



215 Deo Drive • Newark, Ohio 43055  
Call/Text 740-345-6608 • www.truecore.org

# WINTER 2025

*Proud to serve Licking, Fairfield, Knox,  
Muskingum, and Perry Counties.*



## TrueCore Named Best Financial Institution

For the third year in a row, TrueCore has been voted the Best Financial Institution in the Newark Advocate's Best of Licking County Contest! We invite you to stop by and see why we've been chosen. Whether you're saving for a big purchase, financing a dream, or simply need convenient access to your money, we're here to help. Thank you for your membership and your continued support.

## 2024 Scholarship Winners



### Violet Caton

Violet Caton, a sophomore at Franciscan University of Steubenville, has been awarded a \$2,500 TrueCore Scholarship to support her academic pursuits.



### Joshua McNichols

Joshua McNichols is a sophomore at The Ohio State University at Newark, pursuing a degree in Business Management. With a strong academic foundation from Lakewood High School, Joshua is eager to study abroad and give back to his community.

## 2025 Scholarship Opportunities!

TrueCore will be awarding two \$2,500 scholarships in 2025 through the Licking County Foundation.

Applications can be obtained and submitted online. Scan the code to visit <https://www.thelcfoundation.org/scholarships/scholarship-cycle.html>

**The deadline to apply is Monday, February 3, 2025 at 5 PM.**



## CREDIT SCORES

### The Basics

powered by  
**savvymoney**



**Who**  
has a credit score?

- Everyone who has at least one line of credit open under their name.
- One month after the first line of credit in your name is opened you will get a credit score.



**What**  
is a credit score?

A number from **300-850**.  
The number determines how likely you are to pay back the money you might borrow from the financial institution.

### Factors that go into your score



Paying bills on time



Amount of credit lines open



Credit usage



Age of credit lines and credit history



**Where**  
can you check your credit score?

- Through your bank or credit union.
- Through the credit bureau directly.
- Through a credit score or your credit card website.



**When**  
is your credit score used?

When you want to borrow money from a bank or credit union for a personal loan, student loan, or a mortgage on your house.

### The higher the score, the better



Good: **660-779**

Excellent: **780-850**

You are more likely to get approved for a loan if your credit score is high.



**Why**  
is a credit score important?

Your credit score is an indicator of your financial responsibility. It can tell anyone who is going to lend you money how likely you are to pay back that loan.

### One more thing: **Soft Pull** versus **Hard Pull**

**Soft** (usually when you personally check your credit score).

It **will not** show up on a credit report.

**Hard** (usually when you are opening a new line of credit).

It **will** show up on a credit report and may affect score.

## News and Updates

### Free Estate Planning Workshop

Thursday, February 6 at noon  
215 Deo Drive, Newark

Lee Heckman with Reese Pyle Meyer PLL of Newark will be available to discuss the basics of estate planning. Topics will include wills, trusts, powers of attorney, health care powers of attorney/living wills, avoiding probate, and planning for unforeseen circumstances.

Refreshments will be available at this informative session, lasting approximately one hour. Please RSVP to Andrea at 740-788-3570 or ahinesblower@truecore.org.

### 2025 Annual Meeting

Please save the date for Wednesday, April 16 at 6 p.m. As a member-owner, this is the perfect opportunity to receive an update on the state of your credit union. The event, held at TrueCore's main branch located at 215 Deo Drive in Newark, will be catered with light refreshments, and no RSVP is required.

### TrueCore to Host Free Shred-it Day

Protect your identity by shredding your confidential documents. Save the date for Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 215 Deo Drive, Newark. Limit of five boxes and no businesses please.

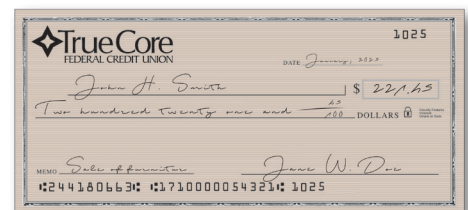
### Important Tax Information

To receive your tax refund promptly, please make sure you are using the correct account number. The following numbering structure will help you. We'll use the account number of 54321 as an example:

#### CHECKING

If you want your refund to go into your checking account, the number you would use would always be a 13-digit number. This can be found at the bottom of your check in the center, to the right of the routing number which is 244180663, and to the left of the check number. Examples of this number would include, but are not limited to:

- 1710000054321
- 1720000054321
- 1770000054321



#### SAVINGS

If you want your refund to go into your savings account, the number you would use would be 54321. No zeros preceding or following the core number are necessary.

## How to Afford a Mortgage

*The Ohio Credit Union League, 2024*

The housing market in America has seen wild swings in the past decade, with average rates on 30-year fixed mortgages reaching record lows of below 3 percent during the recent pandemic.

That helped many people afford a first-time mortgage or buy up to the home of their dreams. It also created more demand which led to steep price increases and low housing inventory. Now that interest rates are above 6 percent and prices remain high, many Americans are finding it hard to fulfill their dream of homeownership. In a recent Credit Karma survey, 49 percent of respondents who don't own a home said mortgage rates and inflation are preventing them from purchasing one right now.

If you are in the market for a home, it's important to understand how much mortgage you can afford and what you can qualify for before signing any contracts.

**Review your budget and expenses.** Some lenders will prequalify you for a mortgage of up to 43 percent of your monthly income, but it may not be wise to take on that much debt. Instead, financial planners recommend a mortgage be no more than three times your annual salary or 28 percent of your gross household income.

**Determine if now is the best time to buy.** If rates and prices are not working in your favor, it may make sense to delay shopping, and instead take steps that will help you better afford a mortgage in the future.

**Work on your credit.** In 2023, the median FICO credit score of successful mortgage applicants was 759, or

'very good'. Generally, higher credit scores equal lower mortgage rates. Do you know your current score? TrueCore tracks your credit score each month for free in their mobile app. You can also request a free weekly credit report from each of the three main credit reporting bureaus. Visit [AnnualCreditReport.com](http://AnnualCreditReport.com) to get started.

To maintain a healthy credit score, pay your bills on time, and work to reduce your outstanding debt to save more toward a down payment. Also resist applying for any new credit or closing current lines of credit just before applying for a mortgage. Each inquiry affects your score.

**Save a bigger down payment.** In 2023, first-time homebuyers paid an average down payment of 8 percent of the sale price, the highest amount since 1997, according to the National Association of Realtors. If you can apply a larger down payment, you may qualify for more favorable mortgage terms. If you received a tax refund or have savings in a low-interest account, talk to your credit union about moving the funds to a high-yield savings account.

**Seek professional financial advice.** Buying a home is a major investment and life decision. It can help to seek the advice of a trained financial professional before you start the journey. As member-owned financial institutions, credit unions often provide financial guidance, creditbuilding products, and charge lower interest rates. Leverage your local credit union resources to determine the right time to buy a home, and how to stay in top financial health.

## FREE HOME-BUYING WORKSHOP

Wed., January 29 at 6 p.m.  
215 Deo Drive, Newark



This free workshop will provide valuable insights from experts and tips to help you navigate the home-buying process. This session will last approximately one hour, followed by a Q&A and light refreshments.

Please RSVP to Brittany at  
[btucker@truecore.org](mailto:btucker@truecore.org) or  
740-788-3572



# TrueCore Through the Years

We're thankful for our rich history and the members who've been with us through the years!



(Above) This photo, likely captured in the 1950s, showcases our early days inside Owens Corning in Newark. Pictured is Manager Ham Foley (standing left) and Peggy Fry (seated far left) who would also go on to become Manager.



(Above) Our first office independent from the Owens Corning plant opened on Feb. 24, 1980 at 385 John Street, Newark.

(Right) We opened the Downtown branch for our members in February of 1990. The building to the right was last occupied by Haynes Jewelers, which made way for our current drive thru.



## SLOW COOKER CILANTRO LIME PORK

**\$1.70 per serving / Yields 8 servings**

**Prep Time: 10 Minutes / Slow Cooker Time: 6 hours**

### Ingredients:

- 2 lbs pork tenderloin
- 1(1-ounce) envelope taco seasonings mix
- 2 Tbsp lime juice
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro
- 8 (8- to 10- in.) flour tortillas
- Desired toppings, such as salsa, avocado slices, fresh cilantro, or lime wedges

### Instructions:

1. Place pork in a 3- to 4-quart slow cooker. Sprinkle the taco seasoning over pork. Pour lime juice and 1/2 cup water over pork. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 7 hours.
2. Transfer pork to a cutting board. Shred pork using two forks.
3. Return shredded meat and the cilantro to cooker and stir to combine with cooking liquid. Serve meat in flour tortillas with desired toppers.

