Bay Vatch A Publication of Bay Federal Credit Union



Winter 2025



Welcome to our new BayWatch format!

Last year brought exciting changes for Bay Federal. In 2024, we announced plans to open a new branch in the city of Marina, set to open this summer. We also introduced another Marina, our Al virtual assistant, making it easier for you to get the help you need. Additionally, we welcomed Creedence Shaw as our new Vice President of Business Services to support our growing community of business members.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises even more exciting opportunities! Soon, we'll be rolling out new Visa Credit Cards with exciting perks and rewards. We're also making updates and improvements to our account offerings, along with introducing enhanced digital banking options to help you manage your money wherever you are.

Thank you for being a valued member of Bay Federal. Here's to a new year filled with peace, joy, and exciting opportunities!

Warm regards,

Carrie S. Birkhofer

Carrie L. Birkhofer
President and Chief Executive Officer





The Right Time is Your Time Buying a House in 2025

When it comes to buying a home, there's one timeless truth: the best time to buy is when you're ready. As we look to 2025, the market will continue to evolve, but your personal circumstances and goals remain most important.

Finding the Right Loan for Your Needs

At Bay Federal Credit Union, we understand that buying a house is a significant milestone. That's why we're here to guide and support you every step of the way. We offer several types of home loans to fit your life and budget. Whether you're looking for a fixed-rate mortgage, an adjustable-rate loan, a Jumbo Loan, or our First-Time Home Buyer program, our experts are ready to help you find the perfect fit. We even offer ITIN lending!

If buying a traditional home feels out of reach, Bay Federal also offers manufactured home loans. These loans provide a flexible, affordable option to help you take the next step toward owning a home that meets your needs and budget.

Your Journey to Homeownership Starts Here

While no one can predict what the future holds for housing trends, one thing is certain: your path to homeownership is about more than timing. It's about preparation, confidence, and the right support. Whenever you're ready to take the leap, Bay Federal will walk alongside you—helping turn your home-buying dreams into reality.

Start your journey today by calling 831.479.6000 or toll-free at 888.4BAYFED, extension 8304, or visit **www.bayfed.com/fthb** to learn more.



Investment Services at Bay Federal Credit Union

Presented by Your LPL Financial Advisors

The Basics Of Financial Fitness

Becoming financially fit requires maintaining foundational elements. To make sure that you're on the right track, develop a financial plan that lays out clear goals and timelines. Below are steps to get you started.

- 1. **Budget Crunch:** First, create a practical budget to track your cash flow and identify areas where you can trim back.
- **2. Save for Unexpected Expenses:** Set up an emergency fund with enough to cover three to six months of living expenses.
- 3. Establish Long-Term Financial Goals: Saving for your retirement is a personal decision that will help shape your lifestyle during your Golden Years.
- **4. Regularly Assess Your Goals:** Review short-, medium-, and long-term goals at least annually to adjust for changes in your life.
- **5. Stay Credit-Worthy:** Check your credit periodically for accuracy and make sure you're maintaining good credit standing.
- **6. Increase Investment Potential With Early Contributions:** Start investing as early as possible to maximize returns over time.
- **7. Review Your Plan:** Review your plan annually, revising it as necessary to align with your financial goals.

Take Action Today

Schedule a complimentary consultation with one of our expert financial advisors to ensure you're on the right track!

To schedule a complimentary appointment with our LPL Financial Advisors and discuss your options, visit www.bayfed.com/investments or call 831.479.6000, option 7.



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May Lose Value

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Have You Met Marina?

Marina, our new virtual assistant, is now available to help you on bayfed.com and in online banking. Her goal is to cut down your wait time by helping you find answers to your basic banking questions from wherever you are.

Say hi to Marina next time you're online!

Win \$1,500 for School!

Bay Federal Credit Union's Education Scholarship is for students who are pursuing education or career training opportunities after high school. Applicants must submit a completed 2025 Education Scholarship Application by no later than March 16, 2025. Winners will be notified by April 30, 2025.

Download the application and read the full requirements at **bayfed.com/scholarships**.



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