

2026 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



As we close out another incredible year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the growth, achievements, and shared successes we've experienced together in 2025. At FAFCU, we remain committed to our mission of Strengthening Our Communities; Investing in Your Success, and we are proud of all we've accomplished this year.

A Year of Growth and Success

In 2025, we've reached significant milestones that speak to the strength of our cooperative model and the trust our members place in us. Here's a look at some of our top accomplishments:

- **Membership Growth:** In March 2025, FAFCU hit a membership milestone by reaching 20,000 members. In November 2025, we reached 21,000 members!
- **Asset Growth:** We continue to experience strong asset growth seeing an increase of over 12.68% in 2025. This growth highlights the financial confidence and trust our members place in us when making important life decisions.

Enhanced Member Experience

This year, we introduced several upgrades designed to make your financial journey even smoother:

- **Cadillac Branch:** The newest Forest Area branch in Cadillac celebrated its grand opening on June 3, 2025.
- **Kingsley Remodel:** Our Kingsley branch got an upgrade with a remodel that was completed in September 2025.
- **ITM Installation:** Installation of our Interactive Teller Machines (ITMs) in each branch was started and will be completed in 2026.



Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

As we move into 2026, we are excited about the opportunities ahead:

- **Expanding Member Benefits:** We are working on enhancing our rewards programs, offering even more ways for you to save on loans, earn cash back, and get discounts on everyday purchases.
- **Increased Member Security:** In a continuing effort to enhance our member security, we will continue to identify and implement necessary procedures and technology to keep you and your data safe.
- **Introducing the Trailblazers Youth Account Program:** Forest Area is unrolling the new and improved youth account program called *Trailblazers*, including enhanced benefits for kids up to age 17. Our new mascot, Sammy the Savings Squirrel, will be your guide!



Thank You for Being Part of Our Family

None of this would be possible without you, our valued members. Your trust, loyalty, and active participation are what make FAFCU successful, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

Wishing you a prosperous 2026,

The Forest Area Federal Credit Union Team

2026 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1, 2026

President's Day (Training)

Monday, February 16, 2026
(Mandatory)

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25, 2026

Juneteenth (Community Service Day)

Friday, June 19, 2026
(Mandatory)

Independence Day

Saturday, July 4, 2026

Labor Day

Monday, September 7, 2026

Columbus Day (Training)

Monday, October 12, 2026
(Mandatory)

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 26, 2026

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2026,
closes at noon

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2026

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31, 2026,
closes at noon

Contact us at:

231-879-4154

fafcu@forestarea.com

Branch Locations

Cadillac
9100 E 34 Rd.,
Cadillac, MI 49601

Fife Lake
638 Boyd St.,
Fife Lake, MI 49633

Kalkaska
409 West Mile Rd.,
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Kingsley
6966 Cougar Trail,
Kingsley, MI 49696

Lake City
101 Main Street,
Lake City, MI 49651

Manton
314 W. Main St.,
Manton, MI 49663

Mesick
101 Mesick Ave.,
Mesick, MI 49668

2025 Community Involvement & Give-Back

At FAFCU, we believe in giving back to the communities we serve. In 2025, we:

- Raised Funds for Local Charities:** We eclipsed our last year's record total for the annual November Food Drive, raising \$60,000, the most money FAFCU has ever raised during our Food Drive. The funds directly benefit 13 local organizations like Kalkaska Area Interfaith Resources and Cadillac Love Inc.
- Volunteered Over 1980 Hours:** Our team members dedicated more than 1980 hours to local nonprofits and events, assisting with everything from food drives to youth mentorship programs.
- Established the Community Involvement Committee:** A volunteer group of employees from each branch/office was created to better identify and execute community needs projects on a local level.



2025 Outreach Projects

Forest Area staff gathered together on February 17, 2025 for Professional Development Day to partner with Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency to assemble "welcome home" kits and tie-blankets for individuals transitioning out of homelessness to a new home.



In 2025, Forest Area began hosting fraud prevention classes for seniors. The staff-led Fraud Prevention Committee collaborating with local councils on aging to bring interactive, open-discussion classes on how to spot fraud red flags and what to do if you suspect fraud.

During International Credit Union Youth Month in April 2025, Forest Area donated \$20 to Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Wexford/Missaukee Counties for each new youth membership account opened that month. A total of \$1,660 was raised. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a non-profit dedicated to ensuring each child in Wexford and Missaukee counties have a safe, comfortable bed to sleep in.



2025 FOOD DRIVE TOTAL:

\$60,000

2025 GRANTS GIVEN:

\$15,300

2025 SCHOLARSHIPS:\$8,500 awarded
to 15 high schoolers

42nd Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held this year at The Barn Hall Event Center in Manton on April 18th, 2026. Dinner will be at 6 pm followed by a meeting. Please plan to purchase your tickets early this year at a price of \$15.00 from any office.

Secretary Notice of Nomination and Election Procedure: The nominating committee from the Board of Directors has nominated the following individual to fill the seat expiring in 2026: Incumbent Andrew Long.

Nominations for vacancies on the Board of Directors can be made by submitting a petition signed by 1% of the current credit union membership (1% of the credit union membership is equal to 210 members). The petition must be submitted to the Nominating Committee no later than 40 days prior to the Annual Meeting or March 9, 2026. Qualifications for Directors are that you must be at least 18 years of age, a member in good standing (no delinquencies or existing bad debt with the credit union), and not be an employee or an immediate family member of an employee. Any properly qualified member who submits a properly signed petition will have his/her name placed on the 2026 Forest Area Federal Credit Union Board of Director's ballots. There will be no ballot distributed if the number of nominations equals the number of positions to be filled. The term of office is three years and requires continuing education and attendance at monthly meetings. Contact Rachel Konsella for more information on the duties of a Volunteer Board Member or other volunteer positions.

Board of Directors

Donald Crawford—Chairman

Shawn Archer—Vice Chairman

Alan McCullen—Secretary

Robert Raden—Treasurer

Polly Piltz—Director

Todd VanDussen—Director

Andrew Long—Director

DJ Byard—Associate Director

Annual Notice of Required Property Insurance



If you have a loan with Forest Area Federal Credit Union which gives the credit union a lien on your vehicle, home or other property, you are required to provide us a copy of the Insurance coverage and list the credit union as an additional insured on your policy. Please ask that your insurance company provide the annual paid policy statement to us.



FACTS		WHAT DOES FOREST AREA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?						
Why?		Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.						
What?		The types of personal information we collect and share depends on the product or service you have with us. This information can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social security number • Account balances • Credit History & Credit Score When you are <i>no longer</i> our customer, we continue to share your information as described in this notice.						
How?		All financial companies need to share member's personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their personal information; the reasons Forest Area Federal Credit Union chooses to share; and whether you can limit this sharing.						
Reasons we can share your personal information	Does Forest Area Federal Credit Union Share?	Can you limit this sharing?						
For our everyday business purposes —such as to process your transactions, maintain your account(s), respond to court orders and legal investigations, or report to credit bureaus	Yes	No						
For our marketing purposes —to offer our products and services to you	Yes	Yes						
For joint marketing with other financial companies	Yes	Yes						
For our affiliates' everyday business purposes —information about your transactions and experiences	Yes	No						
For our affiliates' everyday business purposes —information about your creditworthiness	No	We don't share						
For our affiliates to market to you	Yes	Yes						
For non-affiliates to market to you	Yes	Yes						
To Limit our Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call 888-879-4154 <p>Please note: If you are a new customer, we can begin sharing your information from the date we sent this notice. When you are <i>no longer</i> our customer, we continue to share your information as described in this notice. However, you can contact us at any time to limit our sharing.</p>							
Questions?	Call 888-879-4154							
BIOMETRIC INFORMATION PRIVACY POLICY AND CONSENT								
Scope and Overview								
This policy outlines how Forest Area Federal Credit Union, its vendors, and/or the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software processes biometric data collected from you for identity verification and fraud prevention purposes.								
Biometric Data Defined								
As used in this policy, biometric data includes "biometric identifiers" and "biometric information". "Biometric identifier" means a retina or iris scan, fingerprint, voiceprint, or scan of hand or face geometry. As the term is used in this policy, the selfie photograph you upload to the software for use in the biometric algorithm is considered a "biometric identifier." "Biometric information" means any information, regardless of how it is captured, converted, stored, or shared, based on an individual's biometric identifier used to identify an individual.								
Disclosure and Authorization Policy								
To the extent that Forest Area Federal Credit Union, its vendors, and/or the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software collect, capture, or otherwise obtain biometric data relating to a consumer, Forest Area Federal Credit Union must first: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform each consumer that Forest Area Federal Credit Union, its vendors, and/or the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software are collecting, capturing, or otherwise obtaining the employee's biometric data, and that the Forest Area Federal Credit Union is providing such biometric data to its vendors and the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software; Inform the consumer of the specific purpose and length of time for which the consumer's biometric data is being collected, stored, and used; and Receive consent by the consumer authorizing Forest Area Federal Credit Union, its vendors, and/or Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software to collect, store, and use the consumer's biometric data for the specific purposes disclosed by the Forest Area Federal Credit Union, and for Forest Area Federal Credit Union to provide such biometric data to its vendors and the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software. Forest Area Federal Credit Union, its vendors, and/or the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software will not sell, lease, trade, or otherwise profit from employees' biometric data; provided, however, that the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's vendors and the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software may be paid for products or services used by Forest Area Federal Credit Union that utilize such biometric data. 								
This policy is intended to comply with all federal, state, and local laws.								
Purpose for the Collection of Biometric Data								
Forest Area Federal Credit Union, its vendors, and/or the licensor of Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software collect, store, and use biometric data solely for identity verification and fraud prevention purposes.								
Disclosure								
Forest Area Federal Credit Union will not disclose or disseminate any biometric data to anyone other than its vendors and the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software providing products and services using biometric data without/unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First obtaining consumer consent to such disclosure or dissemination; • The disclosed data completes a financial transaction requested or authorized by the consumer; • Disclosure is required by law or ordinance; or • Disclosure is required pursuant to a valid warrant or subpoena issued by a court of competent jurisdiction. 								
Who We are								
Who is providing this notice?		Forest Area Federal Credit Union						
What we do								
How does Forest Area Federal Credit Union protect my personal information?		To protect your personal information from unauthorized access and use, we use security measures that comply with federal law. These measures include computer safeguards and secured buildings and files.						
How does Forest Area Federal Credit Union collect my personal information?		We collect your personal information, for example, when you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open an account or Deposit money • Apply for a loan or give us your income information • Provide account information 						
Why can't I limit all sharing?		Federal law gives you the right to limit only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing for affiliates' everyday business purposes—information about your creditworthiness • affiliates from using your information to market to you • sharing for non-affiliates to market to you. State laws and individual companies may give you additional rights to limit sharing. 						
What happens when I limit sharing for an account I hold jointly with someone else?		The limitations will apply to all joint owners on the account.						
Definitions								
Affiliates		Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Area Services, LLC • CU*Answers 						
Non-Affiliates		Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allied Solutions • CUNA Mutual • EconoCheck • Rate Genius 						
Joint Marketing		A formal agreement between nonaffiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in America 						
Security								
Forest Area Federal Credit Union shall use a commercially reasonable standard of care to store, transmit and protect from disclosure any biometric data collected. Such storage, transmission, and protection from disclosure shall be performed in a manner that is the same as or more protective than the manner in which Forest Area Federal Credit Union stores, transmits and protects from disclosure other confidential and sensitive information, including personal information that can be used to uniquely identify an individual or an individual's account or property, such as genetic markers, genetic testing information, account numbers, PINs, driver's license numbers and social security numbers.								
Retention								
Forest Area Federal Credit Union shall retain consumer biometric data only until, and shall request that its vendors and the licensor of Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software permanently destroy such data when, the first of the following occurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial purpose for collecting or obtaining such biometric data has been satisfied, such as verification of consumer identity; • Request of consumer to destroy the biometric data; or • Within 30 days of consumer's provisioning of biometric data. 								
Contact Information								
If you have any questions about our use, storage, or security of your biometric data you can contact us at: fafcu@forestarea.com .								
BIOMETRIC INFORMATION CONSUMER CONSENT								
As outlined in the "Biometric Information Privacy Policy", I understand and consent to the collection, use, retention, storage, and/or disclosure or re-disclosure of data or images from biometric verification technology by Forest Area Federal Credit Union, its vendors, and/or the licensor of the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's consumer verification software. I acknowledge that I have been given a copy of the Policy, or that the Policy has been made accessible to me, and I have had an opportunity to review it and request any additional information concerning the Forest Area Federal Credit Union's procedures and safeguards for collecting, maintaining, using, disclosing, sharing, storing, and/or destroying this data.								