

Tax Season Is Fast Approaching. Your credit union is here to help!

Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union
is participating in the *United Way* and *Earn It Keep It Save It*

Free VITA Tax Preparation

If you meet the financial requirements, we can help you file your taxes and get your correct refund at no charge. Berkeley students and community volunteers have studied and passed the IRS approved testing to become Certified Volunteer Tax Preparers.

Members and non-members with household incomes below \$53,000, may schedule an appointment, get a listing of the required documents, and take advantage of this valuable community service by calling Liz Sooksumphun, Volunteer Income Tax Assistant, Site Coordinator

510-647-2123, or by emailing lsooksumphun@coopfcu.org or stop by our branch at

2001 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703





EarnIt!
KeepIt!
SaveIt!

Join Us For The 2016
"What You Should Know"
Financial Planning Series
1: Tax Planning

DATE: Feb 3rd, 2016
TIME: 6pm - 7:30pm
LOCATION: Credit Union Lobby
2001 Ashby Ave, Berkeley, 94703

Please RSVP with Debbie Crowson
(510) 295-1644 or dcrowson@coopfcu.org



Presented by Cathy Jackson-Gent
of Global Investments

Is the thought of tax season keeping you up at night?

Are Uncle Sam and his pesky penalties robbing you of your peaceful slumber (and money)?



Take advantage of our
Tax Loan and stop
losing sleep.

Rates as low as

10.25%^{APR*}

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Maximum Loan amount is \$10,000. Term not to exceed 60 months. Tax loan proceeds must be made payable direct to IRS and/or State Franchise Tax Board to qualify. Loans are subject to credit approval and are granted on the basis of credit worthiness and ability to repay. Additional restrictions may apply. Cooperative Center FCU membership required. Offer ends April 15, 2016.

**Wherever You Are,
We Are Too!**



Be one of the first five people to like us on Facebook (if you haven't already!) and guess correctly where this member has *gone mobile*! The first five (5) winners will receive a \$10 gift card to have lunch on us! Find us at www.facebook.com/coopfcu.



Holidays don't have to mean big debt when you save year 'round.

Now is the time to open a Holiday Savings Club Account!

- \$25 minimum deposit to open
- No monthly service charge
- Earn dividends on balances over \$100
- Funds distributed in November with the option of receiving a check in the mail, or having the funds directly transferred to your share account

Stop by the Branch or contact one of our friendly credit union team members to start your holiday saving today at (510) 647-2132.



Have the Holidays Left Your Empty Piggy Bank Squealing?

Refinance Your Auto Loan!



- 🚗 Rates as low as **1.89%APR***
- 🚗 **90 Days No-Payments¹**
- 🚗 **Plus, you and your piggy bank will love us when you receive a 1% Refinance Reward² as a thank you for bringing your auto loan to your Cooperative!**

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The vehicle must be a model between 2008-2016, have a balance owed of at least \$10,000 and currently be financed through another financial institution. Loans currently financed through Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union are not eligible. Your present loan must be current. Rate and term may vary based on credit worthiness, age of vehicle, mileage, and value of vehicle. Contact a Loan Officer for minimum/maximum loan terms based on amount financed. Subject to credit approval. Floor rate of 1.89% APR applies. 1: 90 day deferred payment is optional. Interest will continue to accrue during the 90 day no-payment period. First payment(s) may be applied to interest only. 2: Refinance reward will be deposited into member's account. Refinance reward will be issued within 90-days of loan funding. Refinance reward is capped at \$500. Please speak with a loan officer for complete details and restrictions. Cooperative Center FCU membership is required. This offer may change or be revoked at any time, without notice, and cannot be combined with other offers. Offer ends February 15, 2016.

Can You Save Thousands of Dollars by Buying a New Car With a Loan Instead of Cash?

Victoria Simons [nerdwallet](#)

Americans aren't bashful when it comes to borrowing money to buy a car. About 85% of buyers take out a loan to pay for their new ride, according to Experian Automotive. But suppose you have enough saved up to pay in cash — is that the smartest move? Or does financing the purchase with today's low interest rates and investing your money in the stock market make more sense?

To answer those questions, NerdWallet crunched the numbers for a hypothetical consumer: A buyer with enough savings to spend \$25,000 on a F-150 XL pickup, which is part of the Ford F-Series, the best-selling line of vehicles in the U.S. In our scenario, the buyer would spend \$5,000 of the money in the savings account on the truck and take out a \$20,000 five-year loan at a 2% APR to cover the rest. When looking for a loan, be sure to shop around for the best APR — credit unions will often provide the lowest rates.

A Potential Payoff

The buyer's remaining \$20,000 would be invested in an index fund that tracks Standard & Poor's 500 index, which has a 10-year annualized rate of return of 7.7% as of July. The buyer would then take money out of the index fund each month to make payments on the auto loan. So where does that leave the buyer? After paying the final loan installment and factoring in capital gains taxes, the buyer could be left with about \$2,723 in the fund, or an 11% savings on the price of the new pickup.

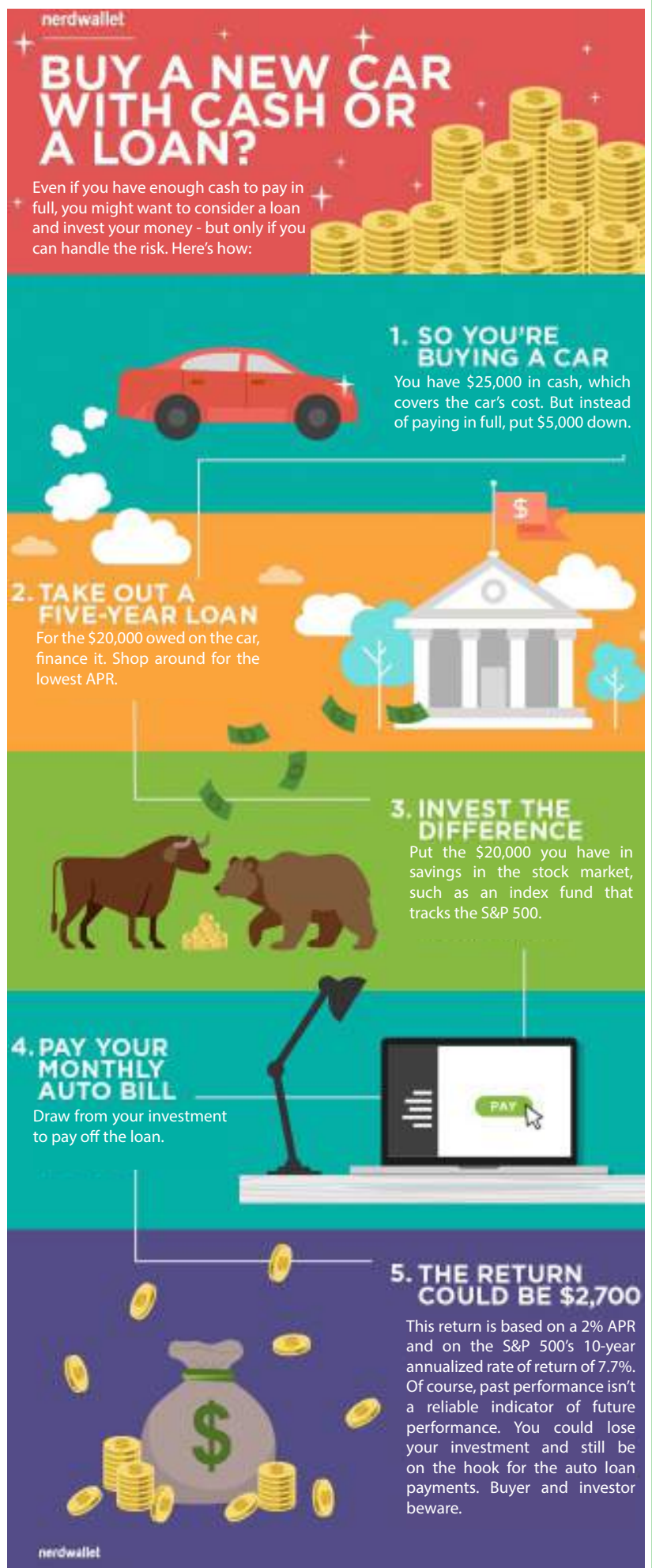
A Few Words of Caution

Not everybody can afford to pay for a new car in cash. And even for those who can, the peace of mind that comes with being debt-free may be more valuable than the potential payoff of taking out a loan and investing in the stock market. Others might not mind the risk and extra legwork of getting a loan and investing in a fund, so long as the potential return is substantial.

There are a number of caveats that should be mentioned: First, past performance of the stock market isn't a reliable indicator of future performance. Should the stock market nosedive, you could lose much of your investment, and you'll still be on the hook for the \$20,000 loan.

Also, consider the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) on your loan carefully. The lower the APR, the more you'll save over the life of a five-year loan. But again, there are no guarantees on how the stock market will perform. Even with a low APR, the risk of investing may not be worth it.

Check out the chart to see how the APR could affect the potential savings, assuming the S&P 500 had a 10-year annualized rate of return of 7.7%. You could also decide to leave your \$2,723 in the index fund for another five years. Of course, the value of your investment could fall, but assuming the 10-year annualized rate of return of 7.7%, that would bring it to \$3,997. Stretch it to 20 years and it could grow to \$12,639. That's enough to pay for a lavish family vacation — or another car.



Enterprise Car Sales and Cooperative Center FCU are teaming up for a presidential 2-Day 2-Lot Auto Sale!

Get rates as low as 1.89% APR.¹ Plus, Enterprise will appraise your vehicle using Kelley Blue Book® Trade-In Value and add \$1,000.²

Get pre-approved with Cooperative Center FCU before the sale, purchase your car the weekend of the sale and you'll receive a \$50 Gas Card upon funding!³



1: APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rates as low as 1.89% APR for 60 months. 100% Financing available including Tax, Title and License. Financing for qualified Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union members. Not all buyers will qualify. Actual rate may vary based on credit worthiness. Offer valid only on Enterprise Car Sales vehicles purchased 2/1/16 - 2/29/16. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer except those listed on this advertisement.

2: Kelley Blue Book Trade-In Values used by Enterprise are obtained from © 2015 Kelley Blue Book Co.'s website KBB.com. Kelley Blue Book Trade-In Value is based on accurate condition rating and mileage of vehicle. Accurately appraising the condition of the vehicle is an important aspect of determining its Kelley Blue Book Trade-In Value. Kelley Blue Book valuation adjustments for vehicle mileage disproportionate to the age of the vehicle may be capped by Enterprise Car Sales at 20% of the vehicle's base value. If a Kelley Blue Book Trade-In Value is not available for customer's vehicle, Enterprise will provide a fair and competitive value for customer's vehicle. Additional trade-in value of \$1,000 is available only on passenger vehicles and light duty trucks with a Kelley Blue Book Trade-In Value and when a vehicle is purchased from Enterprise. Customer is responsible to any extent vehicle pay-off exceeds Enterprise offer. Customer must provide required proof of ownership/registration and all other necessary paperwork to transfer title. Offer only valid on one trade-in for each Enterprise vehicle purchase. Restrictions apply. For details, see an Enterprise Car Sales Manager. Offer void where prohibited including AK, HI, KY, LA, MD, NE, NM, OK, OR, SC, TX, VA and Washington D.C. Offer valid 2/1/16 - 2/29/16. No cash advances. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer except those listed on this advertisement. Used vehicles are previously part of Enterprise short-term rental and lease fleet or purchased by Enterprise from other sources including auto auctions, with previous use possibly short-term rental, lease or other. * Restrictions apply. For details, see an Enterprise Car Sales Manager. **Enterprise 12-Month Unlimited Mileage Roadside Assistance Package is provided by the American Automobile Association (AAA) and its affiliated clubs in the United States and Canada.

3: Gas Card will be mailed within seven (7) days of funding.

Cooperative Center FCU Contributing to Our Community

Trunk-or-Treat

We participated in a Contra Costa County Trunk-or-Treat event on October 25, 2015, giving families a fun and safe way to celebrate Halloween. Over a thousand children enjoyed blocks of creatively themed trunks. The credit union trick-or-treat bags, the Safe Halloween coloring books and circus themed trunk were a hit!



Bay Area Blues Festival

Cooperative Center FCU participated in the Bay Area Blues Festival. With over 10,000 people in attendance, we enjoyed meeting all of those who visited our credit union booth during the event, including many of our Contra Costa County members.



Alameda County Food Bank

For over a decade our credit union members have been supporting the Alameda County Food Bank by contributing to food drives in our lobby. Cooperative Center FCU members and staff donated over 1,288 pounds of food in 2015. The canned food sculptures pictured here were created by our own artistic team



One Warm Coat Drive

Now until January 29, 2016 we'll be holding a One Warm Coat Drive! Bring in your gently used or new coats and drop them off in our lobby to help someone stay warm this winter! Don't have any coats to spare? We're also accepting monetary donations. If you have any questions about the drive, contact Debbie Crowson at (510) 295-1644.



Announcing Our Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the results of the 2015 Board of Directors elections. The list below includes the elected Officers' positions as well as their terms.

Shyaam Shabaka, Chair
Term: Annual Meeting 2015 - 2017

Celeste McAllister, Vice Chair
Term: Annual Meeting 2015 - 2018

Mike Leung, Treasurer
Term: Annual Meeting 2014 - 2016

Sushil Jacob, Secretary
Term: Annual Meeting 2014 - 2017

Jesse Palmer, Director
Term: Annual Meeting 2014 - 2016

Laura Herrera, Director
Term: Annual Meeting 2014 - 2017

Jesse McCarter, Director
Term: Annual Meeting 2015 - 2018

"The credit union movement... It is a great movement, worthy of great deeds, deserving of great loyalty."

~Edward Filene, father of the U.S. credit union movement.

Supervisory Committee

Patricia Pitre, *Chair*
Stephanie Hunter, *Secretary*
Mark Smith, *Member*

You may contact your Supervisory Committee with questions or concerns by email:
SupervisoryCommittee@coopfcu.org
or reach them at their Supervisory Committee mailing address:
PO Box 3445, Berkeley, CA 94704

Charter Group Spotlight: Truitt & White: The Professional Builder's Choice



Truitt & White has been a longstanding fixture in the community and a Cooperative Center FCU charter group since 1995. They contribute to the enhancement of their community by providing products and services that impact and improve the lives of those they serve.

The free Architects Café Series, by Marvin Design Gallery by Truitt & White, was designed not only to improve the building experience for everyone, but to give back to the community by offering free expert advice on their building projects. These complimentary one-on-one consultations are easy to schedule and offer the public the chance to utilize the help of an expert for their home project at no cost.

The Architects Café Series is held in different areas of Northern California ranging from Berkeley, Napa and Danville to Monterey, where Marvin Design Gallery by Truitt & White brings the best architects and designers together to offer free one-on-one appointments to the public. Truitt & White meets builder and homeowner demand for green building products and practices by supporting and working with many players in the local green building industry. Schedule an appointment for a complimentary consultation, then come by and enjoy coffee or tea and small bites while discussing your project.

At the Gallery's dynamic and innovative retail environment, highly trained window and door specialists will present clients with unique options, exclusive features and energy-efficient solutions to fit all their project, budget and design needs perfectly.

Truitt & White also proudly sponsors the Rebuilding Together EastBay-North (RTEBN) Annual National Rebuilding Day. RTEBN is a local non-profit that provides free home modifications and repairs to low-income seniors, homeowners with disabilities, and veteran homeowners.

For more information please visit www.truittandwhite.com.

Dates to Note:

JANUARY

- 18: We'll be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 29: Last Day of One Warm Coat Drive

FEBRUARY

- 3: Workshop: What You Should Know About Tax Planning
- 8: VITA Tax Services Begin
- 12-13: President's Day 2-Day 2-Lot Enterprise Car Sale
- 15: We'll be closed for President's Day

MARCH

- 13: Spring Forward! Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 17: St. Patrick's Day - Stop by our lobby for Irish Oatmeal cookies! Come wearing green and receive a special gift
- 30: In honor of Cesar Chavez Day, we'll be closed for All Staff Training

We do home loans right.



Come to us for the ideal mortgage.

Call us today at
888-879-0556
Or visit
www.coopfcu.org

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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

2001 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94703

Phone: (510) 845-6428

Fax: (510) 841-7856

First 24 Voice Banking (24 Hours a Day)

1-800-FIRST24 (1-800-347-7824)

www.coopfcu.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



facebook.com/coopfcu

@coopfcu



Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday: 9:30am - 6:00pm



Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency

Important Notice About Newsletters

Beginning with the Spring Quarterly, as part of our continued efforts to go green, members enrolled in e-statements will receive newsletters attached to their statements. We also post our quarterly newsletters online at www.coopfcu.org/whatsnew.

Cupid Cash Will Capture Your Heart

Real United States currency!
Bankable and spendable

All proceeds benefit
Berkeley Food and Housing

Your \$2.50 Purchase includes:

- Greeting Card
- Envelope
- Cupid Cash



Bunny Bucks Are Bouncing Back!

All Proceeds benefit
Berkeley Food
and Housing

Real U.S. currency
Bankable and spendable

Your \$3.50 Purchase includes:

- Greeting Card
- Envelope
- Bunny Buck

