

Winter 2019



# Wyrope Whispers!

*Moving Forward With You!*

## Fake Check Scams on the Rise

### Directors Declare Dividend

The Board of Directors of the Wyrope Williamsport FCU have voted to leave the dividend rate unchanged for the 4th quarter of 2018. The declared dividend base share/savings rate is 0.35% APR; all other share/savings accounts will remain at 0.20% APR; and regular share draft/checking accounts will pay 0.10% APR. For full details on our dividend rates, please see our Truth in Savings disclosure available from any Member Service Representative.

In early September, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) released a report warning about a spike in fake check scams. These scams now reach 500,000 victims each year.

Aside from ordinary checks, this scam can also be pulled off with cashier's checks and money orders. Regardless of the medium used, each of these scams will involve a scammer "overpaying" a victim and requesting that a check be cashed with the difference being deposited into a designated account belonging to the scammer.

Here are the most common variations of the scam:

- "Buyers" send sellers a check written out for more than the asking price of an object sold on an online marketplace.
- Lottery "winners" are rewarded with an inflated prize with instructions to pay back a part of the check to cover taxes or fees.
- "Employees" are granted checks for supplies with instructions to wire back a part of it to the "company."

In each case, the fake check or money order will seem to clear at the bank or credit union. It is only a few days later, when the victim's payout to the scammer is deposited and the account does not have sufficient funds to cover it, that the scam becomes clear.

Wondering if a check is a fake? Hold it up to this checklist:

- Is the check's paper stock weak and flimsy?
- Check the company's name and address. Are they spelled correctly?
- Verify that the check's identification numbers printed at the top and the bottom match up.
- If you're allegedly holding a lottery winning check in your hands, it should be written out by a state lottery commission.
- Look for the special ink required for the Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) code at the bottom of the check.
- The check should have a routing number on it. You can Google the bank to find out if the routing number is genuine.

It's also important to know which kinds of transactions are likely to be scams. If you come across any of the following, run the other way and don't look back:

- You're asked to wire money to a company you're not familiar with.
- You're given a check by a "buyer" that is made out for more than the item's sale price.
- You're given a check from a foreign bank you've never heard of.
- You're asked to pay a fee to claim a "prize."

Now that you have learned how to spot a "fake check" and which type of transactions to avoid, those scammers don't stand a chance!

Now is the time to start your 2019 Christmas Club

Christmas Club



A savings account into which members make regular deposits to save for holiday spending.

## Our Hours:

### Lobby:

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00-4:00  
Wednesday: 8:00-5:00  
Thursday & Friday: 8:00-6:00

### Drive Up:

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00-4:30  
Wednesday: 8:00-5:30  
Thursday & Friday: 8:00-6:00

### We're Always Open At:

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

(Don't forget about the drop box!)

## Mark Your Calendars!

The Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union will be closed:

**Monday, January 21st**  
**Monday, February 18th**

## Working Hard for YOU!

### Wyrope Williamsport Board of Directors and Volunteers

Larry Bensinger, Chairperson  
James Brent, Vice-Chairperson  
Ken Entz, Secretary  
John Geenaway, Board Member  
Ron Bowling, Board Member  
Kyle Engle, Board Member  
Ryan Wyland, Treasurer  
Roni Crouse, Supervisory Committee  
John Andreacci, Supervisory Committee

### Wyrope Williamsport FCU Staff

Barbara Vitolo, President/CEO  
Kristin Balouris, VP of Branch Operations  
Jackie Stump, Loan Processor  
Kelly Maneval, Lead MSR  
Crystal Webb, MSR  
Adrienne Desrosiers, MSR

## Join Us for the 62nd Annual Meeting!

This year the annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6th, 2018 at Le Jeune Chef at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. The tickets are only \$20.00 per person and that gets you into a night of food, fun and prizes!

The schedule is as follows:

Social Hour: 6:00pm

Dinner: 7:00pm

Meeting: 8:00pm

Come join us for a night of Black Jack and Texas Hold Em.

### Directors Declare Interest Rebate!

The Board of Directors of the Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union, have declared a 3% Interest Rate Rebate for eligible members.

This rebate will return back to you, our member owners, over \$10,000 of loan interest.

Check your statement for a interest rate rebate deposit.

### Coming Soon:

March begins our

RV/Camper/

Motorcycle/ATV

Loan Special.

Get pre-approved

now and shop

with confidence

## New Members are Welcome at Wyrope Williamsport FCU!

### Mission Statement:

The Wyrope Williamsport Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit organization owned and operated by its members, established to offer quality financial services to all members continuing the credit union philosophy of "People Helping People."

# How to Prepare Your Home For Winter



Keep your home warm and safe this winter by following our comprehensive to-do list before the real cold sets in.

## 1. Seal your home

Give your home a quick run-through, checking for drafts. You can do this by holding a lit candle near the following areas:  
Windows...Doors...Vents and fans...Plumbing areas...Air conditioners  
Mail chutes...Electrical and gas lines

If the candle flickers, you've got a draft. Seal up all holes and reinforce existing points of entry with weather stripping. You can also caulk windows and doors to make sure they're truly sealed against the cold.

## 2. Clean your gutters

If your gutters are clogged with sodden leaves, they can freeze up and block the drainage, allowing melting ice and snow to slowly seep into your roof and cause excessive damage.

## 3. Invest in a roof rake

If you live in an area that sees lots of snow each winter, your roof can be sitting under several feet of snow for weeks at a time. All of that snow can cause your roof to collapse. Invest in a roof rake that will help you clear the snow off your roof when it really starts piling up.

## 4. Reverse your ceiling fans

Flick the reverse switch on your ceiling fans to make the blades spin in a clockwise direction instead of counterclockwise. This way, the fans will produce an updraft to push the rising hot air downward.

## 5. Prune your trees

Check all trees near your home's façade for low-hanging or loose branches. Prune them so they don't end up cracking from heavy snow or wind and causing damage to your home.

## 6. Take inventory of your emergency supplies

Stock up on water, canned food, batteries, flashlights and storm lanterns. You may also want to invest in an external charger for some juice when the lights go out.

## 7. Turn off external faucets

Unscrew your garden hose from the spigot and drain your sprinkler system to prevent any freezing. You may need to call in a professional in order to do this properly.

## 8. Protect your pipes from freezing

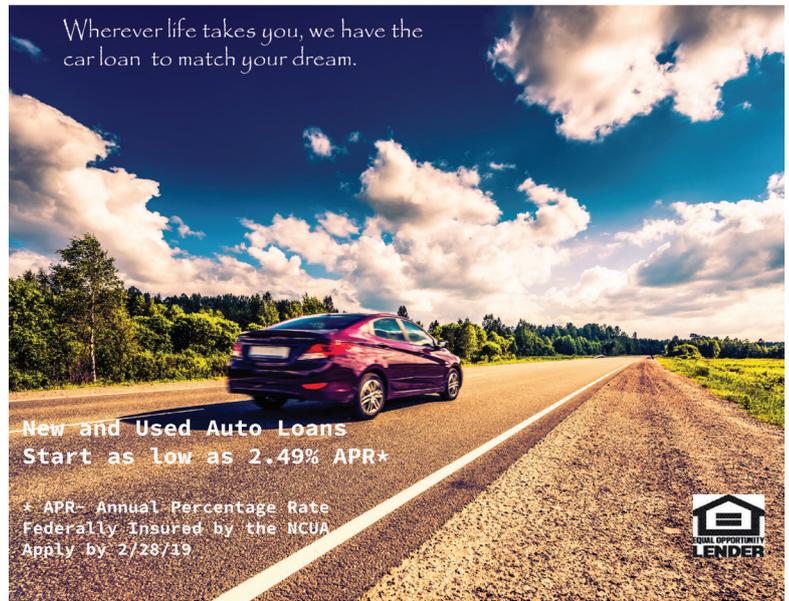
Prevent burst pipes, and avoid costly repairs, with these simple steps:

Keep your heat on even when you're not home so that your pipes don't freeze and burst.  
Allow your faucets to drip during severe cold snaps.  
Wrap any exposed piping and hose bibs to prevent freezing.

## 9. Check your heating system

Crank up the heat before the cold blows in to ensure everything is in working order. If anything needs repairs, tend to it now.

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### GAP Insurance...Now you Know

Don't let a wrecked vehicle wreck your finances. Guaranteed Asset Protection (GAP) is a great way to protect your finances if the value of your vehicle is less than the amount of your car loan. A good rule of thumb is to assume your new vehicle will depreciate on average 20% the first year you own it, half of which occurs the minute you drive it off the lot.\* This leaves a gap between what you owe on your loan and the value of your vehicle if it's deemed a total loss due to an accident or theft. Our GAP program can help fill the gap between what your vehicle insurance will pay and what you owe on your loan. Contact us today to learn more about adding GAP to your vehicle loan so you can worry less about tomorrow.

\*Car Depreciation – 5 Things to Consider, CARFAX, May 18, 2017

Your purchase of MEMBER'S CHOICE™ Guaranteed Asset Protection (GAP) is optional and will not affect your application for credit or the terms of any credit agreement you have with us. Certain eligibility requirements, conditions, and exclusions may apply. You will receive the contract before you are required to pay for GAP. You should carefully read the contract for a full explanation of the terms. If you choose GAP, adding the GAP fee to your loan amount will increase the cost of GAP. You may cancel GAP at any time. If you cancel GAP within 90 days you will receive a full refund of any fee paid. GAP purchased from state chartered credit unions in FL, GA, IA, RI, UT, VT, and WI, may be with or without a refund provision. Prices of the refundable and non-refundable products are likely to differ. If you choose a refundable product, you may cancel at any time during the loan and receive a refund of the unearned fee. GAP purchased from state chartered credit unions in CO, MO, or SC may be canceled at any time during the loan and receive a refund of the unearned fee. GAP purchased from state chartered credit unions in IN may be with or without a refund provision. If the credit union offers a refund provision, you may cancel at any time during the loan and receive a refund of the unearned fee.