

# westar

Federal Credit Union

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## Travel Notification

*Traveling somewhere?*

If you plan to use your Westar Debit or Credit cards let us know. Out of the country charges, including Canada will be blocked unless you contact Westar Federal Credit Union at 315-672-7827.

**Office Hours:**  
 Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM

### Holiday Hours:

**Closed: Columbus Day**  
 Monday, October 13, 2014

**Closed: Veterans' Day**  
 Tuesday, November 11, 2014

**Closed: Thanksgiving Day**  
 Thursday, November 27, 2014

**Open 9am-1pm:**  
**Christmas Eve Day**  
 Wednesday, December 24, 2014

**Closed: Christmas Day**  
 Thursday, December 25, 2014

**Open 9am-3pm:**  
**New Year's Eve Day**  
 Wednesday, December 31, 2014

**Closed: New Year's Day**  
 Thursday, January 1, 2015

## 2014 Change a Child's Life Coin Drive



Our Coin drive to benefit the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals was very successful. Westar Federal Credit Union collected \$250 and 100% of the funds were presented to the Golisano Children's Hospital here in Syracuse. We thank everyone who donated and helped our cause. Your spare change really made a difference! Karen Grabowski, President/CEO and Cindy Kraus, Business Development were treated to a tour of the Tree House, common areas, the classroom, a pediatric ICU room and a patient room. We are truly blessed to have this wonderful facility in our backyard.

## 2014 School Supply Drive

Our June through August school supply drive was a HUGE success! Westar Federal Credit Union included an enormous amount of school supplies, plus \$335+ in donations. Westar Federal Credit Union partnered with Christ Community Church to distribute the supplies and contributions. As you can see in the picture below this will absolutely make a difference in our community. We would like to warmly thank everyone who supported this

cause and made our supply drive a terrific accomplishment. Bravo!



## "Star" Savings Account

Westar Federal Credit Union is proud to introduce its new "Star" savings accounts. "Star" savers must be between the ages of 5-15 and maintain a minimum account balance of \$5.00. The "Star" saver will receive a savings kit including a bank, donation links, activity sheets, and a savings ledger that will help teach the value of saving, spending, and donating. "Star" savers are eligible for

CDs that earn the patronage rate automatically but have a lower minimum deposit of \$250.00. After the initial deposit, for each deposit made in person the "Star" will be entered in a quarterly drawing for a family pizza night (maximum value of \$25.00). Stop in and set up your "Star" saving account today! Restrictions may apply.

## Benefits of Virtual Branch and E-Statements



Reduce your chances of being a victim of mail fraud--receive your Westar Federal Credit Union statement electronically.

Even though identity thieves are finding new ways to steal information over the Internet, the origi-

nal theft--for example, taking out a credit card in your name--tends to be a low-tech crime. According to the Federal Trade Commission, about half the country's victims know how their information was swiped, and in many cases the breach was paper--bills, credit card solicitations, and financial statements--pilfered from garbage cans and mailboxes.

Banking and paying bills online not only cuts off thieves' access to the papers they need to commit ID theft, but also helps detect the crime sooner. This is because consumers who bank online check their accounts much more

frequently--nearly four times a month compared with once a month for those who receive statements by mail.

There are many other features available for online banking as well. Did you know you can do transfers online? We recommend all of our members use our virtual branch banking. It is safe, reliable and always a good idea to be able to verify all of the transactions in your account.

For more information about e-statements, or how to enroll in virtual branch online banking, call Westar Federal Credit Union at 315-672-7827 or visit [www.westarnet.net](http://www.westarnet.net).

## Check Endorsements and Third Party Signatures

A first-party check is when a check is written to the owner of the check or to cash. A two-party check is a check written to someone else. If the second party endorses the check to a third party it becomes a third-party check. The third party then deposits the check or cashes it.

For example: Let's say I receive a check from Jim for a used lawnmower. Since the check is made out to me, I endorse the back of the check. This makes me the second party. I go to Joe's yard sale and purchase a bicycle from Joe. I sign the check that Jim gave me over to Joe for the purchase of the bicycle. This makes Joe the third party on the check. Joe is also required to endorse the back

of the check below my endorsement. Joe then takes the check to his financial institution and tries to deposit it in his account. Is Joe's financial institution going to accept this check?

Most financial institutions, unless they know the third party, will not deposit or cash a third party check, because of the risk of it not clearing. The problem arises where the financial institution cannot verify second party signature and doesn't know if the check was truly endorsed over to the third party. Some concerns the financial institution has with third party checks are; was the check stolen out of someone's mailbox or was the second party signature forged.

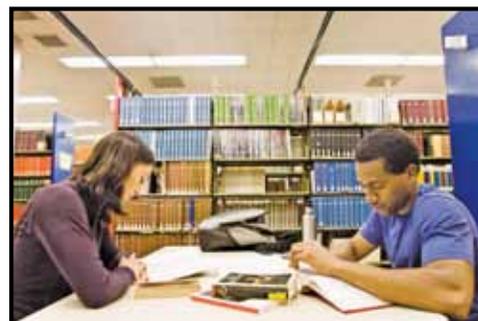
How can I cash a third-party check at Westar? You must bring all parties that are endorsing the check into the office with proper identification so they can endorse the check in from of a credit union staff member. Westar Federal Credit Union, at our discretion, reserves the right to deny acceptance of any checks presented. If you have any questions regarding this, a member of our staff will be more than happy to help you.

## College Students: Take Advantage of Credit Union Services

- Life on campus keeps you busy. Managing money shouldn't add to your stress. Take advantage of these credit union services to streamline and simplify your finances:

- Start direct deposit for paychecks from a part-time job or internship.
- Sign up for overdraft protection. Hey, mistakes happen.
- Apply for a credit card. Expenses such as books can be tough to have all of the money for up front.
- Set up automatic withdrawals for regular bills and expenses.

- Use online and mobile banking to manage your accounts from wherever you are.



### How to Improve Your FICO Credit Score

#### Payment history (35% of score)

- \* Pay all bills on time

#### Amounts owed to creditors (30%)

- \* Don't owe a lot of money to a lot of people

#### Length of credit history (15%)

- \* Keep fewer cards for a longer period of time

#### New credit (10%)

- \* Don't increase debt obligations right before applying for a mortgage

#### Types of credit currently in use (10%)

- \* Maintain a mix of credit--mortgage, credit card, car loan, for example