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## VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars! ECCU's Annual Meeting will be held on February 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm. This year we'll be meeting on Zoom.

Join us to get an overview of 2020 financials, and vote on our three new Board of Director positions. You must register to attend the annual meeting. Plan to join us by reserving your spot at [www.ECCU.net/022421](http://www.ECCU.net/022421).

**ENERGY CREDIT UNION CAPITAL**  
18540 Northwest Freeway  
Houston, TX 77065  
[www.ECCU.net](http://www.ECCU.net)  
832.604.4848  
BETTER BANKING STARTS HERE



Northwest Community - 18540 Northwest Freeway  
Spring Community - 24396 Interstate 45 N  
Spring Campus - 22777 Springwoods Village Parkway\*  
Hughes Landing ATM - 1735 Hughes Landing - West Building\*

\*Restricted Public Access

## EARLY CLOSINGS

Our offices will be closed:

February 15th, Presidents Day - 3:00pm



## TRANSFER YOUR BALANCES TO ECCU!

Let's make this a great financial year for you. We can start by consolidating some debt! It's the perfect time to transfer balances from high-interest credit cards to an ECCU card. Receive 1.90% APR\* on all balance transfers for 12 months.

### The ECCU Mastercard Platinum includes all of these features:

- 0% APR for 6 months
- Cash back rewards
- No annual fee
- Trip delay and cancellation or interruption protection
- Lost luggage coverage
- Auto rental collision damage waiver
- Zero liability for unauthorized purchases
- Buyer protection
- Extended warranty coverage

### Apply for an ECCU Platinum Rewards Credit Card today!

\*APR is annual percentage rate and valid as of 1/1/21. 0% APR is only valid for new cards, six months after card opening. After the 6 month introductory period, your rate will be the agreed upon rate at the time of card opening. View full credit card details and disclosures at [www.ECCU.net/borrow/credit-cards](http://www.ECCU.net/borrow/credit-cards).



## HIGH-INTEREST CHECKING

A high-interest checking account that pays you back.

### Earn 1.30% APY\* with our Energy High-Interest Checking:

- Earn interest rate of 1.30% APY\* on balances from \$1-\$20,000
- First free box of checks
- No minimum balance
- No monthly service charge
- Free account alerts
- Free Mastercard debit card
- Free online and mobile banking with bill pay
- Free E-Statements
- Access to 30,000 free ATMs nationwide

### Three qualifiers to receive the high interest each month:

- 12 debit card transactions per month
- Log in to Online Banking at least once a month
- Be enrolled in E-Statements

\*APY is annual percentage rate and current as of 1/1/21. Account holders will earn 0.01% APY even if the above criteria is not met. Full account details available at [www.ECCU.net/spend-and-save/checking-accounts](http://www.ECCU.net/spend-and-save/checking-accounts).

## NEW YEAR NEW WHEELS

Need a new ride for your 2021 adventures? We've got you covered with financing rates as low as 1.99% APR\*.

### Pick your payment.

Car shopping is less stressful when you know what your payment is going to be. Use the chart below to pick your auto amount, and how long you want to finance it. You can borrow up to 100% of the value of the auto.

Auto Loan Amount	Sample Monthly Payments		
	60 Months Financing	72 Months Financing	84 Months Financing
\$15,000	\$263	\$225	\$202
\$25,000	\$438	\$374	\$336
\$35,000	\$613	\$524	\$470
\$45,000	\$789	\$674	\$605

Visit [www.ECCU.net](http://www.ECCU.net) to get pre-approved before you go shopping! It's fast and easy.

\*APR is annual percentage rate, lowest rate available with all discounts valid as of 1/1/2021. Sample payments are based on 1.99% APR for 60 months, 2.49% APR for 72 months, 3.49% APR for 84 months, rounded to the closest whole dollar amount. For full loan details, visit [www.ECCU.net/borrow/loan-options](http://www.ECCU.net/borrow/loan-options).



## BUDGETING STRATEGIES FOR YOUR 2021 BUDGET

Now that we've rung in the new year, it's time to talk about your budgeting strategies for 2021. There are many different approaches you can take with budgeting; we've listed some popular ones below. There isn't a single budget strategy that works well for everyone, so find what works for you!

### The Zero-Balance Budget

This is one you're probably familiar with. In this approach, you'll create a list of expense categories, such as food, utilities, and rent, with a target amount you'd like to spend in each category. Once you total up all of the expense categories, they should add up to less than what you earn in a given month, allowing you to save for the future or have some extra cash left over. This will give you a better understanding of your spending habits, and the ability to set realistic goals for cutting back on expenses. If you're a detail oriented, hands-on person, this may be a great strategy for you.

### The Envelope Budget

For this strategy, you'll cash each paycheck you get and sort the cash into envelopes with different purposes. Some envelope titles could be: Utilities, food and extras. Then, when you need money for one of these purposes, you'll take some from the appropriate envelope. In this approach, you have direct control over your money because you're the one sorting it. You'll also see how much money you have to cover your necessary expenses, so you can determine if you have some "treat yourself" money.

### The Pay Yourself First Budget

If you struggle saving for the future, this one's for you. Once you collect your paycheck, the first thing you'll do is put some of the money aside for your long-term goals, and then figure out how to live on what's left over. This often takes place automatically when people put money into their 401(k) or other retirement plans.

### The 50/30/20 Budget

If you're able to stick with this one, you'll end up saving a lot of money for the future. If you have an overload of bills, this one may be challenging until you can pay down more of your debt. This budget strategy involves spending 50% of your income on basic living expenses, 30% of your money on fun things, and 20% of your money on saving for the future. It's perfect for someone who has just entered the workforce and is looking for a good model to follow.



## BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES

**Hermes Rubio** is currently IT Director for Arthur J. Gallagher & Company. He started his career off in 1992 as a high school intern at ExxonMobil's Plastics Plant in Baton Rouge, LA, and also opened his first savings account with Exxon Federal Credit Union. He then moved to Houston in 1998 to work at ExxonMobil Upstream Research's Greenway campus. That same year, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Management Information Systems from the Ourso College of Business. Since then, he has been a member of Energy Capital Credit Union and lives in Houston with his family.

Hermes has worked for organizations like Houston's University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center exposing him to various industries, but his focus has always been solving business problems with effective and appropriate technology solutions. He served on the board of his local church for eight years and held the position of Secretary for multiple one-year terms where he helped the church with budgeting, personnel, and vendor selection. Hermes says "I love ECCU, and I understand the value of credit unions. I hope my experience working on my church board and my IT experience will benefit ECCU and my fellow members. I look forward to learning from and serving with the rest of the board."

**Shannon Rives** is the Vice President and Director of Construction Management services for Texas Arcadis U.S., Inc., a global engineering consultancy firm. He graduated from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in 1977 with degrees in Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. He is now a resident of Katy, TX with his wife and three children, and likes to golf and fish when he's not working.

Shannon focuses on team building and quality client service and has been the Principle on multi-billion-dollar projects worldwide. He can also support ECCU with his experience in Right-of-Way acquisition and vertical construction. He believes that ECCU is an excellent institution and is honored to be appointed to its Board.

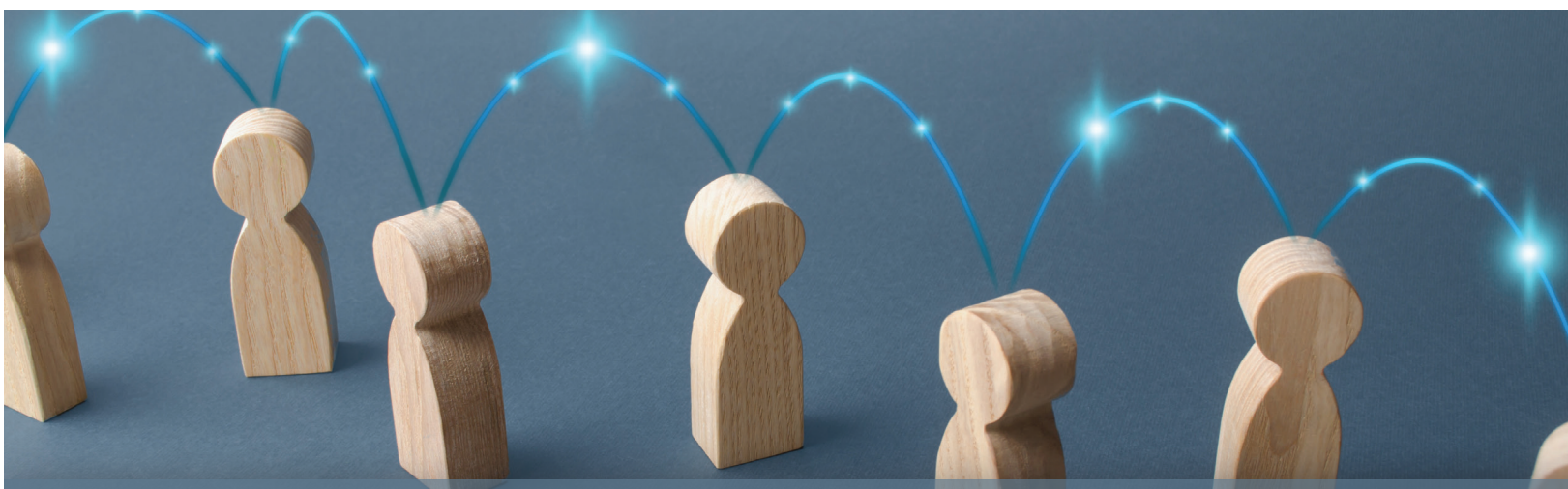
**Shanita Holloway** is a Realtor for Walzel Properties LLC. She was born in Newark, New Jersey, and is now a proud Houston resident with her two young boys. Her philosophy for success is to handle her clients and her life with a personal touch, which has given her the reputation as one of the leading sellers in the Houston housing market by combining her love of real estate and being a Mom. Her professionalism helped her obtain the coveted "Million Dollar Listing" within her first year of being licensed.

With years of experience under her belt, Shanita balances work and home life effortlessly. She has mastered the art of closing a deal without ever compromising family and faith and respecting her client's needs. She currently serves within her church and has served on a lunch and learn marketing board for a local real estate chapter helping to grow the membership with her fresh ideas. She is a servant and leader at heart and looks forward to serving and bringing new ideas to ECCU.



## DORMANT ACCOUNTS

The state of Texas requires by law that financial institutions track dormant accounts. An account is labeled "dormant" when we've had no activity or contact with the account holder for one year and is remitted after three years of no activity or contact. If Energy Capital Credit Union has recorded no transactions or contact with a member for three years, the state requires that we close the account and send the funds to the Unclaimed Property Division of the Texas State Comptroller's office. To prevent your account from being flagged as dormant, please initiate a transaction on your account at least once every year. If your account has been flagged as dormant, but not yet closed and submitted to the state, you may contact us at 832-604-4848 to remove the dormancy flag.



## UPDATING YOUR BENEFICIARIES

A designated beneficiary is who or what will receive your assets from contracts and accounts, such as life insurance policies, annuity contracts, 401(k) plans, or IRAs. Maintaining current designations is an important step to protecting your assets, yet, many people forget to check this information. Out-of-date beneficiaries are a common and costly mistake, and these mistakes can result in funds not going where you intend.

If you fail to list your beneficiary on your credit union membership, we won't know who to reach out to if you pass away and funds could end up being distributed as unclaimed funds to the state. Make a habit of checking your accounts annually, or after a major life event such as marriage, divorce, death of a loved one, or birth of a child. Keeping this information updated gives you peace of mind that the people you want to take care of, or institutions you want to support, will receive the assets you wanted them to.

If you have questions about your Energy Capital Credit Union accounts, contact us. We're happy to help!