



FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Please make sure you update your contact information with

Cosden FCU

Credit Union Closings

Columbus Day

Saturday October 9

Monday October 11

Veterans Day

Thursday November 11

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday November 25

Black Friday

Friday November 26

Saturday November 27

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

Christmas

Saturday, December 25

New Years Eve

Friday, December 31

New Years

Saturday, January 1

2021



Christmas Club Account - start yours for 2022

Tired of starting the New Year paying credit card bills from your Christmas purchases?

Consider saving for your next year's Christmas shopping by opening a Christmas Club account. You can start your 2022 Club account **any time** and funds will be available **November 1, 2022**.

Features include:

- ◆ A competitive dividend rate
- ◆ 24 hour account access through online banking
- ◆ No minimum balance
- ◆ Quarterly statement
- ◆ Payroll deduction for convenient automatic deposits

Please contact us if you have any questions about Club accounts.



4 Ways to Protect Against Fraud: Steps to Protect Yourself from Fraud

The pandemic made 2020 miserable for most of us. But not for fraudsters and con artists. According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers reported losing more than \$3.3 billion to fraud in 2020 - up from \$1.9 billion the year before.

Remember, neither the credit union nor other financial institution will ever contact you by email, mail, or phone asking for confidential information. Do not respond to anything suspicious. Contact us if you have concerns. Help yourself by taking these steps:

Keep identity theft at bay. Don't click on links in unsolicited emails, and make sure your firewalls, anti-spyware, and anti-virus software are current. Use strong passwords, shred financial documents, and paperwork with personal information before you discard them, and guard your Social Security number.

Also be wary about giving out your birth date. Secure personal information, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having work done in your house.

Stay alert to signs that require immediate attention, such as bills that do not arrive as expected, calls or letters about purchases, and unexplained credit or account statements or credit denials.

Review your credit report regularly. The law requires the major consumer reporting companies (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) to annually give you a free copy of your report at your request. Visit



<https://www.annualcreditreport.com>, call 1-877-322-8228, or write Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. Look for inquiries from companies you have not contacted, accounts you did not open, and debts on your accounts that you cannot explain. Also inspect your financial statements and billing statements regularly, looking for charges you did not make.

Take defensive action if you find anything suspicious. Place a Fraud Alert on your credit reports. The alert tells creditors to follow special procedures before they open new accounts in

your name or make changes to your existing accounts. The three nationwide consumer reporting companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert. A call to one company is adequate:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; Experian: 1-800-831-5614; or TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289. Close all accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently. File a police report to help you with creditors who may want proof of the crime. Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission. Your report helps law enforcement officials across the country in their investigations. Go online to <https://www.identitytheft.gov> or call **1-877-438-4338**; or write Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

Use these four steps and common sense to protect yourself from fraud. Remember, if you have any doubt whether you should do something or not, do NOT do it!



Take advantage of our Skip-A-Payment program! This is another way that Cosden FCU is here to make life EASIER for you.

Please see the enclosed Skip-A-Payment application to apply.

Qualifications and conditions may apply.

SAFE ONLINE SHOPPING

A safe and secure online shopping experience is possible by using the following safety precautions:

Secure Website

Avoid shopping on public Wi-Fi or use a VPN to keep your shopping secure. Make sure your online shopping is completed on a Web site that starts with https rather than just http, which is not secure. Sometimes the “s”, which shows the website is secure, does not appear until you are on the actual order page. You can also look for a closed padlock at the bottom of the screen, which indicates a secure website.

Credit Card

Make your online purchases with a credit card, not a debit card. The credit card will protect you under the Federal Fair Credit Billing Act in case of questionable charges. A debit card does not offer the same protection. A check or debit card can also leave your account vulnerable, consider using a virtual credit card, which has a temporary number associated with your account. After making online purchases, monitor your credit card statement frequently and take care of any problems immediately.

Buy from Reputable Retailers

Make sure you either know or research the company you will use for online purchases. Bookmark your favorite retailers to get there safely and quickly; avoid typing the name of the retailer on your browser, which may contain links for scammers. In purchasing something from an illegitimate site, you may be handing scammers your credit card information as well as other personal information.

Vet New-to-you Businesses

Look at online reviews and search the **Better Business Bureau** (<https://www.bbb.org/search>) website for complaints. Also look for a physical business address and a phone number on the website. Call the business to verify.

Report scammers

If you have been scammed, file a complaint with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (<https://www.ic3.gov/Home/ComplaintChoice>). If you suspect you are a victim of ID theft the FTC has an ID theft recovery plan (<https://www.identitytheft.gov/>).

Following these precautions may help you avoid becoming a target. Remember, if something doesn't seem right, don't continue with the order. Don't let scammers suck the joy out of your holiday shopping.





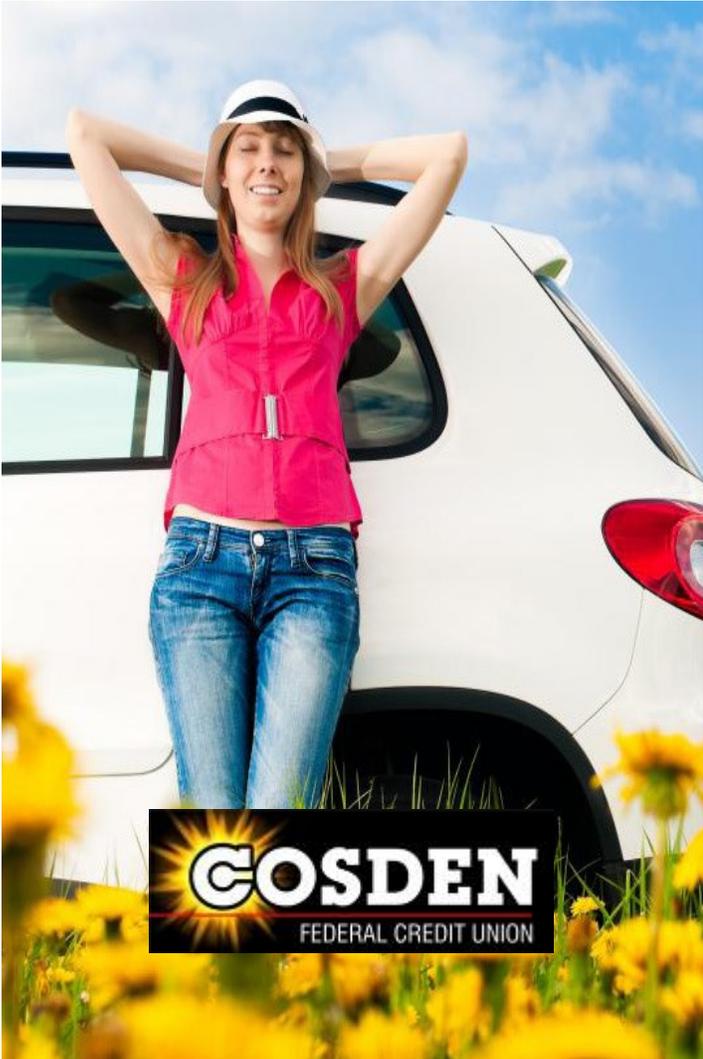
Why Are Dividend and Interest Rates So Low?

With dividend and interest rates on deposits at a 50-year low because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a question we are asked quite often. While a low-interest rate environment is great for borrowers, it is a difficult time for members who depend on share and share term certificate earnings to help fund monthly living expenses.

So why are dividend and interest rates so low? There are several reasons. Members are saving more due to uncertainty, and record amounts of deposits have flooded into member accounts with three rounds of Economic Impact Payments (stimulus funds) from the Federal Government. Members are also paying down existing loans or refinancing to take advantage of much lower loan interest rates. New borrowing has also decreased, forcing credit unions to invest more member deposits in U.S. Treasury securities, which are paying record low interest rates.

Combining all of these factors – record deposits, lower earnings from loans, and lower yields on investments, creates a unique situation for a financial institution like ours. The Credit Union earns the majority of its income from loans made to members. For deposits brought to the Credit Union which cannot be loaned out, the Credit Union earns interest from investing those funds in safe U.S. Treasury securities. Lower interest income from loans and investments means less income to pay on deposits, which is why deposit rates are lower. The Credit Union operates on a budget much like every household and has a very low-cost operation. However, when there is less interest income, we have less to pay out in interest on deposits.

Even though the Federal Reserve Bank announced its intention to keep interest rates low through 2022, we do anticipate that there is light at the end of the tunnel. When vaccines are fully deployed and we can return to a new normal, the economy should recover quickly. And when economic activity increases significantly, rates will begin to rise – for both loans and deposits!



Fall Vehicle Special!

September 1st
to
October 31st

**We Will Beat Your Current
Interest Rate by 3.00%^{APR}
with a floor rate of 1.99%^{APR}**

No Payments for 60 days!

