Thinking About Refinancing? The Time Is Now!

Home loan interest rates have been incredibly low for the last several years, but that may be changing soon. If you’ve been thinking about refinancing your mortgage, this may be your best opportunity to get a great deal.1

What could refinancing do for you?

• Save Money – By taking advantage of a lower rate you could reduce your monthly payment amount and save thousands of dollars. Use the savings to invest or spend on other important budget categories.

• Stabilize Your Budget – If your current loan carries an adjustable rate, you could face significantly higher payments as rates increase. Refinance to a fixed rate now to keep your monthly payments affordable.

• Cash Out Home Equity – If you have been in your home long enough to build up equity, refinancing could allow you to use the equity to consolidate other high-interest rate loans, pay for educational expenses or renovate your home.

If you’re ready to start saving money on your home loan, HOPE is ready to help. Our mortgage lenders will work to find your best option to keep more money in your pocket.

Contact your closest mortgage originator or visit us at www.hopecu.org/homerefinance to learn more.

1Loans subject to credit approval
New Year, New Convenience Services

HOPE is excited to announce plans to release a new version of HOPENet Online Banking. The enhanced service features all the same great tools, plus HOPE’s Smart Money personal financial manager to help you budget and save more effectively. It will also include a single login for accessing your HOPE accounts online and on your mobile device. The HOPE mobile app will also receive updates including a sleek new look and easier-to-navigate tools. Log on to www.hopecu.org/hopenet for more information.

2016 Members Meeting and Board Candidates Announced

Join us Saturday, March 26, at 4 Old River Place, Jackson, Mississippi, 39202 at 10 am, for the 2016 Annual Members Meeting. Members of HOPE’s leadership team will share successes from 2016 and plans for the coming year. Members will also elect new board members to the Hope Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. In accordance with HOPE’s bylaws, the following individuals are presented as candidates for election to the Board of Directors at the 2016 annual meeting*:

- Ivye Allen
- George Penick
- James Brooks
- Austin Porter, Jr.
- David Jackson

*Nominations for vacancies may also be made by petition signed by at least one percent of the members, with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 500. Nominations made by petition must be received at HOPE’s corporate office by the close of business on January 22, 2016. There will be no nominations from the floor if there is at least one nominee for each position to be filled.

Protect your Identity Online

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reminds you to protect your identity online. The agency offers seven tips to help you guard yourself against scammers, hackers and identity thieves looking to steal your personal information.

1. Understand and use security software to protect your computer against digital threats.
2. Allow security software to update automatically.
3. Look for the “S” for encrypted “https” websites when shopping or banking online.
4. Use strong passwords of 10 to 12 characters, mixing letters, numbers and special characters.
5. Secure your wireless network.
6. Be cautious when using public wireless networks, which are often not secure.
7. Avoid phishing attempts by never replying to emails, texts or pop-up messages asking for personal information.

Learn more about protecting yourself from identity theft by visiting the IRS’s Protect Your ID page on their website at www.irs.gov.

Make the Most of Your Money

Smart Moves for Tax Refunds

If you are getting money back from Uncle Sam, make sure to use it wisely.

Let HOPE help you make the most of your refund to improve your financial situation or use it toward the purchase of an important or more expensive item.

Some of the best uses for your refund include:

- Putting a down payment on a car to make the monthly payments more affordable¹
- Using it toward the purchase of a home¹
- Taking out a share secured loan to help build your credit or consolidate debt¹
- Paying off outstanding debts
- Funding your retirement with a HOPE Traditional or Roth IRA
- Setting up your emergency fund in one of our wealth building accounts

If you need advice on what options might be best for you, be sure to stop by one of our branches for one-on-one counseling. You can also visit us at www.hopecu.org/smarttaxrefund to learn more about all the ways we can help you make smart moves with your tax refund.

¹Loans subject to credit approval