

## CEO'S CORNER



by: **Allen Upchurch, President & CEO**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** I believe it's safe to say that we're all glad that 2020 is in our rear-view mirror, and great hopes are in us all for a much better year in 2021! As we end up probably one of the most challenging years in our history, it's appropriate for us to look back on 2020 and remind ourselves of the year we had.

At this time last year, we were launching a new, improved, more interactive website, and making final preparations for our technology upgrade, which took

place in February. While we had some glitches, we have now settled into our use of the new core processing platform, and are enjoying the benefits of having a much more robust system, access to better information about your accounts, new mobile and digital banking services, and the added value of a much reduced cost. Look for some added benefits coming up in 2021 when we implement more features like instant issue debit cards, remote deposit capture, and an enhanced website application process that will further streamline our internal processes to speed up the pace of our service to you.

We want to continue to remind you of our new mobile app service, called myCUApp, which can now be found in the App Store or Google Play Store. And if you have not already enrolled, or re-enrolled in the credit union's online banking system, please visit our website at [www.cuatlanta.org](http://www.cuatlanta.org) and click on the LOGIN screen at the top right corner of the home page to begin the login in process. Instructions can be found under the "Access" tab on the home page, then click on the "Important Systems Upgrade Information" link under the "Account Services" heading to read the document that tells you how to get logged in.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

We continue to operate in our lobbies in an "appointment only" mode, as we continue to monitor the coronavirus for a decrease in cases and numbers of reported deaths. Please continue to check our website and click on the banner at the top of the home page for the latest information and updates.

As a further reminder, we are offering our members the opportunity to obtain a **second Freedom Loan** to take care of emergency expenses, and for any loan that you apply for and receive, you can extend your **first payment to 60 days from the date of the loan**. And for those of you who are in the process of making a decision about a purchase, we will keep a **loan application active for up to 45 days** while you contemplate your options.

**Please keep in mind that there are worlds of scams out there at this day and time. Be on the lookout for phishing emails that at first glance appear to come from a trusted source. Never click on unknown attachments, links or provide personal identifiable information via an unsecure website. Be cautious of emails and phone calls offering unexpected or unprompted information in which the sender/caller requests your personal information.**

Please keep in touch with us as to your needs. We do realize our service delivery is being challenged with increased phone calls, and that sometimes it's hard to reach us. We promise that if you have to leave a message, we will return your call during that same business day if it's left before 2:00. Thank you for your patience, and again, encourage you to take advantage of our remote delivery services, which provide a lot of information about your accounts.

As always, thank you so very much for your business, and the trust you place in us every day to be your credit union.

## NEW YEAR, NEW HOME LOAN!

**Whether you want to purchase a new home, refinance the existing balance on your current mortgage at a lower rate, or cash out some of your equity with a home equity loan or line of credit, CUA has your back!**

**Mortgage Loans\*** – Apply for a new loan and start your year of savings.

- **Competitive low rates**
- **Conventional, FHA, VA, USDA and other loan types available**
- **Fixed and adjustable rate options**
- **10, 15, 25 and 30-year terms**

**Home Equity Loans & Lines of Credit\*\*** – Use the equity in your home to consolidate debt, make home improvements or cover a big expense.

- **Competitive low rates**
- **Fixed and adjustable rate options**
- **5, 10 and 15-year terms**

**Start the new year with a new home loan. Apply for your mortgage today at [www.cuatlanta.org](http://www.cuatlanta.org).**

\* All credit union loan programs, rates, terms, and conditions are subject to credit approval and may change at any time without notice.  
\*\*Rates and terms vary depending on loan-to-value ratio, credit evaluation and underwriting requirements. This is a variable rate loan product. The interest rate you are charged may increase after the loan is closed. All credit union loan programs, rates, terms, and conditions are subject to credit approval and may change at any time without notice.



# NOTICE OF ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

**THE CREDIT UNION OF ATLANTA ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM. AT THIS TIME, DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, IT IS ANTICIPATED THE MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY, JUST AS WE CONDUCTED OUR MEETING IN 2020. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING AS DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR AND AS PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES DICTATE.**

Dear Member:

The bylaws of Credit Union of Atlanta (CUA) provide for the election of Directors for each vacancy on the Board of Directors prior to each Annual Meeting. This affords all current Credit Union members the opportunity to take an active role in the nomination and election of their officials. The Board of Directors, consisting of nine (9) members, is responsible for the general direction and overall control of the Credit Union. Individual terms are for three (3) years. In accordance with the bylaws, the Nominating Committee has nominated the following persons to fill four seats on the Board:

**Charles Bell (incumbent)** – Mr. Bell has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1996, and has served on the credit union's Supervisory Committee since 1994. He has served as Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for fourteen years. Mr. Bell currently serves as the Budget Chief for the City of Atlanta Finance Department, assuming those responsibilities in 2019 after serving as the Budget Management Chief for the Department of Aviation since 1999. His employment with the City of Atlanta began in August, 1989, when he was hired as Financial Analyst. Prior to his employment with the City of Atlanta, Mr. Bell worked in the aerospace industry for five years with Lockheed Georgia, where he served as both a Pricing and Budget Analyst for the company's flagship plane, the C-130 Hercules. Before his employment with Lockheed, Mr. Bell was a Cost Accountant and an Internal Auditor with the Central Foundry Division of General Motors in Saginaw, Michigan. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Finance from Morehouse College and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Atlanta University.

**Willie Canidate (incumbent)** – Ms. Canidate has served on the Board of Directors as Secretary/Treasurer since 2002. She also has served as Chair of the Marketing Committee, in addition to various other committees. She is currently a member of the Credit Committee. Ms. Canidate is an advocate for financial literacy and service to members. She retired from the City of Atlanta in 2014, after 32 years of public service in Finance, Public Works and Watershed Management. As a champion for community service, Ms. Canidate continues to serve as a member of the Community Advisory Board for the Clinical Research Center of Morehouse School of Medicine. She also serves on the National Community Participant Advisory Board for The All of Us Research Initiative, and is a Panelist for the Juvenile Justice Citizen Review Board for the DeKalb County Juvenile Court. She serves as a Precinct Manager for DeKalb County Voter Registrations and Elections during election periods, and is a member of the Stone Mountain Lithonia Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Ms. Canidate holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC. She attends the Tabernacle Assembly of God Church in DeKalb County.

**Anthony Nicks (incumbent)** – Mr. Nicks has been on the Board of Directors since 2018, and presently serves on the credit union's Asset-Liability Management Committee. The founder of The Nicks Group, Mr. Nicks has over thirty years of experience in tax and financial statement preparation, as well as numerous auditing functions and processes. He is currently the County Auditor/Director of Audits for Fulton County, Georgia. He has served in that capacity since 2008, and in other capacities since 2005. Prior to his tenure in the Office of the County Auditor, Mr. Nicks worked in various auditing roles over a period of 25 years in the Office of the City Internal Auditor with the City of Atlanta, the Georgia State Department of Audits, and the Georgia Department of Education's

Program Audit Division. Earlier in his career, he worked as a Business Analyst for the commercial data and analytics firm of Dun & Bradstreet Corporation. He is a graduate of Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in Business Administration and Accounting, and holds professional credentials as a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), a Certified Government Auditing Professional (CGAP), and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE).

**Melissa Davis (to replace Cotena Alexander)** – Melissa Davis, a lifelong public servant, is currently a Financial Manager for the City of Atlanta where she is responsible for managing a multi-million dollar budget. She also serves as departmental Finance Chief during emergency events in which she prepares financial data for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement. Over the past several years, Melissa has been involved with several organizations: Government Finance Officers Association, Project Management Institute, and The Institute of Internal Auditors. She volunteers with the Special Olympics of Georgia and previously served as a Region One Advisory Committee Member with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, which provides treatment and support services to people with mental health challenges and substance use disorders. Melissa is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Melissa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of South Carolina. She earned a Master of Public Administration and Master of Business from the University of North Texas and University of North Georgia, respectively. She is also a Certified Local Government Finance Officer. Melissa and her husband are the proud parents of a beautiful daughter. They reside in Cumming, Georgia.

The bylaws also provide that nominations for vacancies, in addition to those made by the Nominating Committee, may be made by petition. The petition must be signed by at least one hundred sixty-three (163) current Credit Union members. **Petitions will only be available at the 670 Metropolitan Parkway location and may be picked up starting on February 1, 2021.** Each nominee by petition shall submit a brief biographical sketch and a signed statement by the nominee indicating willingness to serve and acceptance of office if elected. **Such nominations shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board no later than March 1, 2021.** If you are interested in seeking election to the Board of Directors, please follow the instructions set forth in this notice and begin by obtaining your petition from the main branch of the Credit Union. The Credit Union staff and Board of Directors are available to answer any questions you may have.

An election will not be conducted by ballot and there will be no nominations from the floor of the Annual Meeting when the number of nominees equals the number of positions to be filled. If an election is necessary, a notice of the time, place and hours of the election shall be mailed to all members eligible to cast ballots on or before March 15, 2021. Such notice shall include the slate of candidates, including biographical sketches, showing those nominated by the Nominating Committee and those nominated by petition. This notice shall also provide the time and place of the Annual Meeting.

**IF AN ELECTION IS NECESSARY, A BALLOT WILL BE MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS, AND VOTING FOR THE NOMINEES FOR THE CREDIT UNION OF ATLANTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 22, 2021, AND END AT 11:59 PM (ET) ON APRIL 21, 2021.**

Sincerely,

Willie M. Canidate  
Secretary/Treasurer



# BALANCE TRANSFER PROMOTION!

For a limited time only, you can bundle up your high interest credit card debt from other lenders, transfer it to our Visa credit card and enjoy a 1.95% APR\* for the first six billing cycles. Our cards have no annual fee, and during this promotion, there is no balance transfer fee! Take a look!

- No annual fees
- Competitively low fixed rates
- Secured and unsecured accounts available
- Make purchases virtually anytime, anywhere
- Free travel and accident insurance
- Optional life and disability insurance available at low rates

Bundle up your debt and bundle up the savings. Visit [www.cuatlanta.org](http://www.cuatlanta.org) to apply for your balance transfer today!

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. All loans subject to credit approval. 1.95% APR available for first 6 billing cycles. Following this limited time period, the rate will revert to the standard rate thereafter.

**Ready for a next level auto loan?** Whether shopping for a new ride or refinancing your current one, you can access unbeatable rates and easy terms at the credit union!

Plus, you can get pre-approved, so you'll know your budget before you start shopping.

**Take your auto loan up a notch. Apply for your 2.0 experience now on [www.cuatlanta.org](http://www.cuatlanta.org)!**

\*All loans subject to credit approval. Terms and conditions may apply. Existing CUA auto loans are not eligible for refinancing.



## AUTO LOANS 2.0

# GO MOBILE IN 2021!

**If we learned anything last year, it was how important it is to be able to access your finances remotely.** An unprecedented shutdown caused many to start scrambling and learn a new way of doing things.

Don't be caught off guard in the future. Be prepared and arm yourself with the convenience of remote banking. Visit [www.cuatlanta.org](http://www.cuatlanta.org) to sign up for online banking or visit the App store or Google Play™ to download our mobile banking app today!

You'll be able to:

- Check your account balances
- Review your transaction histories
- Pay your recurring or one-time bills
- Transfer funds between your accounts
- And much more!

Go mobile (or remote) for 2021 by downloading our app (or going online) today!



# PREVENTING TAX-RELATED IDENTITY THEFT

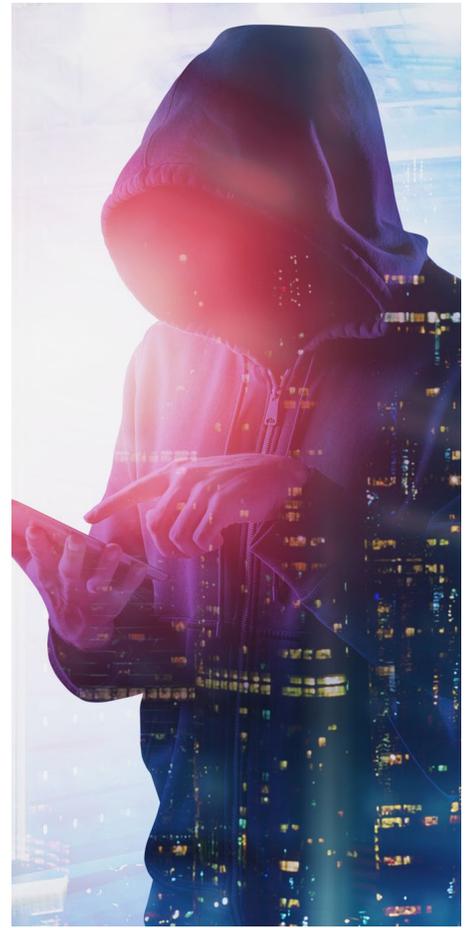
With the dawn of each new year comes the dawn of a new tax season and, unfortunately, the potential threat of tax-related identity theft. This theft occurs when someone steals and uses your personal information to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund.

Consider these signs of possible tax-related identity theft from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and take action if you think you've fallen victim:

- You receive a letter from the IRS inquiring about a suspicious tax return you didn't file.
- You can't e-file your tax return because of a duplicate Social Security number.
- You get a tax transcript in the mail that you did not request.
- You receive an IRS notice that an online account has been created in your name.
- You receive an IRS notice that your existing online account has been accessed or disabled when you took no action.
- You get an IRS notice that you owe additional tax or refund offset, or that you have had collection actions taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return.
- IRS records indicate you received wages or other income from an employer you didn't work for.

Keep in mind, the IRS will NEVER Initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text, or social media to request personal or financial information; call taxpayers with threats of lawsuits or arrests or call, email, or text to request taxpayers' Identity Protection PINs.

If you feel your personal information has been compromised and you've become a victim of tax-related identity theft, you have options. For a complete list of action steps and prevention methods, please visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).



## 7 MONEY SAVING TIPS FOR WINTER

### Need to cut costs this winter? Consider these tips to save at home!

1. **Air seal your home** – Look for drafts, most commonly around the edges of doors and windows, and close them up with caulk and sweeps.
2. **Lower your thermostat at home** – Drop your resting temperature to a tolerable level and utilize blankets and warm clothing to adjust to your cooler home.
3. **Set ceiling fans to run clockwise** – Running your ceiling fans slowly clockwise pulls air upwards in the middle of the room, pushing the warmer air to the sides and down the wall.
4. **Close blinds except during direct sunlight** – Closed blinds add insulation to the windows. Unless you have direct sunlight warming your room, close them for extra warmth.
5. **Humidify your air** – Home humidifiers causes the air to feel warmer by adding moisture and it causes the air to hold the heat more effectively.
6. **Replace filters** – Dust coated filters keep air from flowing well in your home. Replace them regularly to keep the air flowing consistently.
7. **Install LED bulbs** – As your current lightbulbs burn out, replace them with LED bulbs which use about 20% of the energy.

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
Friday, January 1, 2021

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**  
Monday, January 18, 2021

**PRESIDENT'S DAY**  
Monday, February 15, 2021

#### FOLLOW US! WE'RE SOCIAL.

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 @TheCUAtlanta

 TheCreditUnionofAtlanta

 Credit Union of Atlanta



Federally insured by NCUA  
\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate:  
Based on credit worthiness

**Main Office**  
670 Metropolitan Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30310  
(404) 658-6465

**Pryor Street Lending Center**  
245 Pryor Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 222-0686