COOSA PINES INSIGHT
THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF COOSA PINES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
FALL 2025

WELCOME HOME

Coosa Pines Federal Credit Union
"Where You Belong."

Ready to Own Your First Home? Coosa Pines Federal Credit Union makes it Possible and Affordable with Our *First Time Homebuyer Program.*

Your first home shouldn't come with barriers. Our First Time Homebuyer Program is designed with **YOU** in mind- making homeownership more accessible, affordable, and stress-free.

Program Features Include: As little as 5% Down Payment | NO Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) NO Origination Fees | Competitive Mortgage Rates | Local Lending with Personal Service

Start Your Pre-Approval Today!
Visit us online, call 256-378-5559 or drop by any branch to speak with a Mortgage Advisor.

FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA | ADDITIONAL INSURANCE THROUGH ESI | EQUAL HOUSING LENDER | NMLS ID# 464059

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Membership required. Restrictions apply. Minimum APR of 5.85% on 15-year fixed rate mortgage with maximum loan-to-value ratio of 80%. Example payment on $100,000 value home and loan of $80,000, 15-year fixed rate mortgage at 5.85% rate is $668.62. All applicants must meet standard underwriting requirements. No commercial loans or rental property. The current rates/ Annual Percentage Rates on residential first mortgage 15-year fixed rate loans range from 5.85%/6.11% APR to 7.05%/7.32% APR, depending on creditworthiness. ** RadioAlabama's MIX 106.5 and KiX 100.3 promotions host awards for the Best of the Coosa Valley (Hwy 280 Corridor), where more than 100,000 nominations and votes were cast. (RadioAlabama.net)

Stay Diligent Against Texting Scams!

Credit Union text scams involve fraudulent messages that impersonate financial institutions to steal personal information or money. Unfortunately, there seems to be an uptick with this type of fraudulent activity. Most recently, several members and non-members have received scam texts that appear to be from Coosa Pines Federal Credit Union. By staying vigilant and informed, you can protect yourself from credit union text scams and keep your personal information safe.

How these scams work:
Scammers send text messages that appear to be from your credit union, often claiming there is an 'urgent' issue with your account. Common tactics include:

- **Urgent Alerts:** Message may state that your account has been compromised or that you need to verify a transaction immediately. For example, they might say your debit card has been closed or that you have been approved for a loan.
- **Links to Fake Websites:** These texts often include links that lead to fake websites designed to look like your credit union's official site. If you enter your login information on these sites, scammers can access your accounts.
- **Request for Sensitive information:** Scammers may ask for personal details, such as your account number or security codes, under the guise of verifying your identity.

Signs of a Scam:
To protect yourself from these scams, be aware of the following red flags:

- **Unfamiliar Numbers:** If the text comes from an unknown number or one that doesn't match your credit union's official contact information, be cautious.
- **Urgent Language:** Messages that create a sense of urgency or fear are often scams. Legitimate institutions will not pressure you to act quickly.
- **Requests for Personal Information:** No legitimate credit union will ask for sensitive information via text. If you receive such a request, it is likely a scam.

What to Do if you Receive a Suspicious Text:

1. **DO NOT CLICK LINKS:** Avoid clicking on any links in the message. Instead, go directly to your credit union's official website or app to check your account status.
2. **Contact the Credit Union:** If you are unsure about the legitimacy of a message, contact your credit union directly using the official phone number or website.
3. **Report the Scam:** Inform your credit union about the suspicious message. They may have additional resources to help you and can alert other members.

Forbes

COOSA PINES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

2025 ALABAMA'S BEST CREDIT UNION RANKED #2

Coosa Pines Federal Credit Union was one of six credit unions named by Forbes Magazine as 2025 Best in State. We came in at #2 overall. Congratulations to our staff and a huge thank you to our members! Scan the code to read more!

SOMETHING BIG IS COMING THIS FALL!

In celebration of our 75th Anniversary, we're issuing our members *(for the first time ever)* an interest rebate and bonus dividend totaling **$1 MILLION DOLLARS!**

Stay tuned for updates at www.coosapinesfcu.org

Time for a Beneficiary Check Up?

An account beneficiary is the person or persons designated to receive the assets or funds from your financial accounts when you pass away. If the account has a joint owner, funds will go to that individual; if there is no joint owner, funds will go to the designated beneficiary. Beneficiaries are typically designated for your credit union checking accounts, savings accounts, investments, IRAs, life insurance policies and more. Maintaining current designations is an important step to protecting your assets; yet many people forget to check this information. Incorrect or outdated beneficiary information could cause problems for your family down the line.

The Importance of Current Designations

If beneficiaries are incorrectly stated (or not declared at all,) funds from your accounts could go to the wrong person, end up part of your estate, or be subject to a costly probate. Without a beneficiary on your credit union accounts, we won't know who to reach out to if you pass away and funds could end up being distributed as unclaimed funds to the State; your family would have to go through a time-consuming process to claim them. It's good practice to keep a list of your accounts, where they are, and who the beneficiaries are. Then check it annually and after a life event such as a change in marital status, children, or retirement.

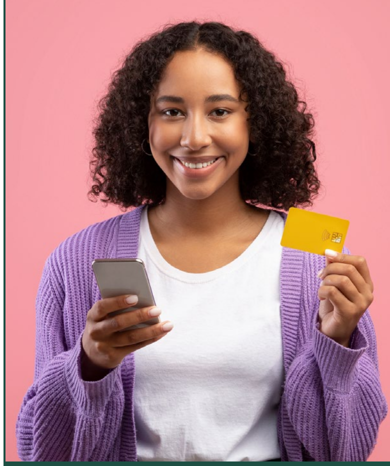
A Will Won't Matter

A common misunderstanding is that a will declares who gets what. However, a beneficiary designation will override a will because it's a contract with the financial institution that states funds are to be paid out to the specified person in the event of death. This happens before funds are released to an estate to be distributed by a will. If you've divorced, then remarried and updated your will but not your beneficiary designation, your ex-spouse may end up with your life insurance, for example.

Check & Update All of Your Accounts

- Credit Union Checking Accounts, Savings Accounts, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), Stocks, Investments, Etc. • Employer Sponsored Benefits - At open enrollment each year, you have an opportunity to opt in to your company benefits, such as 401K, pension, healthcare, life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance. During enrollment is the perfect time to check and update your beneficiary designations. Check with your employer for details.
- Independently purchased Benefits - Do you have a list of other benefits you have purchased such as extra life insurance or a 529savings plan? Add those to your list so you can check them every year during your review.

Planning for the financial security of your family or heirs is essential and ensuring your beneficiary designations are correct is just one more way you can protect them long after you are gone. Take time now to update your beneficiaries. If you have any questions about your Coosa Pines Federal Credit Union accounts, please contact us directly.



Super STUDENT REWARDS*

Coosa Pines FCU believes hard work should pay off! We want to show our young members this by rewarding them for their hard work. Students will receive $2 for every "A", $1 for every "B", with a maximum of $8 per grading period. Just bring your child and report card into Coosa Pines FCU and we will deposit the money into his or her savings account.

Plus we offer

FREE STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Students from preschool through college can join Coosa Pines FCU for free and get:

- No-Monthly Fee Checking
- Online Banking Suite
- Smartphone Apps
- Free Credit Monitoring
- Bill Pay & PTP Payments
- TRENDS Budgeting Tools
- And much more!

* Requirements: Student must have a Coosa Pines FCU savings account to be eligible. Report card must be received during the current term (i.e. Fall or Spring). Rewards only apply for academic classes grades K-12.

SHOW YOUR TEAM SPIRIT AND SUPPORT THE Giving Tree

This Holiday Season Coosa Pines FCU is matching cash and gift donations up to $5,000 for The Giving Tree.

Be a Champion for Children!

Football Season is underway which Signals the Kickoff of our Annual Giving Tree Campaign! Soon, we will be gathering the Christmas wishes of deserving children from the Department of Human Resources (DHR) offices and the Sylacauga Boy's Club. Christmas Trees will be placed in each credit union branch during the holiday season with gift tags for children in need. Employees and members purchase gifts and/or contribute donations for each child. The credit union will generously match cash and gift donations up to $5,000! To kick off our fundraising efforts for the program, we are encouraging employees and members to show their Team Spirit by making donations to the Giving Tree Program NOW on behalf of their favorite football team. Next time you visit your branch, look for the team jars and consider donating. As the holidays get closer, please look for The Giving Tree to be displayed at your local branch and select a gift tag for a foster child or another child in need.

Coosa Pines FCU is offering members the ability to skip their November, December or January loan payment(s).

Use your money how you want this winter. Buy holiday gifts, get ahead on your credit card payments, visit family for the holidays, or just spruce up your home in time for Christmas! Keep an eye on your mailbox for our Skip-A-Payment mailer, or stop by your local branch to sign up. If you have any questions, please give us a call at **1-800-237-9789** or visit us online at **www.coosapinesfcu.org**. Skip-A-Payment forms should be received no later than ten (10) days prior to the due date of your loan(s). This program is not available on all loans. Qualifying loans are listed below. Remember, if you skip your payment, the interest is still charged for that month and will be reflected the following month. Please note: there is a $40 processing fee for each loan payment skipped.

*The Skip-A-Payment coupon does not change your current loan payment amount but does extend the term of your loan by one month. Interest will continue to accrue on the loan balance from the last payment date. **Loans excluded from this offer include Visa® accounts, loans greater than $50,000, loans currently past due, with less than 3 consecutive payments made, with a greater than 30-day delinquency in the past 6 months, with force-placed insurance, charged-off loans, mortgage loans, commercial loans, and/or loans with other than a monthly payment frequency. Loans with rates of 12% or more must be approved by Management. If you have GAP Protection, any amount of the loan that is skipped may not be covered by GAP.**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Simply Like us on Facebook® at @CoosaPinesFederalCU
and follow us on Instagram® @cpfcuyoubelong

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Mon, Oct 13th - Columbus Day
Tue, Nov 11th - Veterans' Day
Thu, Nov 27th - Thanksgiving Day
Thu, Dec 25th - Christmas Day
Thu, Jan 1st - New Years Day
Mon, Jan 19th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Mon, Feb 16th - President's Day

EXPRESS LINE
1-800-794-5693

www.coosapinesfcu.org

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