



Federal Credit Union

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Press Contact:  
Audrey Cohen  
Epoch 5 Public Relations  
631/427-1713  
[acohen@epoch5.com](mailto:acohen@epoch5.com)

**Bethpage Federal Credit Union Now Offering  
[Free Tax Filing Assistance](#) for Eligible Long Islanders**

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**More Preparation Sites Now Available Across Long Island**

**Bethpage, NY – February 14, 2019** – [Bethpage Federal Credit Union](#) will help low-to-moderate income households on Long Island prepare their tax returns at no cost by offering the IRS’ free tax preparation service, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, the Bethpage VITA program, the largest across Long Island, is open to all eligible Long Islanders, including non-Bethpage members.

Starting Tuesday February 5, 2019 through Thursday April 11, 2019, trained and bilingual tax preparers will be available at Bethpage VITA Sites available in Nassau and Suffolk Counties to meet with eligible taxpayers with 2018 incomes of \$55,000 and below. VITA services will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

This year, Bethpage will hold its VITA services off-site at community centers across Long Island. The sites include: Freeport Public Library; Yes We Can Community Center in Westbury; Mastics, Moriches, Shirley Community Library; United Healthcare Community Plan in Hempstead; Wyandanch Public Library; Copiague Public Library; Farmingdale Library; East Islip Library; Huntington Library; Massapequa Library; Middle Country Public Library in Centereach; and the Roosevelt High School Community Resource Room. Residents must schedule an appointment prior through each off-site location. Visit Bethpage’s “Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program” page located in the Community Section at [www.bethpagefcu.com](http://www.bethpagefcu.com) for phone numbers to make appointments, and for exact dates and times.

“For 16 years now, Bethpage has made free tax filing assistance available to those who are eligible. We are so pleased to be able to offer this important service to the Long Island community,” said Robert Suarez, Assistance Vice President of Community Development for Bethpage Federal Credit Union.

Over 50 trained volunteers from local colleges and universities will be working one-on-one with taxpayers. Partnering schools include Adelphi University, Farmingdale State College, Hofstra University, LIU Post, Molloy College, St. Joseph's College, Stony Brook University, SUNY Old Westbury, Touro Law School, Nassau Community College, and Suffolk Community College.

Bethpage VITA volunteers will also educate eligible working families about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) while preparing tax returns. The EITC is an anti-poverty program available to four out of five eligible Long Island households, which can claim up to three years back of Earned Income Tax Credits.

In 2018, Bethpage completed 2,218 VITA tax returns and helped secure IRS total refunds of over \$2.5 million. Bethpage also helped secure \$120,182 in child tax credits in 2018, and \$662,401 in Earned Income Tax Credits. Since the program's inception in 2004, over 19,653 individuals have filed their tax returns through Bethpage, resulting in nearly \$22,751,498 million returned to the Long Island community.

Qualifying taxpayers planning to take advantage of Bethpage's VITA program must bring the following materials with them for review: photo identification, social security cards for you, your spouse and dependents, current year's tax package if you received one, wage and earnings statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R from all employers, interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099), a copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available, bank routing and account numbers for tax refund direct deposit, total paid for daycare, and provider's tax ID.

To file taxes electronically for a joint tax return, both spouses must be present. For more information on VITA, paperwork needed, and exact dates and times, please visit Bethpage's "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program" page located under the Community section at [www.bethpagefcu.com](http://www.bethpagefcu.com) or call 1-800-628-7070.

Bethpage Federal Credit Union is a premier community financial institution committed to enriching the lives of its members, employees and the communities it serves for the past 75 years. Bethpage is the largest credit union in the Northeast Region, as well as 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Bethpage is a federally chartered credit union open to everyone that opens a \$5 minimum share account. As a financial cooperative, Bethpage offers the best-in market rates, low fees and world-class service, and a full menu of personal and commercial financial services.

On Long Island, Bethpage maintains branch locations in Albertson, Baldwin, Bay Shore, Bay Shore King Kullen, Bethpage, Centereach, Central Islip, Commack King Kullen, East Meadow NuHealth Medical Center, East Northport, Elmont, Farmingdale, Freeport, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Huntington, Levittown King Kullen, LIU Post (Brookville), Long Beach, Lynbrook, Massapequa, Melville, Mineola, North Babylon, Patchogue, Port Jefferson, Riverhead, Roosevelt, Seaford, Smithtown, Valley Stream King Kullen, West Babylon, and Westbury. In New York City, Bethpage maintains a branch location at 111 W 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Bethpage also offers over 500 surcharge-free ATMs in King Kullen, CVS Pharmacy and Costco locations. For more information on Bethpage's robust portfolio of banking, borrowing, and investment services, visit [www.bethpagefcu.com](http://www.bethpagefcu.com) or call 1-800-628-7070.

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