

October 2021

 **BUILDING FINANCIAL HEALTH  
FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW™**

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

**THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 21, 2021**

Each year we come together to celebrate International Credit Union Day (ICU Day) to raise awareness about what it means for members around the world to have a credit union as their financial partner.

This year's ICU Day theme, "Building financial health for a brighter tomorrow," reflects the way credit unions contribute to a brighter future by working to improve members' financial well-being. It is at the heart of the mission and structure of credit unions. The essence of this commitment is reflected in Connects Federal Credit Union's very own bylaws and is something credit unions have been doing for more than 100 years.

We invite you to stop by your local Connects office on Thursday, October 21 as we celebrate this special event with treats and a free pocket calendar for members. We look forward to seeing you there!



**New TAPS  
coming in  
October**

Due to technology changes and security requirements, we are updating our TAPS – Teller Access Phone System. Minor changes in the call flow will take place, so it will be important to listen to all the prompts while making your selections.

*Happy Holidays from the staff, management and Board of Directors at Connects Federal Credit Union.*

Check Out Our Great **Autumn Auto Rates**

Finance a new vehicle or refinance an existing auto loan right here at Connects FCU. With competitive rates and friendly, personalized service, we've got the perfect combination of savings and convenience.

Rates as low as **1.99% APR\***

Rates are still some of the lowest we've ever seen, so don't delay! Let's chat about financing your vehicle today.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All quoted rates are the lowest available rates and are based on term, qualifying credit, amount financed, loan to value and other terms and conditions. Your rate may be higher. No other discounts apply. Applicants must meet qualifying credit criteria.

Go Ahead, Get **FESTIVE!**

It feels like a good year to make a big deal about all things holiday. With the help of a Holiday Loan from Connects FCU, you can make it a season to remember with simple, affordable financing for everything you deserve.

**3.25% APR\***

Apply online at [www.connectsfcu.org](http://www.connectsfcu.org), by phone, or in person at your local branch.

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All quoted rates are the lowest available rates and are based on term, qualifying credit, amount financed, loan to value and other terms and conditions. Your rate may be higher. No other discounts apply. Applicants must meet qualifying credit criteria.



**70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
RESULTS**

Our 70th Annual Meeting was held virtually on Thursday, August 26th at 3:30 pm. Thanks to our members that attended this important event. Our Annual Report is available on our website [connectsfcu.org](http://connectsfcu.org). We are pleased to present the 2021 Board of Directors:

Daniel VanDervort – *Chairperson*, Cora Smith – *Vice Chairperson*,  
John Roper – *Treasurer*, Jan Belote – *Secretary*,  
Elsie Britton, Evelyn Gagnani Dowdy, Christine Karstens, Carol Koogler, Grace

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Your Credit Union needs you! Consider serving on our Board of Directors and participating in the oversight of your credit union. Not only can you help your Credit Union, but holding a position on a Board of a local institution can impact your own professional development. We are looking for members that are passionate about helping people get connected to a safe and sound financial institution. Training and education are a part of the experience serving on the Board of Connects. **For questions or an application, email: [annualmeeting@connectsfcu.org](mailto:annualmeeting@connectsfcu.org).**

# Yay for Skip-A-Pay!

Special seasons call for special things. That's why we're pleased to bring back our Holiday Skip-A-Pay Program! With Holiday Skip-A-Pay, you can choose to skip your Connects FCU loan payment(s) for the month of November or December and keep the cash for all the special things you'd like to see, do and buy this holiday season.

Skip-A-Pay forms were mailed to qualified borrowers in September. To take advantage of this special offer, simply fill out the form and return it to the Credit Union prior to the due date of the payment you wish to skip. Some restrictions apply. Please contact the Credit Union for details.

## Give the Gift That Gives It All

If you're ready to become the favorite relative, neighbor or friend, then it's time to stock up on VISA gift cards from Connects FCU. They're the perfect gift to give all season long!



## Christmas Comes But Once a Year

Make it count with your Connects VISA!

'Tis the season for giving, and while it's always fun to give to others, sometimes it's nice to give a little something to yourself, too. With our Platinum VISA® credit card, you can do both at the same time! Simply swipe your card for holiday gifts, groceries, gas and more, and earn UChoose Rewards® points on every qualifying purchase.

Your points can be redeemed for:

- ✓ Merchandise
- ✓ Gift cards
- ✓ Travel experiences,
- ✓ And more!

Visit [www.connectsfcu.org](http://www.connectsfcu.org) to learn more or to request a card today.



## Daylight Saving Time Reminder

Daylight saving time ends

**Sunday, November 7 at 2:00 a.m.**

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

# Fall Into Financial Wellness

## Tips to Improve Your Finances Before the Holidays

Every new season presents new opportunities to reassess your finances and take steps toward improved financial wellness. With fall upon us, now's a great time to take care of a few financial to-dos and finish off these final months of 2021 on a path to greater financial success.

**Subscription revision** – From cable, apps, and music to gyms and entertainment, subscriptions have a way of piling up month after month. Consider doing a subscription cleanup at least twice a year to avoid wasting money on unused subscriptions.

**Rate review** – With loan rates often hitting historically low points throughout the past year, now is a better time than any to take inventory of the interest rates on any existing loan and credit card balances. With competitive rates on consumer loans and credit cards, Connects Federal Credit Union may be able to help you save hundreds of dollars just by refinancing, consolidating and transferring balances.

**Insurance inspection** – You don't have to wait for your current insurance policies to expire before shopping around for a better rate. You can cancel insurance policies at any point for a refund of your remaining premium. Just be sure you don't cancel before you find a great deal with another provider.

**Credit check** – You're entitled to a free annual credit report from all three credit reporting agencies once every 12 months. By spacing them throughout the year, you can keep a constant watch on your credit for unusual activity and reevaluate areas where you may be able to improve your credit.

**Holiday budget** – With holiday shopping right around the corner, don't wait to start thinking about your holiday budget. Determine how much you can afford to spend on gifts and goodies and then divide that total between the weeks leading up to the holidays. Be consistent about setting that much money aside each week so you can hit the stores with cash in hand.

**Savings expansion** – You may be surprised to see how even the smallest percentage of extra savings can make a big impact on your financial wellbeing. Whether your budget allows only a few extra dollars of savings a week or a more significant amount, start giving your savings that little boost today.

## CHRISTMAS CLUB ACCOUNT DISBURSEMENTS

If you are a Christmas Club Account holder, your accumulated savings and dividends will be transferred to your regular share savings account the beginning of October. And don't forget, your account will remain open, and any automatic deposits will continue on the next scheduled date!

**Did you forget to plan ahead?** Christmas Club accounts are designed to help you plan ahead for the holidays. You already know you'll be shopping for all of your friends and family, so why not plan ahead? Partner the account with a payroll deduction and you'll automatically save money for holiday shopping every time you get paid!

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

### THANKSGIVING

Thursday, November 25  
Friday, November 26  
Saturday, November 27

### CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 24  
Saturday, December 25

### NEW YEAR'S

Friday, December 31  
(closed at 1:00 p.m.)  
Saturday, January 1, 2022

[www.connectsfcu.org](http://www.connectsfcu.org)

804.756.5000 | 800.833.5200 | FAX 804.756.5005



**HENRICO/WEST-END**  
7700 Shrader Rd.  
Richmond, VA 23228

**HANOVER/MECHANICSVILLE**  
9280 Chamberlayne Rd., Suite 100  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

**CHESTERFIELD**  
9960 Midlothian Turnpike  
North Chesterfield, VA 23235



This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

Connects Federal Credit Union, a member-owned financial cooperative exists to provide professional, economical and convenient quality services while maintaining financial stability. In order to be the primary financial source, we will safeguard member assets with continued growth to meet member needs.

© 2021 CONNECTS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION. All rights reserved.