



Priorities



President's Message

Jim Morrell, President / CEO



As people, we all have a basic desire for stability. This is deeply rooted in the physiological needs for food, shelter, and safety. Things that are all key to survival. We also seek psychological well-being to help reduce stress, provide a sense of being in control over our lives, and establish emotional security. The pursuit of stability is a fundamental human drive to survive and feel safe.

We are currently experiencing a time where there is a lot that may not seem stable in our lives. It was not long ago that we may have had this sensation as we navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, there is increased political polarization, technology is changing how we do things, and social media is amplifying both positive and negative news.

On top of this, nearly 40% of the households across the Olympic Peninsula live below a household survival budget. Bankrate's 2025 Emergency Savings report shares that a significant portion of Americans cannot cover a \$1,000 emergency expense with their savings.

The combination of instability and financial vulnerability leads to increased stress and anxiety, reduced quality of life, increased debt, higher potential for being evicted or foreclosure, and can strain even the strongest supportive relationships in our lives.

There are things you can control. For instance, your Credit Union can assist you in creating simple budgets to help plan for your known expenses and set a little bit of money aside each month. Recently an elderly member in Port Townsend who lives on fixed income lost his wife. Our team member, Lori, learned that he always wanted to travel, longing to return to New England in the fall. A plan was put together to ladder his savings that helped make his dream trip a reality. The member's strategy continues as he will soon have enough to make one last autumn drive through New England.

If you see your credit card balances growing, we can help you consolidate

debt or structure loan payments to systematically eliminate your debt. A member who met me about eight years ago still, every time she sees me, expresses appreciation for the conversation we had about paying off her smaller credit card balances first so that she could experience how good that felt. This increased her motivation for working on the next credit card balance, and then the next, and now she is helping her daughter do the same.

These are just a couple examples of how your Credit Union begins to help you feel more in control of your money. Our entire team gets so jazzed about members getting excited about small wins that people make in their financial lives.

Amidst all the chaos you may be feeling in our communities and world today, come see us. Let us listen to what's on your mind. Serve those needs by supporting you. Help educate you about how we may be able to assist. And care for you by sharing the excitement you are putting yourself under financial control.



In this issue...

- Stability! How your Credit Union can help
- Fraud Frog: Scam Prevention
- Love Peninsula? Tell a Friend!

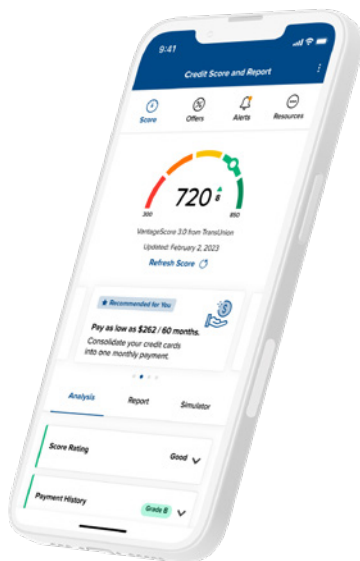
Credit Sense

powered by
savvymoney[®]

How Savvy are you with your Credit Score?

What Makes Up Your Score?

- 1 Payment History
- 2 Credit Utilization
- 3 Mix of Credit
- 4 Recent Activity
- 5 Account Age



Improvement w/ Credit Sense

39%

% of Credit Sense Users improved their score in 1 year

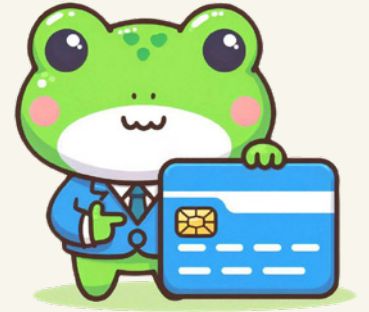
41%

% of Credit Sense Users in score tiers 300 -649 improved their score in 1 year

Included free with your Vista Checking account!
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online.pcfcu.org

New Series!

Fraud Frog: Avoiding Payment and Gift Card Scams



We'd like to introduce you to the newest member of the Peninsula family—**Fraud Frog!** He'll show up throughout the year to help you identify and prevent fraud on your accounts.

As Spring and Summer approach, many people are planning vacations, buying gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day, or celebrating graduations. Unfortunately, scammers take advantage of these seasonal moments.

Here Are Some Common Scams to Watch For:

- **Gift Card Scams** – Scammers pose as utility companies, government agencies, or even family members, demanding payment in gift cards. They may claim you owe a bill or that a loved one needs urgent help. No legitimate business or agency will ask for gift cards as payment.
- **Payment App Fraud** – Scammers trick victims into sending money through services like Venmo, Cash App, or Zelle by pretending to sell goods or services. Unlike credit or debit cards, these payments can't be reversed. Be cautious when sending money to someone you don't know.
- **Vacation Scams** – Fraudulent travel agencies or fake rental listings lure victims with deals that seem too good to be true. Always book through reputable websites and verify rental properties before paying.

How to Stay Safe:

- **Be skeptical of urgent requests.** Scammers create a sense of panic to get you to act quickly.
- **Verify before you pay.** If someone asks for gift cards, crypto, or a quick app payment, pause and confirm their identity.
- **Trust your instincts.** If an offer or request feels off, it probably is.

If you ever question whether a payment request is legitimate, reach out to us first. We're here to help protect you and your finances.

If you think you've been targeted or victimized by fraud, call us at 360-426-1601 immediately. Stay informed, stay cautious, and enjoy a safe and scam-free Spring!

Financial Fitness: Understanding Your Credit Score

Understanding Your Credit Score

Your credit score is a key indicator of your financial reliability, used by lenders, insurers, and employers to assess risk. Scores range from 300 to 850, with higher numbers being better. The three main credit bureaus—Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion—each calculate scores slightly differently, so your score may vary.

Why Your Credit Score Matters

Lenders use your credit score to determine whether to approve you for loans and at what interest rates. A higher score leads to better financing terms, while a lower score can result in higher interest rates and stricter repayment conditions.

Factors That Determine Your Credit Score

Your FICO score is based on:

- **Payment History (35%)** – Timely payments boost your score, while missed payments lower it.
- **Credit Utilization (30%)** – Using less of your available credit is better.
- **Credit History Length (15%)** – Longer credit histories improve your score.

- **Credit Mix (10%)** – A variety of credit types (loans, credit cards) is beneficial.
- **Recent Credit Inquiries (10%)** – Multiple recent applications can lower your score.

Other Factors That Can Hurt Your Score

- Court judgments, tax liens, or bankruptcies
- Collection accounts
- Recently opened consumer finance credit accounts

Improving Your Credit Score

Understanding your score helps you take action. Pay bills on time, reduce credit utilization, and maintain a long, diverse credit history. With discipline, you can steadily improve your creditworthiness.



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Community Financial Educator

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Looking for a Loan that puts **You** first?

We help achieve your financial goals with lower fees, higher rates on savings, and personalized service. **We're committed to providing you with the support you need.**

Ready to achieve your financial dreams?

Visit us at [PCFCU.org/anything](https://www.pcfcu.org/anything) or call 360.426.1601

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5.49%
APR*

Special introductory rate for 12 months

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- *Simplify your finances.*
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- *Take control of your financial future!*



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360.426.1601



APPLY NOW



*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Offer valid 04/01/2025 thru 05/31/2025 and may end at any time. Maximum loan amount is determined by the amount of equity in your home. Borrow up to 100% of appraised value minus any liens for qualified applicants. Appraisal required on loan amounts in excess of \$150,000. Estimated appraisal cost is \$900. Introductory rate as low as 5.49% APR for 12 months after the loan is funded. At the beginning of the 13th month, the current rate for the Home Value Line LoCap product will apply. This is a variable APR and will adjust according to Prime Rate, as published in the Wall Street Journal. Prime Rate, Loan to Value and credit score determine actual APR after the introductory period and may vary between 4.00% APR and 11.99% APR. Minimum monthly payment will vary according to APR and balance of the line of credit. Property insurance required, flood insurance may be required. 15-year Draw Period with 20-Year Repayment Period. Property must be located in Washington. Membership eligibility and credit qualifications apply. All offers, rates, and terms are subject to change at any time. See us for additional details. NMLS ID: 401239. Federally insured by NCUA.

There's a **better way** to secure your statements.



Sign up for **Peninsula eStatements!**
Login to learn more: pcfcu.org.



0% down mortgages **WELCOME HOME!**
(Details apply. Call for more information.)

Ready to achieve your financial dreams? Visit us at PCFCU.org or call **360.426.1601**

NEW! From Peninsula Credit Union:

LOVE PENINSULA? TELL A FRIEND!

In celebration of our 90th anniversary...
Refer a friend or family member
to Peninsula and get \$90 each!



Ask us how to get started!

Program eligible for qualifying new consumer memberships which include a checking account for individuals aged 18 or older. \$90 Refer a Friend promotion is valid 04/01/2025 - 04/30/2025 but may end sooner. New member must mention the referrer by name. Rewards will be processed approximately 9 weeks after account opening. The new membership must be in good standing with a positive account balance. When referring a friend, each party may be aware that the referrer is a member of Peninsula Credit Union. All measures to protect member-sensitive information and confidentiality will be taken. Failure to receive a bonus means a referred account did not establish membership or meet account requirements and does not imply that an account application was denied. Incentives earned may be subject to IRS tax reporting as required. Offer does not apply to business memberships. Employees and their immediate family members are not eligible. Other terms and conditions may apply. Federally insured by NCUA.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Memorial Day
Monday, May 26

Juneteenth
Thursday, June 19

Independence Day
Friday, July 4

SHELTON
(360) 426-1601
Monday - Thursday
Drive-up 8:30 - 5:30
Lobby 9:00 - 5:30
Friday
Drive-up 8:30 - 6:00
Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

BELFAIR
(360) 275-6066
Monday - Thursday
Drive-up 9:00 - 5:30
Lobby 9:00 - 5:00
Friday
Drive-up 9:00 - 6:00
Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

PORT ORCHARD
(360) 876-8898
Monday - Thursday
Drive-up 9:00 - 5:30
Lobby 9:00 - 5:30
Friday
Drive-up 9:00 - 6:00
Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

POULSBO
(360) 697-3011
Monday - Friday
Lobby 10:00 - 5:00

CALL CENTER
(800) 426-1601
(360) 426-1601
Monday - Friday
8:30 - 5:30

PORT TOWNSEND
(360) 385-5575
Monday - Friday
Lobby 9:00 - 5:30

Find your nearest Branch or ATM: pcfcu.org/branches-and-atms