





For details, visit **lgfcu.org/visaholidays**











Prepare for your next money emergency



Maurice R. Smith Chief Executive Officer 27-year member

For some time now, in each edition of Aim, I have commented on everyday financial matters that affect members. On some occasions, I've used this column to announce new Credit Union products. For this issue, I have no new financial services to announce. Instead, I want to talk about a product that's been around a long time: an LGFCU Share Account.

We believe LGFCU's Share Account can be the foundation of a household savings plan. Here's what we mean by this. Members often ask me how much they should have in savings. I've heard all sorts of advice, including a person should have an amount equal to six months of salary set aside. For some members, this is a tall order.

Instead, we think every household should have sufficient savings to at least withstand a typical financial emergency (e.g., broken appliance, unexpected car repair or medical need). The federal government uses \$400 as the amount needed to meet most short-term emergencies. The Federal Reserve says 47% of consumers can't meet a \$400 emergency without borrowing money or selling something.

We've discovered 49% of our members have less than \$500 in total savings. Looking a bit closer, we see almost half of these members have less than \$30 in a Share Account. This concerns us because these households may have less than the needed resources for financial emergencies.

These statistics suggest some members need to put away more savings. The key question is how the Credit Union can help. One of the most effective ways to save is through an automated plan like payroll deduction. A fixed amount from your paycheck is deposited into a Share Account.

For members who don't have payroll deduction, we offer Funds Transfer. Any amount can be transferred from one Credit Union account (e.g., Checking Account) to another such as a Share Account. You choose the amount, frequency and time of month for the transfer, within regulatory limits.

In any instance, LGFCU is a great place to park your savings. If you are part of the 47% who would have difficulty meeting a \$400 emergency, let us help you get prepared.













Aim is a quarterly publication of Local Government Federal Credit Union. As a not-for-profit cooperative, our mission is "to improve the lives of our members." Aim reaches more than 202,000 member households, providing financial education and aspirational articles featuring LGFCU members. Printed with soy-based inks on 10% recycled and 10% post-consumer waste paper.

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What Matters Most

A grandmother proves that family is worth saving for

WRITTEN BY BRENDA PORTER-ROCKWELL | PHOTOGRAPHED BY EDWARD KENSICKI

Veloris A. is a super-saver. She knows that one day her only grandson, Jaxon, may want to go to college. He's only a year old now, but she's already thinking about how he'll start his young adult years debt free. So, Veloris puts money in Jaxon's college savings account.

She'd also like to retire someday. That means contributions to her 401(k) and 457 retirement savings plans. Plus, there are family vacations to save for. Spare change goes into savings. And best of all, she saves just to save.

But Veloris wasn't always so disciplined.

"I was not a saver by any means," she said.

She credits her joy of saving to LGFCU's 52-Week Challenge. After saving nearly \$1,400 for holiday spending, Veloris knows firsthand the life-changing effect of saving for the things that matter.

As a young woman, Veloris treated her savings account like a revolving door — money went in and came right back out. But with age came wisdom. After taking LGFCU's 52-Week Challenge, Veloris is serious about saving for the important things, like college for her grandson, Jaxon.

Savings challenged

As a young woman, Veloris had convinced herself she had no problem saving. After all, she had a savings account. Veloris' mother, however, knew her daughter was not the eager saver she proclaimed to be.

Early in her marriage, as Veloris and her husband prepared for his military posting in Europe, Veloris' mother reminded her to save, saying: "Promise me that every time you get paid, you'll put \$50 in your savings account."

Veloris recalled how she kept her promise ... but with a catch.

"I would show [my mother] a copy of my deposit slip," she said. "What I didn't tell her was that when I got paid on a Friday, I'd withdraw that money by Monday!"

Veloris saw nothing wrong with her savings strategy back then.

Upon joining LGFCU in 2006, Veloris frequently heard, but ignored, talk about the benefits of saving with the 52-Week Challenge. The Challenge starts with small deposits that gradually increase every week for 52 weeks. Starting with week one in the new year, you put \$1 into your savings. Week two you put in \$2, on the third week deposit \$3, and so on. The goal is to save \$1,378 by the end of the year.

"I would think 'I don't need some Challenge to show me how to save. I already put money in my savings," Veloris said. "But the part I wasn't owning up to was that I put money into savings [only] to take it right back out again."



Savings challenge ac

For more than a decade, Veloris' family watched her work hard — sometimes three jobs — to pay off the credit card debt she accumulated as a young woman.

After hearing the 52-Week Challenge stories for several years, a wiser Veloris felt it was time to do better. She wouldn't just tell her children to save; she would lead by example.

Veloris decided saving for holiday shopping might be a fun activity for herself, her husband and two daughters, then aged 13 and 16.

Knowing her girls didn't have much money, Veloris still wanted them to see saving in action. So, the girls saved half of the weekly Challenge deposit and Mom matched it.

Admittedly, sticking with the Challenge and seeing the savings add up, yet remain off-limits, was difficult for Veloris, a self-proclaimed bargain shopper.

"But I was committed!" she said.

Once Veloris missed a week and had to double the following week's deposit.

"When I did, it hurt!" she joked. "It was tough telling yourself you were going to have to do without even more extras that week, because you had to put more money in your [account]. I brought my lunch to work and I cut out a lot of shopping."

If the children wanted to spend money on sports activities or going out with friends, Veloris would offer them "loans" under the condition they'd repay her.

She didn't actually expect repayment. The goal was to teach them an early lesson in



saving, since she didn't accept the advice until later in life herself.

The family's efforts paid off.

"It's nice having more than \$1,000 in your pocket at the end. With the 52-Week Challenge money, I didn't have to use my paycheck to pay for things at Christmas. It was like found money. Not bill money, not counted-for money, but your money," Veloris explained.

Without the Challenge money, Veloris would've put holiday shopping on a credit card. She'd then be faced with an extra bill in January.

The Challenge, Veloris said, "... taught me so much about saving."



Sharing the benefits of saving

Hooked on saving, Veloris wanted others to delight in having extra year-end cash. The following year she invited her co-workers in the offices of the City of Goldsboro, her employer at the time, to save alongside her with the 52-Week Challenge. Seventy-eight employees completed the Challenge, saving a combined total of \$107,484.

Now, Veloris talks about the 52-Week Challenge in her current role as a human resources specialist at Goldsboro's Wayne Community College.

"I share during new hire orientations. I tell them, 'Go for it. If you do, it will be like you're on a savings journey,'" Veloris said.

Her recommended strategy is to envision what you're saving for — holiday presents,

emergency fund or a special vacation, etc. — to make reaching your goal a little easier.

She even encourages parents to participate with their children, who can do the kids' version of the 52-Week Challenge. Instead of saving bills, kids save coins all year.

"Everybody can do it. Even if you only save \$52 the whole year, that's \$52 more than you saved before," she said. "Plus, the Challenge is a lot of fun!"

Every time Veloris looks at baby Jaxon, she's reminded of how the Challenge has transformed her savings habits for the better. Not only does she have guilt-free holiday cash, she's become a savings role model for her family.

Take the 52-Week Challenge

Saving money can be easy and even fun with the 52-Week Challenge. There are no complicated rules to remember. Week 1, you save \$1. Week 2 you save \$2, and it continues through the year, adding one more dollar to each week's savings. So the biggest amount of money you ever put into your savings account at one time is \$52, and at the end of the year you've saved \$1,378! Save this page, make copies and share with family and friends.



Week	Deposit	Balance	Week	Deposit	Balance	Week	Deposit	Balance
□ 1	\$1	\$1	□ 18	\$18	\$171	□ 35	\$35	\$630
□ 2	\$2	\$3	□ 19	\$19	\$190	□ 36	\$36	\$666
□ 3	\$3	\$6	□ 20	\$20	\$210	□ 37	\$37	\$703
□ 4	\$4	\$10	□ 21	\$21	\$231	□ 38	\$38	\$741
□ 5	\$5	\$15	□ 22	\$22	\$253	□ 39	\$39	\$780
□ 6	\$6	\$21	□ 23	\$23	\$276	□ 40	\$40	\$820
□ 7	\$7	\$28	□ 24	\$24	\$300	□ 41	\$41	\$861
□ 8	\$8	\$36	□ 25	\$25	\$325	□ 42	\$42	\$903
□ 9	\$9	\$45	□ 26	\$26	\$351	□ 43	\$43	\$946
□ 10	\$10	\$55	□ 27	\$27	\$378	□ 44	\$44	\$990
□ 11	\$11	\$66	□ 28	\$28	\$406	□ 45	\$45	\$1,035
□ 12	\$12	\$78	□ 29	\$29	\$435	□ 46	\$46	\$1,081
□ 13	\$13	\$91	□ 30	\$30	\$465	□ 47	\$47	\$1,128
□ 14	\$14	\$105	□ 31	\$31	\$496	□ 48	\$48	\$1,176
□ 15	\$15	\$120	□ 32	\$32	\$528	□ 49	\$49	\$1,225
□ 16	\$16	\$136	□ 33	\$33	\$561	□ 50	\$50	\$1,275
□ 17	\$17	\$153	□ 34	\$34	\$595	□ 51	\$51	\$1,326
	Success! ■						\$52	\$1,378

Ready to get your children involved? Want to try the Challenge in reverse? Find more ways to own your 52-Week Challenge at lgfcu.org/52weeks.



Join the club: Stash holiday cash all year



According to a 2018 MagnifyMoney holiday spending survey, shoppers wrapped up more than \$1,000 in debt during the holidays. Further, the survey found 28 percent of those shoppers went into the 2018 holiday season still paying off debt from 2017. These numbers continue to rise each year; 2019 is expected to be no different. Start breaking the cycle of debt for the 2020 season with these tips:

KEEP IT REAL

Start with a budget that reflects how much you want to spend on holiday festivities. Make a list of everyone you shop for and set a dollar amount for each person. If you snag items on sale and end up spending less than what you originally allotted on someone, don't feel obligated to spend the extra money. Save it! Your budget should also factor in things like food for entertaining, decorations, wrapping paper, cards, postage, etc.

SAVE IN A HOLIDAY CASH CLUB ACCOUNT

After you've created your 2020 holiday budget, open an LGFCU Holiday Cash Club account. Break down your budget into equal monthly deposits between now and October 31, 2020. If you already have a Holiday Cash Club account, determine whether you need to adjust the amount you're saving from each paycheck to meet your goal. Saving over the course of several months will be much more manageable than trying to allocate funds from the last couple of paychecks of the year.

AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING TRAP

Start shopping early. Take advantage of early seasonal sales to begin checking off items. This will allow you time to visit several stores, compare prices online and even postpone your purchase until a better sale or coupon is available. Even if you wait until Black Friday or Cyber Monday you can likely score some good deals as long as you stay focused on your shopping budget. You may even end the 2020 season under budget!

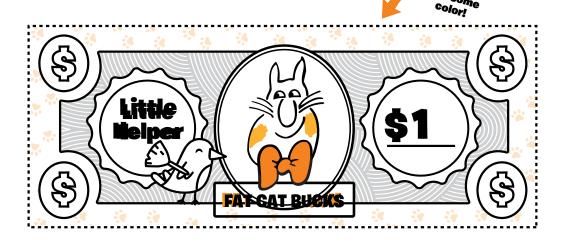
Lastly, sign up for Compass, LGFCU's interactive money management service (Igfcu.org/compass). Compass lets you monitor your spending as you mark things off your list. Plus, you can track your savings progress throughout the year!

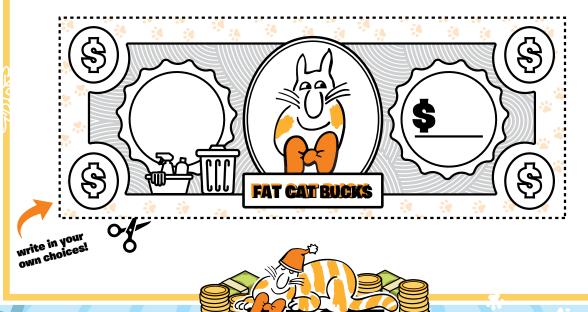
FIND MORE WAYS TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY AT LGFCU.ORG/PERSONALFINANCE.



Earn Bucks For Bucks

Vou can earn and save money to buy presents. Ask your parent what "jobs" you can do to earn money, like vacuuming or dusting, and write those jobs on the **Fat Cat Bucks** below. Then cut out the **Fat Cat Bucks** and place them somewhere safe like in a savings jar. Once the job is done, ask your parent to exchange your bucks for real-life cash. Add some to your Fat Cat account, then spend the rest on gifts!





We hope you enjoyed learning how to earn and save bucks! Keep going with your earning and saving, adding more to your Fat Cat account every time. Ask a grown-up in your family to visit **Igfcu.org/fatcat** to learn how to open an account, if you don't already have one.



It's OK if your holiday shopping doesn't get wrapped up by December 24. In fact, you might save a little more by leaving a few things off your list until after the big day. Check your list twice to see if you can buy any of the nice things below later and save more.

Lighting deals not to miss

Look for open box consumer electronics — where the packaging has been opened — and potentially save even more over discounted prices. Invest in outdoor lights and cameras to ensure all is calm and all is bright whether you're at home, or away at Grandma's house.

Final sales on flannel sheets and blankets

This winter the only thing that should turn frosty is your heating bill. Cozy up to discounts on new flannel blankets or sheets to help keep Old Man Winter at bay. And, hopefully, keep spirits warm and bright.

Slimmed-down pricing on fitness gear

You could go dashing through the snow to shed holiday pounds or you could snag a good deal on exercise gear. Look for savings on workout machines, weights and athletic clothes. Don't forget, you may get a discount on gym memberships, too, before the new year!

Bargains on gourmet gifts

It's time to say good night to all full priced boxes and baskets of specialty foods, condiments, nuts and more. Retailers will soon be ready to clear the aisles of leftovers. Make note of expiration dates, then repackage for gift giving throughout the year.

"Yule" save on holiday decorations

After holiday prices on paper, bows, bags, candles and other trimmings typically drop a few degrees as December 25 gets further and further behind us. Think red themed crafts for Valentine's Day and green for St. Patrick's Day.

1500

Follow us on social for even more tips on after-holiday savings!

Calendar of events

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 14

Holiday Parade and Fun Fest

10 a.m. Parade Creekside Park Main Street, Durham 1 to 4 p.m. Fun Fest

Blackwell Street between Morehead and West Lakewood Avenues

Hosted by Durham Parks & Recreation dprplaymore.org/309/holiday-parade-and-fun-fest

NOW - SUNDAY

JANUARY 19, 2020

Winter Lights at Elizabethan Gardens

Event days and costs vary; visit website for details. 6 to 9 p.m

1411 National Park Drive, Manteo

Hosts include The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
elizabethangardens.org

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Wrightsville Beach Valentine Run

7 a.m.

321 Causeway Drive Wrightsville Beach

Hosted by Go Time its-go-time.com

Celebrating, supporting our first responders

September 11 is designated as First Responders Day in North Carolina, the day we pause to honor the bravery and sacrifice of all first responders. LGFCU was pleased to be a community partner sponsor for the First Responders Appreciation Breakfast, powered by the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.



> From Left: LGFCU staff Donna G., Public Relations Manager; Tim N., SVP Marketing; MDO Managers Jazmine K. and Melissa K.attend the First Responders Breakfast.



Similarly, LGFCU was honored to be a 2019 South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo sponsor. During the conference, the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association presented the Credit Union with the Golden Axe award to commemorate our continued partnership.

"LGFCU is humbled by first responders across the state for their continued bravery and selflessness," said LGFCU President Mark Caverly.

We are proud to be the Credit Union that stands behind paramedics, emergency medical technicians, police officers, firefighters and rescuers when they are on the front lines.



Follow us to see our commitment in action.







Credit Union Members switch to Sprint

Get



Plus lines 3, 4 and 5 on Unlimited Basic when you switch

After 9/30/2020 pay \$80/mo. for line 1, \$40/mo. for line 2 and \$20/mo./ line for lines 2-5 with AutoPay. SD video streams up to 480p, music up to 500 kbps, garning up to 48bp. Data deprioritization during congestion. Other mo. charges apply.

Free



Brighter Future For All™

Register at

lovemycreditunion.org/sprintrewards



LGFCU members have access to special discounts for credit unions. Details and restrictions can be found at LoveMyCreditUnion.org.

Limited time offers. Activ, Fee: Up to \$30/fine. Credit approval req. Cash Reward Offers: Avail. for eligible credit union members & member employees with qualifying corp. id. (ongoing verification). \$100 Cash Reward for new smartphone line activ. Max 2. Req. activ. at point of sale. Excludes CL, MBB devices, tablets, Sprint Phone Connect, upgrs., replacements & ports made between Sprint entities stord cash neward for new smartphone line activ. Max Z. ned, activ. at point of sale; Excludes CL, MBD devices, active the property of the pro Sprint network is constrained. See sprint.com/networkmanagement for details. Usage Limitations: To improve data experience for the majority of users, throughput may be limited, varied or reduced on the network. Sprint may terminate service if off-network roaming usage in a month exceeds. (f) 800 min. or a majority of min., or (2) 1000MB or a majority of KB. Proin, incl., or (2) 1000MB or a majority of KB. Proin, or (2) 1000MB or a majority of KB. Proin, or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin, or (2) 1000MB or a majority of KB. Proin, or (2) 1000MB or a majority of KB. Proin, or (2) 1000MB or a majority of KB. Proin, or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or a majority of MB. Proin or (2) 1000MB or (2 to change & may be modified, discontinued, or terminated at any time without notice. Restrictions apply. © 2019 Sprint. All rights reserved. Sprint & the logo are trademarks of Sprint. Other marks are



Loan Rates As of November 1, 2019

Adjustable Rate Mortgages*	Rate	APR	Margin	Floor Rate
5-year ARM 80% or less LTV	3.375%	3.353%	1.50%	3.25%
5-year ARM 80.1–90% LTV	3.875%	3.856%	2.00%	3.75%
5-year ARM 90.1–100% LTV	4.375%	4.359%	2.50%	4.25%
5-year ARM (First-Time Homebuyer) [†] 100% LTV	4.375%	4.359%	2.50%	4.25%
5-year ARM [‡] 100.1–110% LTV	5.375%	5.365%	3.50%	5.25%

Variable Rate Loans	Rate
Home Equity [∆] Up to 90% LTV	4.25%
Signature Personal Open/Closed-end, Unsecured	10.75%
Salary Advance (cash account <\$500) Open-end, \$500 maximum	13.75%
Salary Advance (cash account ≥\$500) Open-end, \$500 maximum	7.25%
Visa Credit Card Grace period	11.25%

Fixed Rate Loans	Rate
New Vehicle [®] Up to 36 months	3.75%
New Vehicle [®] 37–60 months	4.25%
New Vehicle [®] 61–72 months	4.50%
New Vehicle [®] 73–96 months	5.75%
Used Vehicle Up to 72 months	4.50%

Deposit Rates As of November 1, 2019

Products	Min. deposit	Rate	APY
Regular Shares	\$25.00	0.50%	0.50%
Fat Cat Shares	\$5.00	0.75%	0.75%
Zard Shares	\$25.00	0.75%	0.75%
Holiday Cash Club	\$0.00	0.75%	0.75%
IRAs	\$25.00	2.25%	2.28%
Health Savings Account	\$0.00	2.25%	2.28%
Checking°	_	0.15%	0.15%
Money Market Shares	\$250.00	1.25%	1.26%
6-month Share Term Certificate [∞]	\$250.00	1.75%	1.75%
12-month Share Term Certificate [∞]	\$250.00	1.90%	1.90%
18-month Share Term Certificate [∞]	\$250.00	2.00%	2.00%
24-month Share Term Certificate [∞]	\$250.00	2.20%	2.20%
30-month Share Term Certificate [∞]	\$250.00	2.25%	2.25%
36-month Share Term Certificate $^{\circ}$	\$250.00	2.50%	2.50%
48-month Share Term Certificate [∞]	\$250.00	2.60%	2.60%
60-month Share Term Certificate [∞]	\$250.00	2.75%	2.75%

For current rates, visit Igfcu.org/rates.

All rates, terms and conditions can vary and are subject to change.

For additional information on any Credit Union accounts visit **Igfcu.org**, contact your local branch or call us at **888,732,8562**.

Calls may be recorded for quality assurance.

APR : Annual Percentage Rate APY : Annual Percentage Yield ARM : Adjustable Rate Mortgage

LTV: Loan To Value

* These rates are for new first mortgage loans and are subject to change daily. The rates for existing adjustable-rate mortgage loans are subject to change at predetermined intervals and may be different from the rates for new mortgages.

Future rates and payments determined based on adding a margin to the index (5-Year Constant Maturity Treasury Yield rounded up to the next highest one-eighth of one percentage point).

- + Special financing for first-time homebuyers (5-year ARM).
- ‡ Interest paid on the loan portion that is greater than fair market value is not tax deductible for federal income tax purpose. Consult a tax advisor for further information regarding the tax deductibility of interest and charges.
- ${\scriptstyle \triangle}$ Subject to approval. APR (Annual Percentage Rate) is based on the current index plus a margin. The current rate is 4.25% APR. The APR is a variable rate, subject to change quarterly. The index is based on the 26-week Treasury bill rate for the quarter and is set on or after the 15th day of the second month after the end of each calendar quarter adjusted up to the nearest 0.25%. The maximum quarterly rate adjustment is 0.50%. Over the life of the loan the maximum APR will be the initial rate plus five percentage points or 12.75% APR, whichever is higher, but never more than 18% APR. The payment amount will change if the APR changes. Costs and fees associated with a HELOC may range from \$0 to \$1,600. HELOC interest payments may be tax deductible; consult your tax advisor. HELOCs are only available in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia or Georgia.
- New vehicle is defined as current, prior or upcoming year model with 10,000 miles or less.
- Minimum deposit to open each account. Initial checking deposit must cover first box of checks and first \$1 monthly service fee. The minimum balance to earn dividends in your Share/IRA/SEP/CESA accounts is \$25; for Share Term Certificates and for Money Market Share accounts, \$250.
- Share Term Certificates are Fixed Rate accounts. Dividends are automatically paid monthly by transfer from the STC to another deposit account. If the term is six or 12 months, you may request that your dividends be paid when the STC matures. The early withdrawal penalty for all certificates is 90 days dividends or the actual dividends earned, whichever is less.

Fees and/or other conditions may reduce the earnings on an account.

Quoted rates, dividends and annual percentage yields (APY) are subject to change daily at the discretion of the Board of Directors.



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Open a Holiday Cash Club Account!

WHAT'S HO-HO-HOLDING YOU BACK?



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