

## Fast & Secure: Choose Valley 1st for your tax refund!

Why wait for a check in the mail when you can have your refund deposited directly into your account? It's the fastest way to receive your money, typically within 21 days!

### Enter our information on your tax return:

1. Routing & Transit Number: 243382653.
2. Select either Checking or Savings.
3. Enter your member number.

Direct Deposit is the fastest, most secure way to receive your refund!

## Open Your Christmas Club Today!



At Valley 1st, we have all the tools you need for a happier, less stressful holiday season. This includes Direct Deposit paired with a Christmas Club Account.

### How a Christmas Club works:

When you save all year with automatic deposits, you make it easy on yourself. Funds are available in October, just in time to pay for gifts, travel, and other holiday expenses. Simply decide how much to deposit each payday. Over time, your savings will accumulate painlessly!

### It's the proactive way to save.

- A Christmas Club offers consistent savings throughout the year.
- Watch the smooth accumulation of savings through Direct Deposit.
- Shop with peace of mind, avoiding unwanted credit card debt.

For worry-free planning, open your Christmas Club Account today!

## Branch Locations

**Monessen Branch**  
815 Schoonmaker Avenue  
Monessen, PA 15062  
Phone: 724-684-8875  
Fax: 724-684-4133

**Hours:**  
Monday – Friday  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Rostraver Branch (Inside Wal-Mart)**  
100 Sara Way, Rostraver, PA 15012  
Phone: 724-929-6002  
Fax: 724-929-6005

**Hours:**  
Monday – Friday  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Saturday  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm



## Holiday Closings

### President's Day

Monday, February 19, 2024

### Good Friday

Friday, March 29, 2024  
Closing at Noon

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 27, 2024

### Juneteenth

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

### Independence Day

Thursday, July 4, 2024

## LIKEUS

## Follow Us On Facebook!

Be the first to get the latest updates and get to know us better.

## Update Your Information

For the safety and security of your account information, it is imperative that you notify the credit union of these changes. It is important to have all updated contact information on file. Please verify your address, phone number and email with us.

PSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 19512  
PERMIT NO. 10003



815 Schoonmaker Avenue  
Monessen, PA 15062

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# Your Money Matters

Winter 2024

The Newsletter for Members of Valley 1st Community Federal Credit Union

## START FRESH

Transform your financial health in 2024 — consolidate debt with a Home Equity Loan.

- Rates as low as 7.25% APR\*.
- Low closing costs.
- Eliminate multiple payments.
- Improve your credit rating.

You'll start saving right away!

See Details Inside



## Revitalize Your Finances In 2024!

### Take charge of your debt with the equity in your home.

For homeowners, a Home Equity Loan offers an effective solution for debt consolidation. It enables you to combine various debts — from credit card balances to student loans — into one manageable payment. You'll also save money with a competitive APR, lower than many other types of loans.

#### Simplify your finances with a Home Equity Loan from Valley 1st!

**Competitive Low Rates:** With rates as low as 7.25% APR\*, our Home Equity Loan is easy on your budget.

**Simplified Payments:** Merge numerous debts into a single monthly payment.

**Stress Reduction:** Fewer bills mean less worry. Enjoy the peace of mind that comes with having everything under control.

**Credit Score Boost:** Consistent, on-time payments can positively impact your credit score.

**Flexible Repayment Terms:** Tailor the loan to your unique financial situation.

Consolidate your debt and enjoy the simplicity of one low monthly payment, one due date, and significant savings. Contact us at 724-684-8875 or visit our website at [www.valley1st.org](http://www.valley1st.org) to apply.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are effective as of 01/01/2024 and are subject to change without prior notice. Your rate may vary based on your term, credit history, and credit score. Ask us for complete details.



## Empowering Futures:

### Apply for a \$1,500 Valley 1st Student Scholarship!

Get ready to embark on your academic journey with a helping hand from Valley 1st. We're thrilled to award three exceptional students a \$1,500 scholarship each this year.



#### How to apply:

- 1. Eligibility:** Open to Valley 1st members or direct relatives of members, graduating from a local high school in 2024.
- 2. Required Documents:**
  - Your high school transcript showcasing your academic achievements.
  - Acceptance letter from the college or university you'll be attending.
  - A recommendation letter from a teacher who knows your potential.
  - A 250+ word essay on a topic listed in our application.

**See us for your application!**

Please stop by our office for your application and submit all the required materials to Valley 1st (Monessen office) c/o Lauren by **April 19, 2024**.

We believe in your dreams and are excited to be a part of your educational journey. Best of luck, future leaders and innovators!

## Insightful Retirement Planning With IRAs

An Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is an excellent retirement planning tool. Whether you want to enhance your golden years or seek ways to lessen your tax load, it offers many benefits.

### Why choose an IRA?

- **Enhanced Savings:** It's an ideal supplement to other retirement income sources like social security or a 401(k).
- **Tax Benefits:** Enjoy potential tax reductions today while preparing for tomorrow.

### Versatile options:

- **Roth IRA:** Enjoy tax-free growth on dividends.
- **529 Education Plan:** Plan for education expenses with versatile contribution limits and a prepaid tuition feature.

Please consult your tax advisor for specific advice.

### Higher contribution limits:

- **2023:** The amount you can contribute to an IRA has increased for the 2023 tax year. You can contribute up to \$6,500 to traditional and Roth IRAs (\$7,500 if you're 50+) based on your taxable income.
- **2024:** IRA contribution limits will increase again for the 2024 tax year — \$7,000 for those under age 50 and \$8,000 for those age 50 or older.

Plus, contributions have no upper age limit if you've earned income during the year.

To learn more, visit <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/plan-participant-employee/retirement-topics-ira-contribution-limits>.

### Act now for a brighter tomorrow:

Visit us at Valley 1st to open your IRA before the 2023 tax year deadline, Monday, April 15, 2024. Secure your financial future today!

## Say Goodbye To Checking Fees

Start the new year with a Valley 1st Checking Account and Visa Debit Card. They're the perfect duo for your daily financial needs — without the extra costs!



**Zero-Cost Checking:** Enjoy the freedom of no minimum balance and no monthly service fees. Our Checking Account is your convenient solution for everyday transactions.

**Visa Debit Cards:** Shop with ease, knowing your card is accepted at your favorite local retailers, online, and worldwide.

**Free ATM Access:** Need cash? Use our ATMs at the Monessen office and Walmart without any fees. Also, look for ATMs with the CU\$ icon for instant, no-cost cash withdrawals.

**Free Online and Mobile Banking:** Enjoy 24/7 control over your account — check balances, transfer funds, and pay bills anytime, anywhere.

**More Perks:** Sign up for Direct Deposit and eStatements for security and time savings.

### Open your account today!

Opening your Checking Account is just the beginning. We'll streamline the process, helping you transfer direct deposits, bill payments, and more. To open your account online, visit our website at [www.valley1st.org](http://www.valley1st.org) and click on "Not a Member Join Today!" on our homepage.



## Struggling With Holiday Debt?

Dealing with post-holiday debt can be challenging, but at Valley 1st, we're here to support you. Transfer your high-interest credit card balances to our Visa Credit Card for more manageable monthly payments. You'll start saving right away!

### Key benefits:

- **Low APR:** Save with rates as low as 8.99% APR\*. This competitive, fixed rate will keep payments affordable.
- **No Annual Fee:** Forget about unfair fees and keep more money in your pocket.
- **No Balance Transfer Fees:** Make the switch without additional costs.
- **Generous Credit Limits:** Enjoy a line of up to \$15,000 to meet your financial needs.

### It's easy to make the transfer.

Call us at 724-684-8875 with your balance details, and we'll handle the transfer, or apply online at [www.valley1st.org](http://www.valley1st.org). You'll save immediately — and can rest easy with one manageable payment.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are effective January 1, 2024, and are subject to change without notice. APR may vary based on credit score. Contact the credit union for the complete details.



## GET FINANCIALLY FIT!

Now is the time to create goals for a happy, healthy, and prosperous year. Start by evaluating where you are financially, how you can save more or do better budget-wise, and upcoming needs for 2024.

### Do you need to...

✓ **Consolidate debt?** — Compare what you're paying to our loan rates. This may include an auto loan and credit card balances. We can help with an easy refinance or our credit card balance transfer offer.

✓ **Save more for Christmas?** — Try opening a Christmas Club Account for a head start on the 2024 holiday shopping season. Sign up for Payroll Deduction or Direct Deposit for easy, recurring deposits. A monthly \$50 automatic deposit starting in January could accumulate a balance of \$500 by the time we disburse Christmas Club funds for the holiday season.

✓ **Build an emergency fund?** — Payroll deduction can also help you set up a slush fund in case of the unexpected. Most experts recommend saving three to six months of salary saved in case of an emergency.

✓ **Improve your credit rating?** — It pays to understand your credit report and credit rating. You can stay in touch with your financial history, make improvements, look for errors, and prevent fraud. To obtain a free copy of your report, visit [Annualcreditreport.com](http://Annualcreditreport.com).

