



# HERITAGE SOUTH

YOUR COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER • [WWW.MYHSCU.COM](http://WWW.MYHSCU.COM)

## HOLIDAY SKIP-A-PAY is coming and shopping season is right around the corner!

Once again, you may be able to skip your December OR January loan payment if your loan qualifies! As our gift to you, feel free to use the extra money to pay seasonal expenses, visit family, or even host a holiday party.

It's up to you! Think of it as an early present from Heritage South! Be on the lookout for your Loan Skip Coupon and bring it by any branch with your signature. Mortgage, Summer, and Holiday Loans do not apply. Loan payments must be up to date. Interest will continue to accrue on your loan and term will be extended by one month. See credit union for questions or more details.

HSCU's 2nd Annual FALL

HERITAGE SOUTH  
CREDIT UNION  
2020

CAR SALE

OCTOBER 7-9

RATES AS LOW AS 0.99%<sup>\*APR</sup>  
UP TO 60 MONTHS!

Receive car sale loan rates on new purchases from October 1st-9th and refinancing rates the entire month of October!

Join us as we partner with local dealers for our 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FALL CAR SALE EVENT! We will have our team on site at every branch to assist with questions and financing. The three-day event is happening at our main branch on Highway 280 in Sylacauga! Re-financing available all month long at all locations. Trust us – you don't want to miss this opportunity! Get pre-approved today by calling, visiting us online, or coming by one of our branches.

## NUMEROUS LOCAL DEALERS!



APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates as low as 0.99% on new purchases October 1st-9th. Special refinancing rates available all month. All loans subject to credit approval. Rates, terms, and conditions subject to change without notice. Other restrictions may apply. HSCU does not warrant, guarantee, or insure any product or service offered or provided by any dealership. HSCU and participating dealers are separate entities. Contact the Credit Union for further information. Federally Insured by the NCUA.

# Upcoming Events

## **Moody Oktoberfest**

October 3rd

## **Alex City Oktoberfest**

October 10th

## **International Credit Union Day**

October 15th

## **Childersburg Pumpkinfest**

October 17th

## **Christmas in the Country**

November 14th

## **Annual Meeting**

J. Craig Smith Community Center

January 26, 2021

# Holiday Closings

## **Columbus Day**

Monday, 10/12/2020

## **Veteran's Day**

Monday, 11/11/2020

## **Thanksgiving Day**

Thursday, 11/26/2020

## **Christmas Eve**

Tuesday, 12/24/2020 (Closing @ Noon)

## **Christmas Day**

Wednesday, 12/25/2020

## **New Year's Eve**

Tuesday, 12/31/2020 (Closing @ 2PM)

## **New Year's Day**

Wednesday, 1/1/2021

# You Don't Need to Pay for Credit Monitoring

**Many companies that promise free credit reports want to sign you up for credit monitoring services or other products. You can take these free or lower-cost options to protect yourself.**

## **Monitor your credit yourself.**

Under the law, you are entitled to a free credit report every 12 months from each of the nationwide credit reporting companies. You can get these reports all at once, or spread them out. For example, you could visit [AnnualCreditReport.com](http://AnnualCreditReport.com) in January to get your Experian report, in April to get your Equifax report, and again in August to get your TransUnion report. By rotating your requests this way, you can keep an eye on your credit records throughout the year for free.

## **Put the freeze on identity thieves.**

You do not need to pay a credit monitoring service to stop thieves from opening accounts with your information. Contact Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion and ask that they put a freeze on your credit reports. A freeze prevents prospective lenders from accessing your credit file unless you lift the freeze for that lender or for a specified period of time. Typically, lenders won't offer you credit if they can't access your credit reporting file, so a freeze prevents you or others from opening accounts in your name. Under federal law, you may now freeze and unfreeze your credit record for free at the three nationwide credit reporting companies – Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax.

## **Request a fraud alert.**

If you believe that you have been or are about to become the victim of identity theft or fraud, you can place a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert requires lenders to take steps to verify your identity before opening a new account in your name, or issuing an additional credit card or increasing the credit limit on an existing account. You can also provide a telephone number so lenders can call you to verify your identity (a fraud alert does not prevent a lender from opening credit in your name).

## **Servicemembers: Consider an active-duty alert.**

If you are a member of the military on active duty, you may place an "active-duty alert" on your credit report to reduce the risk of identity theft while you are deployed. This alert lets a prospective lender know that you are on active duty and could be out of the country, so the lender is required to take reasonable steps to verify your identity before issuing credit in your name. More information about active-duty alerts can be found on Ask CFPB at [consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb](http://consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb).

If you have complaints or concerns about a credit monitoring service, contact the Federal Trade Commission, 877-FTC-HELP.

**TIP:** If you suspect that the error on your report is a result of identity theft, you need to file a dispute to correct it. For information about identity theft and steps to take if you have been victimized, you can also visit the Federal Trade Commission's identity theft website: [ftc.gov/idtheft](http://ftc.gov/idtheft)

# BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

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The following Board of Directors members have been submitted from the nominating committee to serve another three year term and be voted on at the Annual Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 26, 2021 at the J. Craig Smith Community Center. In accordance with credit union election by-laws, there will be no nominations from the floor. Individuals may submit a petition for nomination signed by 1% of the membership with a minimum of 25 members and a maximum of 500 to the credit union's secretary at the address listed on or before November 1, 2020.

Heritage South Credit Union  
P.O. Box 811  
Sylacauga, AL 35150



## Mindy Grier

Mindy Grier has been on the Board of Directors since 2007. Mindy's parents instilled the benefits of credit unions to her as a small child. She is very familiar with the benefit and function of a credit union as she has been a member of credit unions her entire life. Mindy is currently employed with Blue Bell Creameries as an Administrative Manager.



## Angie Hughes

Angie Hughes is the VP/Co-Owner of a local family owned and operated business, SafeGuard Corporation. Angie has been affiliated with HSCU through business for many years and has been a member for nearly 21 years. 2021 will be Angie's 11th year as a Board Member.



## Ondi Turner - Supervisory Committee

Ondi Turner has been a member of Heritage South Credit Union since 2012. She was born and raised in Smiths Station, Alabama and graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Art. Her husband's grandfather, W.A. Turner, was the Vice President of Manufacturing at Avondale in the 50s and 60s. She is the co-owner of Turner Auto & Body. Turner Auto & Body became a member of HSCU in 2016. She currently resides in Tallapoosa County.



# We're Still Here For All Your Lending Needs!

As we continue to be closed in our lobbies, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Heritage South is still able to meet your lending needs. We offer low interest rates on automobiles, boats, personal loans, home equity lines of credit, real estate loans on purchases and refinances, and many other loan products. We are able to complete your loan transactions through electronic processes or can make arrangements with you for other available options. Please know that our Loan Department is here to serve you in all your needs and please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your patience during this time and we appreciate our Members.

Anna Tyler, Chief Lending Officer

## MEET YOUR Back Office STAFF



**Jamie Elliott**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Carolyn Bivin**  
Accounting Clerk/  
Card Specialist



**Crystal Gardner**  
Accounting Clerk/  
Regulatory Specialist



**Penny Rogers**  
Accounting Clerk/  
ACH Specialist



**Kristi Thompson**  
Accounting Clerk/  
Compliance Specialist

## BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED

### With These Products

#### **GAP**

Can you imagine having a car that you've financed declared a total loss? GAP Insurance is a type of auto insurance that car owners can buy to protect themselves against losses that can arise when the amount of compensation received from a TOTAL loss does not fully cover the amount the insured owes on the vehicle's financing. HSCU is here to help protect you, so please discuss with one of our Loan Officers on your next automobile purchase to see if you would qualify.

#### **Warranty**

Should you get a Warranty on your next auto purchase? Automobile repairs are very expensive, and we have an extended service contract that will protect our Members from high repair costs. Please discuss with one of our Loan Officers on your next automobile purchase to see if you would qualify.

#### **Credit Life/Disability Insurance**

HSCU offers credit life and credit disability that can protect your loan. Credit life pays the remainder of your loan in the event of death and if you are unable to work, credit disability will pay your monthly payments if you become totally disabled and unable to work. HSCU is here to help protect you during these times, so please discuss with one of our Loan Officers the next time you apply for a loan to see if you would qualify.

#### **Credit Involuntary Unemployment Insurance**

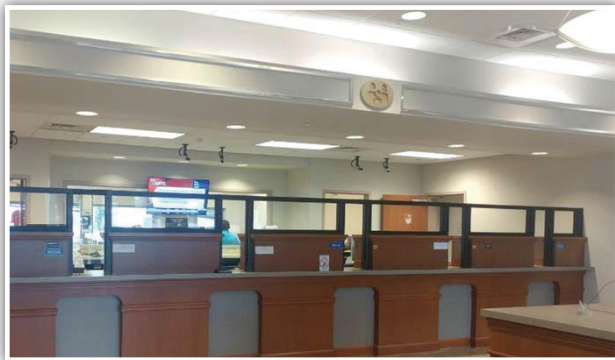
HSCU offers Credit Involuntary Unemployment Insurance in the event you are unable to work due to result of involuntary unemployment. Under this plan, your payments could be paid while out of work to avoid delinquency or a loss. Please discuss with one of our Loan Officers the next time you apply for a loan to see if you would qualify.

# We're all in this TOGETHER!

It's so refreshing to see people going back to work and trying to get back to a "new normal" routine. We are all still struggling in many different ways. Our life is different. Schedules are different. We are not teachers or medical professionals, yet many of us have had to adapt to helping our children to learn and taking temperatures regularly and wearing masks! It sure gives me a much greater appreciation for a lot of different fields of work. We see those struggles and feel many of them in our own lives.

We are very ready to get back to our new normal in our lobbies too! We are installing sneeze barriers in all of our branches to better protect our members and our staff. We are taking this day by day and watching for benchmarks. We want to be certain that when we open our doors that they are not going to have to close again. We are monitoring financial institutions all around our state to choose the time that is the best re-opening time for everyone.

Please be sure to let our staff know if you need to make an appointment to visit. We have been pleased to see that we can typically save you a trip down here by offering electronic services. I know that many who have been hesitant to join in on the electronic services have now decided that they really are not so hard at all. I think that many have come to enjoy them.



**Sneeze guards are being installed in our branches for the safety of our members and staff.**

to still have our Annual Spring Car sale despite COVID-19 joining in. COVID-19 might have kept us from having cars on site, but we are not going to allow it to dampen our service to our members! We are pushing through with our 2nd Annual Fall Car Sale. You may see fewer dealers or cars, but you will also see lots of social distancing and safety protocols as well.

If you need a new ride, now is the time to check out our dealers and find you the right vehicle at the right price for you. If you simply need to see about reducing your car payment, term, or interest rate—give us a call!! We are here for you!

Maybe you just need to consider a consolidation loan to reduce the payments on your current debt. We are in it to help you figure this all out! We can help!

Whatever your needs or desires, let us know. Let us help you work it all out! We will continue to fight hard to beat COVID-19! We are all in this together!

*Jamie Payton, Chief Executive Officer*



## Use Caution During Remote Transactions

During these unprecedented times of mask mandates and stay-at-home orders, there has been an increase of online debit and credit card purchases. As the number of these online purchases increase, so does the chance of fraud. Try to make purchases from accredited websites, and research lesser-known websites before purchasing a product. Also, stay away from "Free Trial" offers as they often result in a monthly recurring transaction.

Another area of growing concern is People to People (P2P) transactions. Disputing transactions that occurred on P2P apps is extremely difficult and usually unsuccessful. Please use caution when downloading these apps.

Here at HSCU, we do our best to work with our members to try and resolve fraudulent transactions. The dispute process can be timely and can take up to 45 days to resolve a fraudulent transaction. If you suspect fraudulent activity on your account, contact our Call Center, or refer to our website.

Jamie Elliott, CUCE  
Chief Financial Officer





# HOME EQUITY

## Products

## Put your money to work!

Maybe it's time to put your money to work for you with a home equity loan or line of credit! You can use the money to remodel, add a pool, consolidate debt, pay for college or a wedding, virtually anything! And the interest is usually tax deductible.\*

## Express Equity Loans & Lines of Credit

With a HSCU Equity loan you can borrow up to 90% of your home's equity and better yet, you can close these loans within a couple of weeks! The value of your home is determined by your most recent Tax Assessment or AVM. Equity Loans have a three year draw period with a twelve year payback period. Contact a Loan Officer for full details today.

\*Consult your tax advisor. Based on credit approval. Credit Union membership is required by opening a Share Savings account with a minimum deposit of \$25.00.

### What is Equity?

Equity is the difference between your house's market value and the amount outstanding on your mortgage. If the market value of your home is \$150,000 and the principal mortgage balance is \$100,000, your equity would be \$50,000.

Federally Insured by

**NCUA**

**ESI**



NMLS# 712492

Find us on:



### CONTACT US:

Phone: 256-245-4776/Email: [msr@myhscu.com](mailto:msr@myhscu.com)

Or visit us at one of our locations:

Sylacauga – Broadway Ave. / Sylacauga – Hwy 280

Childersburg – Hwy 280

Moody – Moody Parkway

Alexander City - Hwy 280