

Summer 2022



COMMONCENTS

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

Holidays & Events

Independence Day
Monday, July 4TH

Labor Day
Monday, September 5TH

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CELEBRATING: **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING**

TAPCO continues to be a strong community partner while promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Rooted in South Sound, TAPCO recognizes the importance of investing in a vibrant future.

If you follow TAPCO on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or LinkedIn, you may have noticed the celebration of Women's History Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, or most recently Pride Month. During these months, TAPCO celebrated the cultural significance of each of these groups by featuring credit union representatives and sharing their personal stories. In addition, information and resources were shared to help educate readers on each topic. Follow TAPCO on social media to see all the past stories shared and the ones still to come!

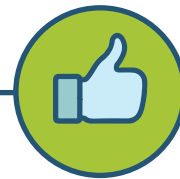
Last quarter, the proceeds from the TAPCO Shirt Shop supported Sound Outreach. This non-profit helps Pierce County residents experiencing low and/or fixed incomes build financial security through financial coaching, job training, and other connected services. For this quarter, proceeds are supporting the Rainbow Center, which serves as a resources hub for the LGBTQ2SA community in South Puget Sound. A special limited edition 253 Pride design has been added to the store to celebrate National Pride Month in June and

the Pierce County Pride festivities in July. Order your t-shirt or hoodie at TAPCOcu.org/shirts and join in the celebrations while supporting local charities.

Internally, TAPCO recognized Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Staff participated in weekly challenges to support mental health, including taking time to exercise, exploring nature, random acts of kindness, and doing more of what our employees love. Each week, staff would share a photo of themselves participating in an activity and be entered to win some fun prizes.

If you attend community events, there is a good chance you may have seen some TAPCO staff in recent months— they are the ones in the blue and green tie-dye shirts you cannot miss! TAPCO takes great pride in supporting the community in various ways from donations, sponsorships, or volunteerism. Some of the contributions this year have been given to non-profits such as Lions4Kids in Bonney Lake, Big Brothers Big Sisters PC, Tacoma Humane Society, Hope Sparks, to name a few. TAPCO also sponsors the Apple-a-Day program at the Tacoma Farmers Market which allows kids to get a free piece of fruit when visiting. In recent months, TAPCO staff participated in the Tacoma Night Market, which included a Drag Brunch.

There is still much work to be done in supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, and our Board of Directors, Supervisor Committee, and Staff are committed to continue working toward building a strong community where everyone can be their best authentic self and achieve their dreams.

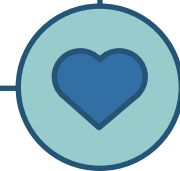


FOLLOW US



**SHOP
OUR SHIRTS**

TAPCOcu.org/SHIRTS



**CHECK OUT
THE COMMUNITY**

TAPCOcu.org/COMMUNITY

RENTING OR BUYING:

HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR HOUSING BUDGET?

Rent and home prices are hitting record highs recently and many of us face challenges when it comes to affordable housing. What's a healthy amount of your monthly budget to spend on housing? A common rule of thumb when it comes to your housing budget is to spend no more than 30% of your gross monthly income, which is your income before taxes and other deductions are taken out of your monthly paycheck. While certainly not a hard and fast rule, think of this ratio as a guideline to use when budgeting for housing costs. Renters should be sure that the 30% of gross monthly income includes rent, heat, water, and electricity. For homeowners, that 30% ratio includes mortgage payment and interest, insurance, property taxes and utilities. You should still be able to manage other expenses like transportation, medical costs, groceries and other living expenses. For many people, paychecks are being squeezed with rapidly rising prices on gas, groceries and other essentials, so it might mean it's time to take a closer look at your monthly finances. Shared here are a few tips for the health of your housing budget.

CHECK IN WITH YOUR BUDGET

With rising inflation, chances are your overall housing budget ratio has changed. Take time to assess your monthly income against

current expenses to review the suggested housing budget ratio. How have things changed? Do you have a realistic plan for the money that comes in each month? Be sure there is a line item in your budget for groceries, gas, healthcare and medications, childcare, savings, and entertainment. If you haven't been following a budget, take time to create one, no matter how simple, to track your expenses so that you can go back, review, and adjust as needed.

TAKE A LOOK AT DEBT

Many people find it hard to manage housing costs when struggling with high credit card balances or other debt. The longer you carry a high interest credit card balance, the more it takes a bite out of your available monthly income. You will save the most money by starting to pay as much extra as you can on your highest-interest debt first, and then once that's paid off, move on to your second-highest interest debt, and so on. If you are feeling stressed by debt, exploring options such as a debt management plan or working with a trusted financial counselor could help you reduce monthly payments and reduce the overall cost of your debt.

LOOK FOR WAYS TO REDUCE EXPENSES

To achieve a healthy housing budget, where might you be able to cut costs? You may be able to save money by doing things like planning your meals to reduce grocery bills,

canceled streaming services you're not using, or reducing your electric bill by cutting energy usage. As noted above, you may also be able to save money on your debt by finding options to lower interest rates or reduce monthly payments. Are any major purchases on the horizon? Can you postpone major purchases like a new car or other large item? So often, when it is time to make a major purchase, it catches us off guard and we immediately turn to credit to pay for it. If your washing machine will need to be replaced in the coming months, try to set aside cash now. When the time comes to replace it, you may be able to minimize the use of credit.

CONNECT WITH A FINANCIAL COUNSELOR

Whether you are experiencing budget challenges as prices continue to rise, or longer-term financial challenges, a TAPCO Financial Counselor can work with you to figure out your plan. You don't have to go through the process alone.

If you would like more information about financial counseling or education, please contact us directly at **253.565.9895**

or go to

TAPCOcu.org/Financial-Counseling

Skip A PAYMENT

Yep, you can skip a payment. Take that vacation! Buy that new refrigerator! Let Skip Pay help!

It's one of the perks of being a member. Check out all the details at

TAPCOcu.org/Skip-Pay



Join us at the FARMERS MARKET

TAPCO is proud to partner with the Tacoma Farmers Market to support the Apple-A-Day program. This unique offering at the Farmers Market benefits children and families in Pierce County by providing access to fresh fruit and vegetables for children ages 16 and under. When accompanied by a parent or a guardian, children can receive a \$1 token to buy a fruit or veggie from a market vendor of their choice. Tokens are distributed at the market's information booth. Come see us all summer long at the Farmers Market on Broadway!

Celebrating 88 YEARS

In 1934, nine City of Tacoma employees came together to create a credit union that would meet their financial needs better than a traditional bank. City Credit Union of Tacoma was established as the first credit union in Pierce County under the staircase at Old City Hall. After a couple name changes (and a few decades), we are now TAPCO CU serving the South Sound and all of Washington State.



TAPCO REWARDS PROGRAM NOTICE

For those participating in TAPCO Rewards Program, we would like to remind you that the Gold Rewards annual fee will be assessed in July and will appear on your August statement.

SWIPE & WIN \$1000

When you use your TAPCO Debit or Credit Card, you will be entered for a chance to win up to \$1,000! Any purchase of \$5.00 or more made July 1ST - August 31ST will automatically be entered. For more details, visit us at TAPCOcu.org/Swipe-And-Win



New design CHECK IT OUT!

Stop by your local branch to get your 253 Pride Sticker while supplies lasts!



Show off your 253 PRIDE

Love to shop while supporting your favorite charities throughout Pierce County? TAPCO's Shirt Shop is the place for you!

This quarter, all Shirt Shop proceeds support the Rainbow Center, which expands resources and provides a safe space for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, two-spirit, and allied (LGBTQ2SA) community.

To purchase this limited edition 253 Pride shirt or hoodie, visit us at TAPCOcu.org/Shirts

CONNECT WITH US For Member Updates, Community Announcements & Event Information

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For more information on our branches and locations go to TAPCOcu.org/Locations



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