New Edgewood Branch Opening January 25

SLFCU’s newest branch will open on January 25 at 1 Liberty Square Circle in Edgewood. The branch is an exciting change for East Mountain members and employees. The current branch is approximately 1,260 square feet, while the new branch will be significantly larger at 6,550 square feet.

The branch will feature teller dialog towers similar to those at the Rio Rancho, Kirtland, and Los Lunas branches. The dialog towers contribute to an open layout and concept for the branch and create a more inviting atmosphere that allows employees to meet members’ needs more effectively. Cash dispensers at each dialog tower provide efficient and accurate service and improved security. The full-service branch will also have a three-lane drive-up with an additional ATM lane, safe deposit boxes, a self-service coin machine, and a community room. Branch hours will also change to allow for extended drive-up access.

Meet Your Branch

The Edgewood branch is staffed by seven employees who have been cross-trained to help with almost any transaction – from depositing a check to opening a new account or applying for a loan. Members can expect to see these same smiling faces at the new branch in January, along with more convenience and accessibility.

A Close and Caring Touch

Providing a tailored array of convenient services to satisfy the financial needs of our members is part of SLFCU’s mission statement, and it’s something Teller/Financial Service Officer Carolyn Link says is appreciated in the Edgewood community.

“We are a close-knit community and know many of our members on a personal level, and they like to tell us what’s going on in their lives; that allows us to tailor our service to meet their needs,” Carolyn says.

That’s one of the many reasons the staff is excited to share this move with the community.

“We’ve all waited for a new branch, and we’re looking forward to having a bigger space,” Financial Service Officer Darla Russell says.

Chipt Card Phishing Emails on the Rise

Many credit and debit card issuers – including SLFCU – have started providing new, more secure chip-enabled credit and debit cards. These cards are designed to safeguard payment information when payments are processed using the chip.

The Federal Trade Commission reports that scammers have been taking advantage of this transition by sending emails impersonating financial institutions. This is known as phishing.

These emails attempt to manipulate people into clicking links by telling the recipient they need to provide personal or account information in order to receive their new credit or debit chip card. In addition, clicking these links may install malware on a person’s computer.

SLFCU will never send you unsolicited emails or text messages to ask for your account number, credit or debit card number, or any other personal information. If you suspect that a communication you have received may not be legitimate, contact the company by a verified phone number to confirm the need for such information – or to report that someone is using the company’s name in a scam.

If you have inadvertently provided any account information after receiving an unsolicited communication, please contact us immediately at (505) 293-0500 or (800) 947-5328 so we can help keep your accounts secure.

When Will I Receive an SLFCU Debit or Credit Chip Card?

Throughout 2016, SLFCU will be transitioning all retail credit and debit cards to chip cards. Ongoing updates and information about this transition will be published in Dollars & Sense and at www.slfcu.org.
Weighing the Costs of College Tuition
SLFCU Member Will Save Money by Staying in New Mexico

I’ve long since arrived at that point in my high school career where grown-ups begin inquiring about my plans for college. It became constant early in my junior year, though there has always been some pretense of the question, a thought hugging the shadows cast by my above-average grades. “Where are you going to college?” The question was never a matter of if I go, since college seems like the only directional step once I complete high school. Almost devoutly I am asked by pondering parents and peers, “Where are you thinking about going to college?”

I’ve spent the last year buzzing across the country, touring this college and peeking at that campus. As a student whose ambition lies in fine arts, I was sure to circuit schools that focused solely on the arts, like Cornish College of the Arts (Seattle, WA) and Santa Fe University of Art and Design. I’ve come across some absolutely gorgeous libraries, wandered around a tantalizingly historic ceramics building (a World War II bunker!), and fallen in love with campuses and professors all around. It is so easy to find aspects to love at every school.

Yet, my choice doesn’t hinge on the fact that the University of Washington is in my birth city or that I adore the weather there. While Savannah College of Art and Design caters to my artistic sensibilities, that isn’t the prevailing factor either. These things matter a lot, of course, since I wouldn’t attend a school that I am unhappy with. But something very important I have to consider, before location and campus and professors, is the price tag.

My dad has been saving for tuition for my brother and me since we were infants, yet with the ever-rising cost of attending university, money is a limiting factor. According to CollegeBoard, average out-of-state public tuition costs around $23,000 a year, not including the arm and leg for housing, food, textbooks, and transportation!

I can’t very well go somewhere I can’t afford, so I have made at least the first part of my big choice – I will be staying in state. In-state tuition averages considerably less – $9,000 a year. Another bundle can be saved on housing, since many in-state students choose to live at home. So in addition to being eligible for in-state tuition costs and scholarships, I will save on travel costs when going home for a holiday.

I would not deter anyone from going to their dream school on these accounts, but I would encourage future undergraduates to contemplate the perks of going to college in their own home state before making their decision.

By Sierra Robinson, SLFCU Member

Planning for College Seminar

Thursday, January 21 – 6-7:30 p.m. – Juan Tabo branch
Register at www.slfcu.org/Events.
A seminar for parents and their children who are attending or will soon be attending college. Topics include:

- The true cost of college: the importance of school selection, what to consider beyond tuition
- Financial aid: what is available, how to apply
- Completing the FAFSA
- Additional funding resources: scholarships, grants, work study programs
- Loan options: federal and private student loans
- SLFCU’s Private Student Loans

New Edgewood Branch Opening

“The branch has so many extras – like safe deposit boxes and a community room – it’s exciting to be able to offer that for our members.”

Convenience and Opportunity

The new branch will provide more convenient service to existing members, while representing potential opportunity and growth in the Edgewood community.

Julie Bassett, Edgewood Branch Manager, has worked for SLFCU for two years. Previously a branch manager for Bank of America, Julie came to the Credit Union because of the personal service SLFCU provides; she finds the convenience of the new branch to be a great example of that service.

“This will be the only freestanding full-service branch with a drive-up in Edgewood,” Julie says. “And because people who receive their electricity from the Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative or water from the Entralosa Water & Wastewater Association are eligible to join SLFCU, most residents will now also have the opportunity for convenient financial services close to home.”

Visit www.slfcu.org or our Facebook page for updates about the branch.

By Amanda Blackmon
**Tax Documents Available in CU@home® Online**

Tax documents generated by SLFCU are now available in CU@home Online. Log in to CU@home, click the Self Service tab, and look for the Tax Forms link in the Account Service box. Tax documents from 2014 and 2013 are available now; 2015 forms will appear after they’ve been generated.

SLFCU will continue to mail these forms as well.

A rolling three years’ worth of tax documents will be available within CU@home, unless you have been a member of SLFCU for fewer than three years.

**Not using CU@home?**

To get started with CU@home Online, visit www.slfcu.org and click Enroll in the CU@home box. Access your accounts online to pay bills, check transactions and balances, manage direct deposits and automatic payments, and set up account alerts.

Download the CU@home Mobile app for access wherever you go, including mobile check deposit.

**Important IRA Contribution News**

**Plan Extra Time to Provide Signature**

If you are planning to make a 2015 IRA contribution in 2016, please allow ample time for SLFCU to generate the paperwork, obtain your signature, and process your transaction before the tax filing deadline of April 15.

Although SLFCU can collect IRS-required signatures electronically, it’s best not to wait until the tax filing deadline, when volume may be high.

**Tax Documents by Mail**

2015 IRS tax forms will be mailed by these dates:

- **January 31**
  - 1098 – mortgage interest paid
  - 1098-E – student loan interest paid over $600
  - 1099 INT – account dividend income over $10 and/or redeemed bond interest income
  - 1099 C – loan cancellation of debt
  - 1099 Q – CESA (Education) IRA distributions
  - 1099 R – Traditional, SEP, and Roth IRA distributions
  - 5498 – Traditional, SEP, and Roth IRA contributions*

- **March 15**
  - 1042-S – account dividend income over $10 (paid to some non-resident aliens)

- **April 30**
  - 5498-ESA – CESA (education) contributions

*Please note that if you make a 2015 IRA contribution after this form is generated, SLFCU will send you another form in May, and your original 5498 form in CU@home will also be updated.

**Savings Yields**

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<th>Share Savings &amp; Checking</th>
<th>D.R.</th>
<th>APY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<th>APY</th>
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<td>$10,000 - $24,999</td>
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**Term Share Certificates***

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<th>36 months</th>
<th>48 month variable rate</th>
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<td>$1,000 minimum balance</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>$5,000 or more</td>
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<td>$1,000 or more</td>
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**Term Share Certificates**

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<th>Term Share Certificates*</th>
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<th>48 month variable rate</th>
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<tr>
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<td>As low as 2.64%</td>
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**Loan Rates**

**New Vehicles (effective as of 1/1/2016)**

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Rate**</th>
<th>APR**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 yr</td>
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<td>3.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/5 Adjustable Rate 1st Mortgages</td>
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**Used Vehicles (effective as of 1/1/2016)**

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Rate**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3.99%</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
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**SmartValue**

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<th>APR**</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 yr</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
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</table>

**Vehicle from the current or two previous model years and mileage ≤ 25,000 qualify for new car rates.**

**Owner Occupied**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Rate**</th>
<th>APR**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 yr</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
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**Owner Occupied Jumbo SmartValue**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Rate**</th>
<th>APR**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 yr</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
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For concerns regarding policies/procedures, conflicts of interest, or fraud:

SLFCU Supervisory Committee, PO Box 13045, Albuquerque, NM 87191

Federally insured by NCUA
SLFCU MasterPass™ Digital Wallet Simplifies Online Shopping

Shopping online can be tedious – check out as a guest, and you’re entering card and shipping information again and again; set up an account to save this information, and now you have one more username and password to remember.

Use MasterPass to Save Time and Shop Safely

When you sign up for MasterPass at www.slfcu.org/MasterPass, your payment information for any card – MasterCard® or Visa®, credit card or debit card – is stored with multiple layers of security. You may also store multiple shipping locations for home, work, family, and friends.

When you’re shopping online and see the “Buy with MasterPass” button at checkout, just log in, select the card and shipping address you want to use, and check out. It’s easy and convenient.


MasterPass is the first digital wallet offered by SLFCU.

On the Calendar

Brought to you by the MEMBERS Financial Services Program* located at SLFCU. Register at www.slfcu.org/Events or by calling (505) 293-0500 or (800) 947-5328.

Strategies for Putting Cash to Work

Tuesday, January 12 • Noon-1:00 p.m. • Tech Park Branch
Tuesday, January 12 • 5:30-6:30 p.m. • Juan Tabo Branch

Alternatives to cash in this low-yield environment

*Dollars and Sense New Edgewood Branch Opening

Important 2015 Tax Information

Weighing the Cost of College Tuition

Dollars & Sense

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*Securities and advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution to make securities available to members. Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, May Lose Value, No Financial Institution Guarantee. Not a deposit of any financial institution.

Basic Budgeting Seminar

Basic Budgeting Seminar

Thursday, January 28 • 6:00-7:30 p.m.

An introduction to budgeting fundamentals to help young adults manage their income and expenses. Register at www.slfcu.org/Events.