



## This Issue

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**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**  
Avanti Federal Credit Union will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
Monday, January 18

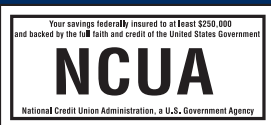
**Presidents' Day**  
Monday, February 15

### INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

~Lao Tzu

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government



**DAKOTA**  
CREDIT UNION  
ASSOCIATION



## 68th Annual Meeting Postponed

Due to COVID-19, the 68th Annual Meeting of Avanti Federal Credit Union has been postponed. Watch for details at a later date!

## It's Time to Winterize Your Home

Not surprisingly, energy costs will rise again this winter as consumers try to keep their homes warm and toasty. Residential electricity rates have risen on average about 15% nationwide over the last 10 years, an increase of about \$0.02 per year. Consumers who use oil heat are expected to pay about 20% more this year than last year.



Take these steps to conserve heat and make your home more energy efficient:

- Adjust your thermostat. Throw an extra blanket on the bed and turn down the temperature in your home by 5-10 degrees at night to save energy and money. Buy a programmable thermostat and let it adjust the temperature for you.
- Fill the cracks, gaps and leaks. Pick up some spray foam insulation and look for gaps around your windows and pipes. If you have a gap under your door, install weather stripping or just make a "door snake." This can save up to 40% on your annual energy bill – for both heating and air conditioning seasons.

- Take advantage of free sunlight. During the day, open the blinds on windows that face south and turn down your thermostat. At night, close the blinds so the heat doesn't escape through the window. Remove any objects that might block sunlight from shining on heat-absorbing walls.

- Add extra insulation. Start with the larger gaps around the chimney, furnace flues, plumbing pipes, and ductwork. Then check your roof insulation to make sure it's about 10-16 inches deep. If it isn't, have more installed. If your home is more than 50 years old and still has the original insulation, consider replacing it with newer insulation.

- Use a space heater in moderation. Use it if you keep the central temperature in your house very low and you want to heat one or two rooms. Turn it off when the room reaches a comfortable temperature. Place your space heater at least three feet from any flammable objects such as bedding, drapery and furniture, and never leave a space heater unattended.

# HE Loans: Low-Cost, Tax Advantaged Credit

If credit card payments are eating up your disposable income each month, or if you need cash to remodel your kitchen — or to buy a new car — a home equity loan or home equity line of credit (HELOC) might be your best bet.

There's also a tax advantage. Unlike almost any other consumer loan type, the interest on a home equity loan or HELOC of \$100,000 or less is likely to be tax-deductible (\$50,000 if married filing separately).



Home equity loans and HELOCs are two distinct products. With a home equity loan, you borrow a lump sum of money repayable over a fixed term, usually 5 to 15 years, giving you the security of a locked-in rate and a consistent monthly payment.

People tend to use home equity loans for large, one-time expenses like a major home-improvement project. You also might use one to start a business, make a big-ticket purchase, or consolidate high-interest credit card debt. This type of loan makes sense if you don't foresee future borrowing needs.

On the other hand, a HELOC is much like a credit card or any other type of open-ended credit. You can borrow money as needed, up to the credit limit your lender assigns. If your lender offers online banking, you can transfer funds from your HELOC to your regular checking or savings account. A HELOC is usually a variable-rate loan, so your monthly payments will change based on your outstanding balance and fluctuations in the prime rate.

A line of credit offers flexibility and ready access to funds, making it ideal for unexpected expenses like large medical bills. A HELOC also can help finance a child's college education, especially for higher-income families who don't qualify for financial aid.

Since home equity loans and lines of credit use your home as collateral, if you don't make your payments, you could lose your home. But if you don't take on excessive debt and you do make timely payments, you can't beat the low interest rates and tax-deductible interest of a home equity loan or HELOC.

An Avanti loan officer can explain which type of home equity loan may work for you. Call 605-882-2357 for more details.



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## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## ONLINE BANKING:

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## EMAIL:

[afcu@avantifcu.net](mailto:afcu@avantifcu.net)

## HOURS OF OPERATION:

### LOBBY:

Monday - Friday  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM  
DRIVE-UP WINDOW:  
7:30 AM – 5:30 PM  
24 Hour ATM

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Jeff Riley

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Seth Skoglund,  
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