

The County

Spring 2023

Line

The Homebuying Experience

Photo by Paul Cyr

Buying a home can be a major milestone in one's life, but the process can also be overwhelming and confusing. From finding the right property to navigating the paperwork and financing, there are many steps to take in order to successfully purchase a home.

1. Determine Your Budget

Before you start looking for a home, it's important to determine your budget. Start by looking at your current financial situation and determining how much you can afford to spend on a home. This will include not only the purchase price of the home, but also any associated fees, such as closing costs, property taxes, and homeowner's insurance.

2. Get Pre-Approved for a Mortgage

Once you have determined your budget, the next step is to get pre-approved for a mortgage. This will help you understand how much you can borrow and give you an idea of what your monthly mortgage payments will be.

3. Start Looking for a Home

With your budget and pre-approval in hand, it's time to start looking for a home. When viewing homes, it's important to keep an open mind and be willing to compromise on some of your must-haves in order to find a property that meets your needs and budget.

4. Make an Offer

Once you have found a property that you are interested in, it's time to make an offer. Your real estate agent can help you with this process, but it's important to understand the terms of the offer and what you are agreeing to. This will include the purchase price, any contingencies (such as a home inspection or appraisal), and the closing date.

5. Get a Home Inspection

After your offer has been accepted, it's important to get a home inspection. Depending on the results of the inspection, you may need to negotiate with the seller to address any issues before closing.

6. Close on the Property

Once the inspection is complete and any necessary repairs have been made, it's time to close on the property. This will involve signing a lot of paperwork, including the mortgage agreement and transfer of ownership documents. It's important to review all documents carefully and ask any questions you may have before signing.

7. Move In

Congratulations, you are now a homeowner! The final step is to move in and start enjoying your new home. It's also a good idea to update your address with all your important accounts and services.

In conclusion, the homebuying experience can be a complex and emotional journey, but with the right preparation and guidance, it can also be a rewarding one. By following these steps and working with experienced professionals, you can navigate the homebuying process with confidence and find a property that you love and can afford.

Scholarship Applications Available



Each year the credit union awards up to 8, \$1,000 scholarships to qualified individuals who are in pursuit of educational advancement. For complete program details and an application, visit us at CountyFCU.org. Applications are also available in all local high school guidance offices.

New Faces



Nicole
Full-Time MSR New
Accounts & Lending
Bangor



Karlee
Part-Time Teller
Houlton



Caroline
Full-Time Member
Service Center Rep.



Emily
Full-Time Teller
Houlton



Lisa
Branch Manager
Old Town



Carrie
Full-Time Teller/MSR
Fort Fairfield



Brenda
Full-Time Teller
Houlton



Emily
Full-Time Teller/MSR
Mars Hill



Lisa
Branch Manager
Houlton



Cassidy
Full-Time Float Teller
North

Promotions



Lori
Branch Supervisor
Mars Hill



Amber
Full-Time MSR Lending
Old Town



Taylor
Assistant Branch Mgr
Loan Officer
Presque Isle



Stephanie
Real Estate & Loan
Operations Processor
Caribou

Keep Track of All Your Passwords

With so many online accounts and websites requiring passwords, it can be difficult to keep track of all of them. It's also important to ensure that your passwords are secure to protect your personal and financial information. Here are some tips on how to keep track of all your passwords safely:

- 1. Use a password manager:** A password manager is a software tool that securely stores all your passwords in one place. You only need to remember one master password to access all your other passwords. Many password managers also have features that generate strong passwords and automatically fill them in for you.
- 2. Create strong and unique passwords:** When creating a password, use a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Avoid using easily guessable information, such as your name or birthdate. It's also a good idea to use a different password for each online account.
- 3. Enable two-factor authentication:** Two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts by requiring a second form of verification, such as a code sent to your phone. This helps to prevent unauthorized access even if someone knows your password.
- 4. Update your passwords regularly:** It's important to regularly change your passwords, especially if you suspect that an account has been compromised. A password manager can help you keep track of which passwords need to be updated.
- 5. Write down your passwords:** If you prefer not to use a password manager, you can write down your passwords in a secure location, such as a locked file cabinet or encrypted document. Just be sure to store the passwords in a safe place and avoid using easily guessable information as your password.
- 6. Avoid public Wi-Fi:** Public Wi-Fi networks can be vulnerable to hacking, so it's best to avoid entering sensitive information, such as passwords, when using them. If you must use public Wi-Fi, use a virtual private network (VPN) to encrypt your data.

By using these tips, you can keep track of all your passwords safely and securely. Remember, your passwords protect sensitive information, so it's important to take the necessary steps to protect them.

Holiday Closings

Memorial Day
Monday, May 29th

Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4th

CountyFCU.org

1-877-318-3838



Thinking about
a Home Equity Loan or
Line of Credit?

The County offers fixed and variable rate home equity loans for home improvements, debt consolidation, or that dream vacation with several term options to fit your needs. Stop in, call or visit **CountyFCU.org** today.

1-877-318-3838

