

# NEWSLINE

## Discover the Treasure of Saving 2020 Challenge!

One of the best ways to learn is by doing, and that's no different when it comes to saving. April is Youth Financial Literacy Month, which means it's a great time to start helping your kids learn good financial habits!

An easy way to get them started is by opening up a Cooperative Center Youth Account, available for savers up to 25 years old. By encouraging them to routinely make small deposits each week and save little by little, you'll help them develop good saving habits that will carry them throughout their entire life. The money can come from anywhere:

- Birthday money
- Allowance
- Babysitting
- First job

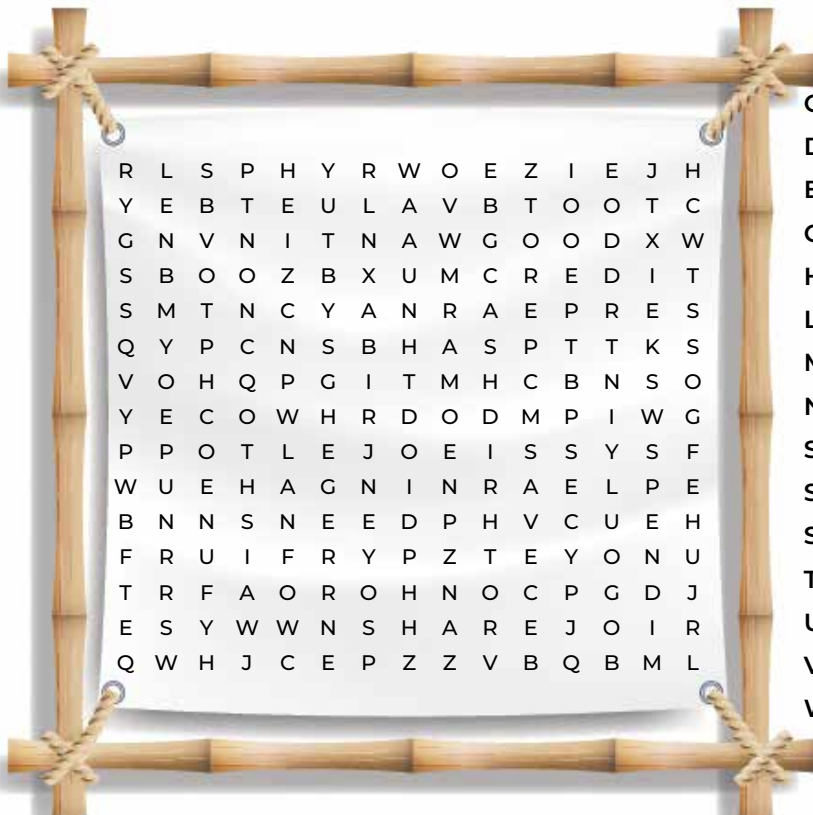
Between now and April 20, 2020, the credit union is hosting a Youth Savings Challenge. To help young savers, we'll be handing out paw banks and quarter savers beginning in January. For every new youth account opened between January 1 and April 17, 2020, the young saver will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$50 cash prizes deposited into their savings account. Existing youth savings account holders will receive one entry with a minimum, new, deposit of \$25.

Help your kids discover the treasure of saving. Visit the branch or go to [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to learn more.



## Find the Words and Win!

Young savers may qualify for additional entries in a variety of ways. Circle the 15 words in the puzzle below, pick up and complete a fill-in-the-blank word story, submit a 250-word essay describing what they are saving for and participate in our art contests (age appropriate). Additional printed puzzles, coloring pages, etc., will be available at the credit union starting January 2, 2020. Full description and rules along with submission guidelines are available online at [www.coopfcu.org/YouthSaving](http://www.coopfcu.org/YouthSaving).



- CREDIT
- DISCOVER
- EARN
- GOOD
- HABIT
- LEARNING
- MONEY
- NEED
- SAVE
- SHARE
- SPEND
- TREASURE
- UNION
- VALUE
- WANT



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Acct No: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Gaurdian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Get Through Tax Season with Ease

Let our experts do the work for you – for free

Cooperative Center FCU is, once again, participating in the Free VITA Tax Preparation program. In conjunction with the United Way and Earn It! Keep It! Save It! (EKS), IRS-certified volunteers will provide free basic income tax-return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to individuals who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own EZ tax returns.

Please contact Karina at (510) 845-6428 ext 1518 or via email at [vitateam@coopfcu.org](mailto:vitateam@coopfcu.org) to schedule your appointment.

Appointments available beginning January 27, 2020 through April 10, 2020 Monday – Friday from 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.



### Coming Soon Remote Deposit Capture

We're in the final testing stages of Remote Deposit Capture and will soon begin a limited rollout to select checking account types. Expect to see a mailer soon when it is available, or ask a member service representative when calling or visiting the branch.



## New Year, New Beginnings

The new year means a fresh start – so it's time to stop letting lingering debt drag you down. It can be intimidating to get started, but we're here to help you pay off your debt sooner and more efficiently. Our online budgeting tools and educational tools can help you revamp your debt-payment strategies so you can be debt free sooner – and save while you do it.

If you're overwhelmed by the number of payments you make every month and want to simplify your bills, our Debt Consolidation Loan may be a good option for you. When you consolidate your debt, you'll save time and stress by simplifying multiple bills!

With a Cooperative Center FCU Debt Consolidation Loan, enjoy:

- **Low, fixed rate of 11.77% APR\***
- **Pay off consumer debt quicker**
- **Flexible terms**

Visit [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to view our educational courses or to apply online.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Loan payment example: \$26.22 per \$1,000 borrowed at 11.77% APR; \$3,062.78 for 48 months. \$5,000 minimum. Based on creditworthiness. Must be a member of Cooperative Center FCU to qualify.

## Avoid the Holiday Stress Next Year

It's never too early to start saving for next year's holiday expenses! A Cooperative Center Holiday Club Account is a great and easy way to put money aside all year and stay free of retail credit cards.

**If you open your account in December and put in the cost of a large coffee every day (\$2.50 per day, or \$17.50 per week), then by November you could be expecting a check for around \$850, just in time for holiday shopping or winter vacation!**

To make saving even easier, you can set up automatic transfers – that way, you'll never get off track. Plus, you'll earn dividends on balances of \$100 or more.

Set aside money, little by little, and avoid the holiday-induced stress and debt next year. Open a Holiday Club Account today! **Visit [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to learn more.**





## Improve Your Financial Health in 2020

With a little attention to some often-overlooked details, a little perseverance and mindfulness throughout, you can usher in the new year with a strong financial foundation and positive outlook. Here are some tips to get you started:

**Tune your budget** – A budget is just that – a plan that starts with your income and your fixed expenses. The plan incorporates your savings goals, and the remaining money is designated for your other expenses. Now is the perfect time to review last year's budget or create a new one. Include a method for tracking your spending and be sure to build an emergency fund into your budget.

**Plan ahead to meet your goals** – You might have short-term goals, such as purchasing a new home, as well as longer term goals, like retirement. You might want to set up a separate savings account for each goal so that your progress toward that goal is clear. Determine the cost of your goal, then establish how much you'll need to save each month to reach it within a reasonable timeframe.

**Spend mindfully** – Make your financial future more secure this year by identifying your wants and needs. Your needs are necessary for survival, like food and shelter. Your wants are simply things you desire, like a new phone. Tend to your needs first. Then, if there is money remaining, consider your wants.

## Every Little Bit Counts

Saving for retirement can feel overwhelming – which often leads to procrastinating getting it started. You deserve a retirement where you have the freedom and time to do whatever you wish, and we're here to help you achieve that.

For Traditional and Roth IRAs, you can contribute up to \$6,000 a year (\$7,000 if you're age 50 and older), but you don't have to contribute the full amount every year. Even if you can contribute only \$50 or \$100 a month, it's worth it. Thanks to compounding interest, even small monthly investments can grow to significant amounts over time. In the long run, what may seem like an insignificant monthly investment can turn into quite a bit of money.

Every little bit counts. If the idea of saving for retirement is daunting to you, we'll help you – the important thing is just to get started. Visit [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to learn more about our savings and investment options.



## Out with the Old, in with the New

Get rid of your old, high-rate loan from another financial institution and bring in a new loan that will save you money. Now is a great time to refinance your existing auto loan with Cooperative Center FCU!

By refinancing with us, you can keep the ride you love, drop the high rate you loathe and possibly lower your monthly payments. Our auto loans come fully equipped with great features to help you save:

- Rates as low as 2.95% APR\*
- Up to a 60-day payment vacation
- Quick and easy refinancing process

**We'll help you every step of the way. Call, click or drop by to get started.**

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. 60-day deferred payment is optional. Interest will continue to accrue during the 60-day no-payment period. First payment(s) may be applied to interest only. This offer is not for cash out refinancing or lease buyouts.

## Save the Date for Our 78th Annual Meeting of the Members

Our 78th Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020. Nominations are open for the Board of Directors. **The Nominating Committee will be accepting packages for consideration beginning December 28, 2019.**

Members not nominated by the Nominating Committee have the right to become candidates "by petition signed by 1% of the members" {Article V, Section 1(b)}; given the estimated size of the membership as of November 30, 2019, the minimum number of required member signatures is estimated to be 85.

The petition form and other required forms are available from Rhonda Redo at rredo@coopfcu.org and/or Fadhila Holman, CEO, at fholman@coopfcu.org. Nominations by petition must be received by March 11, 2020.

Thank you for your participation in making Cooperative Center FCU a vital community institution!

*Your Cooperative Center FCU  
Board of Directors*



For the full calendar, details and timeline, please see the website.

[bit.ly/AnnMtg2020](https://bit.ly/AnnMtg2020)





## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**JAN 15 – FEB 14**  
Cupid Cash



**MAR 1 – APR 10**  
Bunny Bucks

Cupid Cash is on sale now. In addition to the Cupid Cash (\$2 bill) this guilt-free Valentine's gift includes a card and envelope for \$3.50.

Proceeds from the sale of Santa Bucks, Angelic Notes, Cupid Cash and Bunny Bucks are donated to the Friends of Faith (Fancher) Breast Cancer Emergency Fund.

### JANUARY

**WEDNESDAY, 01: CLOSED** in observance of New Year's Day

**MONDAY, 20: CLOSED** in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**FRIDAY, 24:** Chinese New Year's Eve (**#ChineseNewYear**). As we prepare to say goodbye to the Year of the Pig and welcome in the Year of the Rat, we will have mandarin oranges in the lobby (with stems and leaves of course) for luck, prosperity and a long life.

**MONDAY, 27: VITA Tax** appointment times are now open. Be sure to email or call to schedule your appointment today! See inside for more information on this valuable, FREE, community service.

### FEBRUARY

**FRIDAY, 14:** We're sweet on our members all year round, and especially on **#ValentinesDay**. (Last day to buy Cupid Cash)

**MONDAY, 17: CLOSED** in observance of Presidents Day

**AMERICA SAVES WEEK – FEBRUARY 24-29:** Check out our social media for information about daily themes. **#ASW2020**

### MARCH

**TUESDAY, 17: #St.PatricksDay** With splashes of green to help you ward off tricky little leprechauns if you somehow managed to leave the house without your lucky charm, Cooperative Center is your Pinch Free zone.

**MONDAY, 30: CLOSED** in observance Cesar Chavez Day for staff training

### APRIL (Credit Union Youth Month)

**WEDNESDAY, 15: Tax Day**

**MONDAY, 20: CU Birthday Party**

**WEDNESDAY, 22: #EarthDay**

**THURSDAY, 30: Annual Meeting of the Members**

Save these important dates and watch your mail and email for more information on our birthday celebration and Annual Meeting details.

Join us in the lobby for these fun "hashtag" holidays!



## Make Your Vacation Magical

**Are you ready for all the Disneyland Resort has to offer in 2020?** In the first few weeks alone, there is so much to experience! Holidays at Disneyland Resort wrap up by January 6, 2020, so a vacation at the beginning of the year offers a little extra, holiday-infused magic. Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge welcomes the brand-new Rise of the Resistance ride on the planet of Batuu, which opens January 17, 2020. It's slated to be the most technologically advanced, immersive ride Disney has ever offered. Mid-January, Lunar New Year kicks off in Disney California Adventure Park to celebrate Year of the Rat (or Mouse, if you're Disney fans like us). Lunar New Year celebrations continue into February, followed by Valentine's Day festivities. Then, on February 28, Disney's Food and Wine Festival in California Adventure Park begins with its earliest start date yet!

Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union is happy to partner with Get Away Today to keep you informed of all the Disneyland events and deals you can enjoy on your next vacation. Get Away Today offers a variety of specials, including Extra Night Free at select hotels, a flexible, interest-free Layaway Plan and the lowest prices on theme park tickets, guaranteed. Whether you book online at [www.getawaytoday.com](http://www.getawaytoday.com) or over the phone at 855-GET-AWAY, a travel specialist will help you every step of the way. Be sure to let them know Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union sent you.



# Cooperative Center FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Supporting the financial needs  
of our community since 1942

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**Save the Date**  
Annual Meeting  
of the Members



coopfcu



@coopfcu

## Happy New Year!

*Resolve to be financially fit with  
Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.*

## Cooperative Center FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Don't miss out on the tips and info in this newsletter! Read on to learn more about...

- Teaching good saving habits to your kids
- Avoiding holiday stress next year
- Tackling your debt
- Tips for being financially healthy and prepared
- Our 78th Annual Meeting
- Saving on your auto loan

WINTER 2019

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