

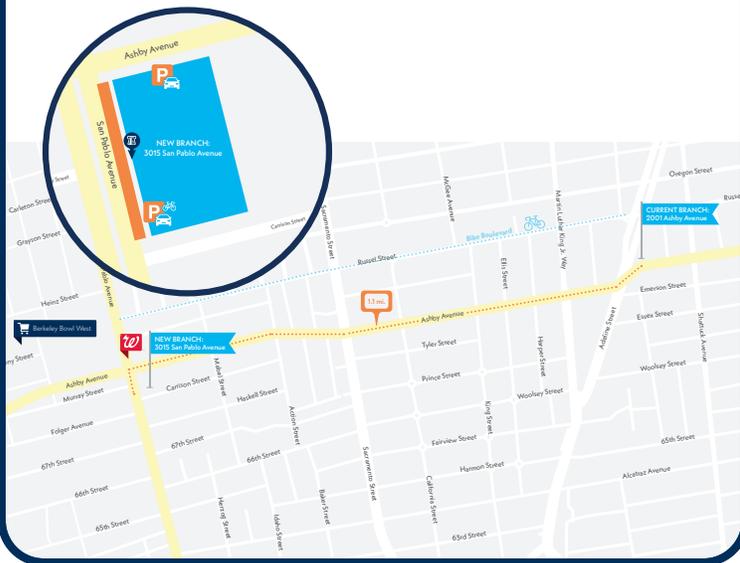
## MAKING BIG CHANGES TO BETTER SERVE MEMBERS



### NEW BRANCH OPENS JANUARY 19, 2021 3015 SAN PABLO AVENUE | BERKELEY, CA

We're delighted to begin serving our members from our new branch starting Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Conveniently located at the corner of San Pablo and Ashby Ave (in the Higby building), we'll continue to provide full branch services. This location will also include a new, secured, ATM vestibule, accessible using any ATM Debit or Credit Card or Driver's License.

Streamlined loan application process now available. Members wishing to apply in-person may do so with a member of staff at either our Higby branch or our centralized lending center in Martinez, CA.



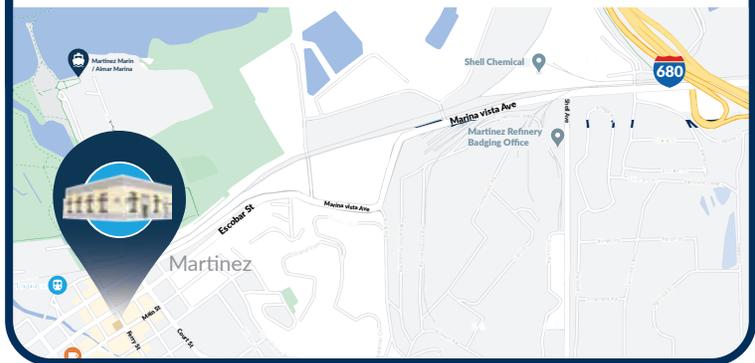
### NEW LOAN CENTER OPENS MID TO LATE MARCH 2021 634 FERRY STREET | MARTINEZ, CA

We're excited to announce the opening of our new Loan Center in early spring 2021. This location offers greater convenience for members who already work or live in Central Contra Costa and Solano Counties and are shopping for their next home, auto or have any other credit needs.

New borrowers will have the ability to both establish their membership and apply for loans here. Teller services will not be available; however the Loan Center will include a full service ATM, located in a secured vestibule, accessible using any ATM Debit or Credit Card or Driver's License.

**Beginning March 15, 2021, ALL mailed payments, account requests, and member communications should be sent to Cooperative Center FCU, 634 Ferry St, Martinez, CA 94553.**

*Please watch our blog, [www.coopfcu.org/about-us/blog](http://www.coopfcu.org/about-us/blog), email, and statement inserts for additional information on specific opening date.*



All this would not be possible without your trust and support. We appreciate your continued membership.



# SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 79TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

Our Annual Meeting of the Members will be held **VIRTUALLY** on April 22, 2021.

Nominations are open for the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee will be accepting packages for consideration beginning December 23, 2020.

The timeline for this year's Annual Meeting and Elections is as follows:

- **December 23, 2020:** The Chair appoints a Nominating Committee of three or more members.
- **January 22, 2021:** The Nominating Committee files all nominations with the Secretary of the Credit Union.
- **February 5, 2021:** The Secretary of the Credit Union announces nominations. Nominations for vacancies may also be made by petition signed by 1% of the members with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 500.
- **March 3, 2021:** Nominations by petition close.
- **March 12, 2021:** Nominations by petition must be filed with the Secretary of the Credit Union.
- **March 23, 2021:** The Secretary of the Credit Union posts in a conspicuous place at the Credit Union all nominations by petition along with those from the Nominating Committee.
- **April 22, 2021:** 79th Annual Meeting of the Members (virtual)

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, 2020, 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](mailto:rredo@coopfcu.org) and/or Fadhila Holman, CEO, at [fholman@coopfcu.org](mailto:fholman@coopfcu.org).

Documents that are required {Article V, Section 1(c)} to be submitted along with the petition are:

1. A biography/statement of qualifications, 250 words or less
2. "A signed certificate from the nominee or nominees stating that they are agreeable to nomination and will serve if elected to office"
3. Authorization for background check, NCUA application, Form 4063a, other forms and supporting documentation as required by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)

The above must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 2021, to the following address:

Cooperative Center FCU – Attn: Fadhila Holman, CEO  
2001 Ashby Avenue | Berkeley, CA 94703

Please note: Petition signers must be 18 years old, a primary member on a natural person share account and in good standing to validly sign a petition or to be elected to the Board. For Non-Natural Person Members, such as businesses or organizations, signatures (the same as official ballots) must be accompanied by an official designation of voting rights for the organization (one member/one vote). Petition signatures will be validated by the Teller of Elections (League of Women Voters).

Nominations by petition must be received by March 3, 2021.

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

*Your Cooperative Center FCU Board of Directors*



## APRIL 2021 CREDIT UNION YOUTH MONTH

The month of April is a fun time at the credit union where we celebrate with parents and grandparents as they bring in children to join the credit union and open their first savings accounts. Helping children develop a lifelong habit of saving has never been more important; research out of Cambridge University suggests attitudes about money management formed by 7 years of age can carry into adulthood.

To get your little ones started on their saving journey, ask a member of staff for a complimentary quarter saver book. Kids can see how quick their quarters can turn into \$5. Bring those into the credit union to be deposited into their accounts, or use them as a way to help them save up for a special goal.

Please follow the credit union on Facebook, sign up for emails, and follow our blog for announcements including Credit Union Youth Month 2021 plans as some of the ways we celebrate may look a little different in 2021 but we promise to make it fun.



## LOOK FORWARD TO A DEBT-FREE FUTURE

With the new year often comes fresh resolve to pay down your debt. We're here to help you keep your resolution and become debt free sooner, *and more efficiently!* Our online budgeting tools and educational tools through Cooperative FiQ can help you revamp your debt-payment strategies so you can be debt free sooner – and save while you do it.

You're juggling enough right now without having to remember which bill to pay and when. Simplify your finances with a Debt Consolidation Loan from Cooperative Center FCU. Save on interest payments and time by consolidating your debt into one low-rate loan!

With a Cooperative Center FCU Debt Consolidation Loan, enjoy:

- A low, fixed rate of 11.77% APR\*
- The ability to pay off consumer debt quicker
- Flexible terms up to 48 months

\*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.



Visit [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to view our educational courses under the Benefits and Education tab or to apply online.

## DECEMBER

31: **OPEN 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** in observance of New Year's Eve

## JANUARY

1: **CLOSED** in observance of New Year's Day

15: **2001 Asbhy Ave location will close** to all member service at the close of business, including ATM and Night Deposit

18:  **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** – All teller services will also be moved to our Higby building over the weekend.

**We will re-open Branch Services at our new location, 3015 San Pablo Ave, at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 19.**

## FEBRUARY

1: **VITA Tax** appointment times are now open. Be sure to email or call to schedule your appointment today! Check out the bulletin board on the next page for more information on this valuable, FREE, community service.

14:  **#Valentine'sDay** – We're sweet on our members all year round and especially today. (Last day to buy Cupid Cash)

15: **CLOSED** in observance of Presidents Day

22-26: **AMERICA SAVES WEEK** – Check out our social media for more information.

## MARCH

17:  **#St.Patrick'sDay** – 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.

29: **CLOSED** in observance of Cesar Chavez Day for staff training

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

**CELEBRATE SAVINGS**  
*With Us This February!*



This February 22 – 26, we're excited to celebrate America Saves Week! America Saves Week is an annual, national campaign designed to bring communities together to discuss a topic that's critically important to every single person – saving money. Each day will have a different theme, and we encourage you to use this week to check in on your finances and goals and review your saving habits.

During America Saves Week, and all year long, we're proud to be able to provide various tools and educational materials to help you be the saver you wish to be! We're here by your side to help you set savings goals and make a plan to reach better financial stability. Keep an eye out for more information about what we're doing for America Saves Week soon!

Visit [www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to view our educational courses under the Benefits and Education tab.

## IN 2021 YOUR CREDIT UNION NEWSLETTER GOES FULLY ELECTRONIC

In 2018, after we completed the conversion to a new core processing system, which included robust home and mobile banking features, more members began taking advantage and decided to go green. As we began rolling out remote deposit capture even more members opted for green, contactless banking services. Now it's our turn to go greener and switch from quarterly, mailed newsletters to a monthly emailed newsletter. Please check our blog for more information on how to sign up if you haven't already, [www.coopfcu.org/about-us/blog](http://www.coopfcu.org/about-us/blog).

Important notices like Annual Meeting and Board of Director Election information will continue to be mailed. Be sure to sign up for our emails, follow us on Facebook and check the blog for regular updates.



## VITA TAX APPOINTMENT INFO

*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.

### TAX TIME!

Appointments will be by drop off only. Please email [vita@coopfcu.org](mailto:vita@coopfcu.org) to schedule your appointment.

Drop-off appointments available beginning **February 1 through April 12, 2021.**

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## AUTO-MATIC SAVINGS

### Refi and relax with lower auto payments

At Cooperative Center FCU, we'll help you take the stress out of auto loans while you get to keep the car you love. With a refinance, you can relax with a better rate and lower monthly payments, and enjoy great savings and service.

Bring your loan to Cooperative Center FCU and get:

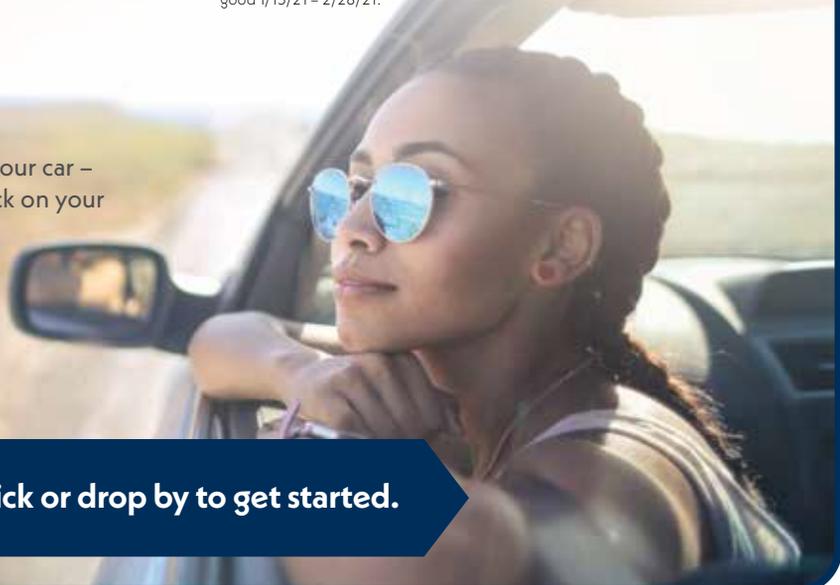
- **1% off your existing rate<sup>1</sup>**
- **60-day payment vacation<sup>2</sup>**

With benefits like these, you'll love every part of owning your car – so take advantage of this great offer today! One more check on your New Year's Resolutions List.

**Go online, call or visit the branch to apply today!**

**Offer good 1/15/21 – 2/28/21.**

<sup>1</sup>Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is subject to change. Rate and maximum loan amount based on creditworthiness. Loan payment example: \$21.71 per \$1,000 borrowed at 1.99% APR for 48 months. The vehicle must be a model between 2012-2020, have a balance owed of at least \$7,500 and be currently financed through another financial institution. Loans currently financed through Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union are not eligible. The loan must be current to qualify. Rate and term may vary based on creditworthiness, age of vehicle, mileage and value of vehicle. Contact a Loan Officer for minimum/maximum loan terms based on amount financed. Floor rate of 1.99% APR applies. All loans are refinanced for the remaining term of the original loan; there are no additional months to repay. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Financing up to 125% of Kelley Blue Book<sup>®</sup> value. Max Loan-to-Value (LTV) includes tax and GAP. <sup>2</sup>60-day deferred payment is optional. Interest will accrue from the date the loan is funded and continue to accrue during the 60-day no-payment period. First payment(s) may be applied to interest only. Offer good 1/15/21 – 2/28/21.



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

# Happy New Year 2021

## PUT YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN IN FOCUS

There's no time like the present to really focus on your goals and future. Take these considerations into account as you develop your financial plan.

**Determine what you want.** Be as detailed as possible about what you want the next phase of your life to look like. This way, you can work backwards to plan how to get there. To make it easy we've included retirement calculators under the Benefits and Education tab, Planning for Retirement, on the website.

**Save as much as possible.** When you reach age 50, the contribution limits for 401(k) plans and IRAs increase. No matter what retirement vehicle you use, now is the time to start saving as much as possible for your future – especially if you've been putting it off.

**Need a place to start? Our IRAs are a great way to begin planning and saving for your retirement. We offer the following:**

- Traditional IRA: A Traditional IRA allows members to save for their own retirement with tax-deferred earnings and a possible tax deduction
- Roth IRA: A Roth IRA helps members save for retirement with the potential for future tax-free income
- Coverdell ESA: A Coverdell education savings account (ESA) may be an easier way for members to start saving for a child's education

*Our Financial Education Library covers many topics, like Planning For Retirement, to help members check off their New Year's Resolutions!*

[Visit www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to learn more

## SKIP NEXT YEAR'S HOLIDAY STRESS

*When you open a Holiday Club Account*



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

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.

[Visit www.coopfcu.org](http://www.coopfcu.org) to learn more



## FRAUD ALERT – BE AWARE OF GIFT CARD SCAMS

Gift cards are a great – and convenient – way to give someone a gift. But for some they're also an easy way for scammers to steal money from you. Unlike credit card fraud where you can dispute fraudulent charges, if you knowingly buy a gift card, then give a scammer the coded information on the card, there's no way to get your money back.

We see increased reports of gift card scams during the holidays and tax time when members can be more vulnerable to phone calls from relatives, or authorities. But the scams follow a similar pattern; the member receives a frantic call from a "friend" or family member claiming to be in trouble and need cash fast. Because scammers are good at internet research, they'll often know just enough personal information to make you believe you're actually speaking with someone you know. They'll ask you to go out and buy gift cards, sometimes even telling you which stores to go to and what types of cards to purchase, and then have you read off the numbers on the card. Or the caller may pose as someone in authority like the IRS or police, but they'll still make demands directing you to purchase gift cards to pay a made-up debt.

If you or someone you know receives a call like this – immediately hang up and report the call to the police. If you have caller ID be sure to share that phone number when you call. Not all scammers are smart and sometimes the police can use that information to track the scammers down and prevent other people from being scammed.

Always remember to treat gift cards like cash; once the gift card is purchased, the money is out of your account, similar to a cash withdrawal. If your card is lost or stolen, report it immediately. And remember, if you receive a demand to pay off a debt or help out in an emergency and to specifically pay by gift card, that's a sure sign of a scam.

SAVE THE DATE  
VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE MEMBERS  
APRIL 22



Cooperative Center  
Federal Credit Union

2001 Ashby Avenue | Berkeley, CA 94703

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53717



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@coopfcu



**IMPORTANT!**

At the end of business on January 15, 2021, the Ashby Ave location WILL CLOSE to all member services, including ATM and Night Deposit. Please see inside for critical information.

**NEW LOOK, NEW LOCATION FOR THE NEW YEAR!**

It was the 1950s in South Berkeley, and a young Hispanic family was ready to buy their first home. Their son tells the story: "My dad went to a larger bank to discuss home mortgages but when the bank questioned his source of income and truthfulness he left. My parents came to Cooperative Center and immediately felt welcomed and were able to secure a mortgage to buy their first home."

Have you noticed our new logo? The inspiration for the image reflects many stories just like this and the cooperative nature of credit unions, People Helping People. Cooperative Center FCU was founded, specifically, to offer affordable loans to members not served by larger banks. Fast forward 79 years later and member deposits continue to fuel lending activity and community investment. The net proceeds from loans is returned back to the membership in the form of lower loan rates, low and fee free services, investments in financial technologies, and dividends on savings. People helping people.

Be sure to look for this image at our **new branch** located at **3015 San Pablo Ave**. We'll see you there starting Tuesday, January 19, 2021!

ALL THINGS **WINTER** 2021

