

# real news



**Altamaha**  
Federal Credit Union

[altamaha.org](https://altamaha.org)

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## Helping Hands: Remembering The Forgotten

The Christmas holiday season is a time often focused on family and children. We spend our time and our money freely on these two groups, often overlooking those who don't have family or those who may find themselves estranged from family and in unfortunate circumstances. In 2022, AFCU wanted to remember "the forgotten" – specifically nursing and long-term care facility residents and the area homeless who may not have anyone to share the holidays with – by providing them with clean and new socks, underwear, and blankets as we headed into winter.

Donation boxes were set up in each of the branches for member donations of these items or cash, and our staff also joined in to assist. Christmas has always been a time to show our love and care for others, and we were blessed to be able to share both with everyone this year.



## Security Tip: Post-Hack Hack

If your email or social media accounts have been hacked or you've been informed that your provider has experienced a breach that may have included your account, take time to update your passwords. This is especially important if you have the unhealthy habit of sharing passwords across websites and other platforms. Further, when changing them, be sure to take time to use unique and complex passwords. Finally, if you have work-related accounts and website access, where you have failed to use best practices, notify your employer of the event and update your passwords there too.



# Cheryl's Corner

**One of the central tenets to any cooperative is democratic control.** Credit unions put that into practice by allowing each member one vote. No one member has more control because of their account balance or their length of membership. If you are a member, you have the same ownership of the credit union.

We further extend that to how we determine what products and services are needed in the credit union. You each have one vote, but you each have different needs, and we shouldn't only strive to meet the needs of a chosen few for any reason. In addition, we understand that the services we do offer may seem overwhelming or out-of-reach to some. This is where our AFCU staff members come into play. Each of us is dedicated to being your trusted advocate, and we are here to help you navigate the sometimes complex processes and products we offer. We sincerely want each of our members to achieve the security that comes with being able to make informed and provident financial decisions. In fact, it is our mission to deliver products, services, and financial literacy outreach to enable our members to make informed and provident financial decisions.

**If you don't know where to start or are struggling with financial decisions (or your finances themselves), stop by and see the good we can do.** We will be glad to share the journey to your financial wellness with you!

*Cheryl M. Spires, President/CEO*



## Credit Score Tip: Do Regular Score Checkups

While pulling your credit for yourself on

legitimate sites like [annualcreditscore.com](https://annualcreditscore.com) doesn't hurt or alter your score, keeping on top of the information showing on your reports may help improve your score, if you find inaccurate information on them. Each of the credit reporting agencies allow one free pull each year (two if you live in the state of Georgia), but you don't have to pull all at the same time. You can stagger them throughout the year to keep fresh eyes on any new information that may be showing.

If something inaccurate shows on one, you can take the time to pull the others again to resolve the issue. Otherwise, pull from just one of the agencies every so often to avoid paying for your reports.

## Good Cents: Take a Payment Holiday When You Save



**Everybody has heard the good advice of "pay yourself first," but what about "pay yourself instead?"** This advice has some benefits too. Let's imagine that you want a new car. You neither have the money for it nor want a hefty payment. So what do you do? You pay yourself instead.

When you do this, you can make choices. While you are making payments to yourself to save for the car, you may experience an unexpected expense. If this happens, you can simply take a payment holiday from paying yourself. The benefit is three-fold. You can use the money you would have normally paid yourself to pay for the expense, you may not have to dip into savings to cover the expense, and neither may you have to borrow to cover it. Another reason, saving just makes good cents!

# FinLit:

## Your Key to Understanding Financial Terms



### What is APR and How Does it Differ from My Interest Rate?

Ever wondered what exactly APR is? It is the abbreviation for **Annual Percentage Rate**, which is the calculated cost of a loan in terms of an annual rate. This figure can include certain fees or costs associated with taking out a loan. Your **interest rate** is the rate used to calculate your payment on the dollar amount borrowed.

Generally speaking, most consumer loans at AFCU have the same interest rate as they do an APR, because we don't add fees paid directly to us for our sole benefit. Fees associated with items paid to others (such as title fees, express mail fees, or extended vehicle warranties) don't go into the APR calculation. Our focus is on providing you with low-cost credit. However, **if you are reviewing loans elsewhere, be sure to look at both your interest rate and the APR to ensure that the cost of your loan is not bogged down with fees that go straight to the lender as additional income.** If it is, be sure to check with us to help keep more of your hard-earned money in your pocket.

### Safety Alert:

## Keep Your Passengers Safe!

## Stay up to Date on Vehicle Safety Recalls!

Keeping the oil changed and the tires balanced on your vehicle is important, but none of that matters if you miss an important safety recall on your vehicle. Make sure you know the very latest on your vehicle by doing these two things:

- **Check for recalls** on most vehicles 15 years and newer by entering the VIN at [nhtsa.gov/recalls](http://nhtsa.gov/recalls).
- **Subscribe to email alerts** for future recalls at [www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/subscriptions](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/subscriptions).

If you find or are alerted of a recall, be sure to have the needed service performed on your vehicle as soon as possible, so that you and your precious cargo are protected from dangerous malfunctions!



# Defeat your debt.

**Your AFCU credit card is your secret weapon.**

Transfer a balance to your AFCU credit card before Feb. 28 and get **1.99% APR\*** for 12 months\*\* with **NO transfer fee.**

- ★ Simplify your life
- ★ Consolidate debts
- ★ 1 monthly payment

★ 1.99% APR\* ★



\*Annual Percentage Rate \*\* Subject to credit limit and available credit on existing AFCU credit cards. Purchases and existing AFCU credit card balances are not eligible for the promotional rate.

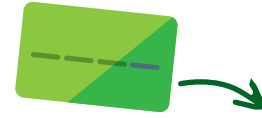




## Helpful Hint

**Moving? Have a debit card with us?** Even if you use online and mobile services for all your interaction with us, be sure to update your mailing address with us to ensure that mailed renewal or replacement cards are sent to the proper address.

*In case you missed it...*



**AFCU now accepts  
ATM deposits at all branch ATMs!**

Use your debit card to deposit cash or checks to your AFCU account in Jesup, Ludowici, or Screven anytime!

## 2 Ways Your AFCU Debit Card Just Got Better!



**1. Replacement cards can now be issued instantly in our Jesup location.**

**2. Your card can now be added to Apple, Google and Samsung Pay.**



## Holiday Closings

### MLK, Jr. Day

Saturday, January 14th  
and Monday, January 16th

### Presidents Day

Saturday, February 18th  
and Monday, February 20th

## Wayne and Long County High School Seniors:

**Could You Use \$1,500 to Help Pay for Your College Education?**

**Apply for one of our three \$1,500 college scholarships!**

Our Annual Scholarship Contest begins February 13, 2023, and applications will be available through your high school and on our website. Be sure to check [altamaha.org/about-us/scholarships](http://altamaha.org/about-us/scholarships) for official rules and eligibility.

## Important Date Annual Meeting

**Thursday, February 23rd, 6:00pm  
at Coastal Pines Technical College**

**All AFCU Members Welcome!**

**AFCU staff will NEVER call, email or text you and ask for your account number or other sensitive information.**



**Jesup**  
407 South First Street  
(912) 427-8924

**Ludowici**  
442 East Cypress Street  
(912) 545-3257

**Screven**  
217 J.L. Tyre Street  
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Federally insured by NCUA



To access your account online visit [altamaha.org](http://altamaha.org) or from your mobile device, download our app from the app store.