent a couple of weeks in June attending the Campus Browse, where we talked with students about the exciting new things we have to offer this coming semester!

See page 9 to learn more.

# Financial Literacy Program Reaches 82% of youth in Schoolcraft County

By Jill Connin, Education Coordinator



In an inspiring journey toward financial empowerment, a robust financial literacy program has successfully reached 82% of students in Schoolcraft County since LFCU's partnership with MSU Extension/Schoolcraft County 4-H began on May 1, 2023. The initiative, aimed at fostering financial literacy among young individuals, has proven to be a critical step in addressing the financial challenges that many students face as they transition into adulthood. By focusing on key areas such as budgeting, saving, investing, and understanding credit, the program has provided students with the tools they need to make informed financial decisions.

In addition, 1,308 students in the eastern half of the U.P. have participated in a Financial Reality Fair, hosted by LFCU and delivered in partnership with community volunteers. Financial Reality Fairs are supported by the Michigan Credit Union Foundation. Fairs during the 2023-24 school year were hosted at Manistique High School with guests from Big Bay de Noc School, Tahquamenon High School, with guest from Engadine High School, Malcolm High School, Rudyard High School, and Superior Central High School.

## Reaching New Heights

The 82% milestone is not just a number; it represents a significant stride in LFCU's mission to create financially literate communities. The quick and impactful outreach has set a precedent for what can be achieved with dedicated efforts and well-structured programs. The success of this initiative underscores the importance of early financial education and its long-term benefits for individuals and the broader community.



# Financial Success Planning

By Chelsey Zeeryp, Branch Manager at The Hub @ LSSU

The Hub @ LSSU is proud to introduce Financial Success Planning! Our tailored roadmap aims to steer students toward financial stability throughout their journey at Lake Superior State University. By fostering these habits, students can maintain their financial well-being well beyond graduation.

Participants will gain skills in budgeting, goal-setting, and attending campus-wide Financial Literacy events to enrich their financial knowledge. The Hub @ LSSU commitment is to expand financial literacy for LSSU Students and the Lake State community.

This initiative is yet another step toward that goal. Students can schedule personalized sessions with me to open accounts, create budgets, set goals, explore investment options like Certificate Accounts or an IRA, and plan for life after college. These sessions will span their entire time at LSSU, helping students develop sound financial habits.



Text The Hub at 906-341-6070  
czeeryp@limestonefederal.com



# Youth Entrepreneur Program

Learn It. Plan It. Pitch It.

In partnership with MSU Extension in Schoolcraft County and Upward Community Youth, Inc., Limestone launched Learn It. Plan It. Pitch It. (entrepreneurial program for youth) in the 2023-2024 schoolyear. This six-week program is specifically crafted to inspire students to conceptualize, refine, or expand upon their product or service ideas with the potential for commercialization. Through a series of workshops, personalized mentoring sessions with industry leaders, and specialized training in crafting persuasive pitches, participants will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to transform their ideas into viable business ventures.



The 2023-2024 program was a SUCCESS! We awarded three students with funds to start their entrepreneurial ventures at our Pitch It Competition in April! Thank you to Jill Connin, Education Coordinator at Limestone FCU for leading the program.



## Congratulations, Future Entrepreneurs!

Congratulations to Cheyenne Williams, on taking 1st place with the pitch entry of Cheyenne's Catches, Bayleigh Buttermore on taking 2nd place with the pitch entry of A Slice of Life, and Leiona Deyo for taking 3rd place with the pitch entry of Lee's Tattoos. Another congrats to all of the students who participated! It was remarkable to see our students plan and pitch their business ideas.





# The Homebuying Process

By Michaela Zuzula, Marketing Director at Limestone FCU<sup>1</sup>

Has anyone ever told you homeownership isn't possible? Here at Limestone, we believe anyone can buy a home. No matter your situation, homeownership is possible. It just takes a few steps to get there. Whether you're ready or just

curious, our team will show you what it takes to reach homeownership status. Follow these steps and reach out to our Lending Team. Your home buying goals are one text away.

## Step 1: Meet with Limestone

Homeownership is a big decision which is why we're here to help. Meet with one of our Loan Officers at Limestone FCU. We'll help you decide if homeownership is right for you and your situation, and we'll show you the steps it takes to become a homeowner.

## Step 2: Pre-approval

This step is easy and can be done over the phone or when you initially meet with our team to discuss homeownership. It's important to be pre-approved before you begin your home search. Most real estate agents won't show you homes without a pre-approval letter.

## Step 3: Work with a Real Estate Agent

Once pre-approved, you can work with a real estate agent and start your home search! Realtors know the local market better than anyone. They will help you make the right decision when shopping for a home. Unsure who to work with on your home purchase? Talk to friends and family for a referral. You can also reach out to your lender for a list of local Real Estate Agents.



The Homebuying Process continued on the next page...

## What is Home Equity?



VALUE OF YOUR HOME

MINUS



AMOUNT OWED ON YOUR MORTGAGE

EQUALS



YOUR HOME'S EQUITY

## Current Rates<sup>2</sup>

REGULAR SHARES/ CLUB ACCOUNTS	.10 % APY
IRA's	2.50 % APY
STASH ACCOUNTS (See Truth in Savings Agreement)	5.10 % APY
6 MONTH CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS	1.25 % APY
9 MONTH CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS	4.95 % APY
12 MONTH CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS	5.00 % APY
14 MONTH CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS	5.10 % APY
18 MONTH CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS	4.50 % APY
24 MONTH CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS	4.40 % APY
30 MONTH CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS	4.60 % APY
12 MONTH JUMBO CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS > \$50k	3.60 % APY
12 MONTH JUMBO CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS > \$100k	3.60 % APY
18 MONTH JUMBO CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS > \$50k	4.75 % APY
18 MONTH JUMBO CERTIFICATE ACCOUNTS > \$100k	4.75 % APY
18 MONTH IRA CERTIFICATE ACCOUNT	4.75 % APY

<sup>1</sup>Equal Housing Opportunity. Limestone FCU NMLS#405435

<sup>2</sup>APY: Annual Percentage Yield. NOTE: Rates effective as of 07/01/2024 and are subject to change without notice. Call for current rates and terms. Federally insured by the NCUA.

## Step 4: Make A List

While home shopping sounds like a thrilling adventure, it's important to be realistic with your expectations. Create a list of your wants vs. your needs. Do you really need a wraparound porch, or could you settle for a three seasons room? While your dream home is possible, it's not always feasible. Keep in mind, no matter which house you choose, you can always change it. Work with your Real Estate Agent to make this list, it will allow for a smoother homebuying experience.

## Step 5: Submit An Offer

Once you've found the home you're looking for, your Real Estate Agent will help you submit an offer. Real Estate Agents are professionals when it comes to negotiating – they will walk you through the entire process. Keep in mind, you may not get the first few offers you submit but don't get discouraged! The housing market is still very competitive with low inventory available – a multiple offer situation is common.

## Step 6: Clear to Close!

Reaching the closing table is the last step in the closing process. After you have an accepted offer, there will be a few weeks of waiting time before you receive the keys. During this time, your lender finishes the underwriting process and prepares your loan to close. After the loan is cleared to close, you will meet with your lender and title company to sign your closing documents, receive your keys, and officially become a homeowner!

The homebuying process is easier than you might think! From an accepted offer on a home to the closing table, it can take as little as 30 days. So, if you are thinking about buying a home, start monitoring your credit, think about a monthly payment that fits into your budget, and reach out to one of our Lenders at Limestone FCU to start the process today!

# Upcoming News & Events

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## July

### Independence Day Office Closure

July 4, 2024 | All branches closed for Independence Day

### Morning Brew

July 26, 2024 | 8:15AM | The Grind Coffee House

## August

### The Hub @ LSSU 1-Year Anniversary

August 22, 2024

### Morning Brew

August 23, 2024 | 8:15AM | The Grind Coffee House  
Featured guest: Lyndsay Carey, Director of Early Childhood Education at MARESA.  
Topic: Michigan Tri-Share (child care program).

## September

### Labor Day Office Closure

August 31, 2024 | Main Branch in Manistique, and The Hub @ LSSU closed for Labor Day weekend (The Hub inside of Jack's Fresh Market is open).

September 2, 2024 | All branches closed for Labor Day



Learn More About

## Morning Brew

[Morning Brew](#)



trust&will

Easy. Affordable. Secure.

**LFCU Members Save 20%**

on any online estate plan.

[Learn More](#)



Enroll in eStatements for a chance to win a  
**\$50 AMAZON GIFT CARD<sup>1</sup>**

From now until July 31, 2024.

**How-To Enroll in eStatements?**

Mobile App: select the More tab, then select eStatements. Follow the prompts to enroll.

Online Banking: login to your account, select eStatements & Tax Documents on the left-hand side. Follow the prompts to enroll.



**Member Referral Program**

Refer a friend and receive a  
**\$100 BONUS<sup>2</sup>**

**How to get the \$100 BONUS?**

Refer a friend to become a member of Limestone FCU. Once the new member completes the following steps, you will receive the \$100 BONUS.<sup>2</sup>

- ✓ Open a checking account at Limestone FCU
- ✓ Set-up direct deposit
- ✓ Conduct at least two debit card transactions within 14 days

DEPOSIT A CHECK ON  
OUR MOBILE APP FOR A  
CHANCE TO WIN A  
**NINTENDO SWITCH<sup>3</sup>**

[Learn More](#)



<sup>1</sup> This giveaway will run from July 1 to July 31, 2024. To be entered to win the \$50 Amazon gift card, Limestone FCU members must be in good standing and must be enrolled in eStatements by July 31, 2024. This giveaway is in no way associated with Amazon. The winner will be contacted via the contact information in their account.

<sup>2</sup> Limited time offer available to the first 100 Limestone FCU members in good standing. Limestone FCU reserves the right to change or terminate this promotion at any time, with or without notice or cause. In order to receive the \$100.00 cash bonus, members must refer new members to Limestone FCU, and new members must be 18 years of age or older, open an LFCU membership, set up direct deposit, and conduct at least two (2) debit card transactions within 14 days. The \$100.00 cash bonus will be paid as a dividend and subject to a 1099-INT.

<sup>3</sup> This contest is being run by CU\*Answers and is available for Limestone FCU Members to enter. Please visit [limestonefederal.com/cuanswers-contests/](https://limestonefederal.com/cuanswers-contests/) to view the official contest rules.



Limestone Federal Credit Union  
906-341-5866 | [limestonefederal.com](https://limestonefederal.com) | [lfcu@limestonefederal.com](mailto:lfcu@limestonefederal.com) | NMLS#405435

Text us at 906-341-5866. We'd love to hear from you.

