

# March 2018 e-Newsletter



## Come Join Us at Freedom's Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Annual Meeting!

**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018

**Location:** Richlin Ballroom  
1700 Van Bibber Rd, Edgewood, MD 21040

**Time:** 7:00-8:00 PM, Doors open at 6:00 PM  
Hors d'evours will be provided.

All members are welcome to attend and are asked to RSVP [online](#), at a Freedom branch, or by calling 800-440-4120.

## Our Certificate Rates Beat the Big Banks

**52 Week Special — 1.45% APY\***  
(\$5,000 Minimum opening deposit)

**55-Month Special — 1.80% APY\***  
(\$1,000 Minimum opening deposit)

**36-Month Bump-Up — 0.90% APY\***  
(\$300 Minimum opening deposit)

**48 Month Bump-Up — 1.15% APY\***  
(\$300 Minimum opening deposit)

\*APY=Annual Percentage Yield

Members have the option, once during the term of a Bump-Up Share or IRA Certificate, to elect to receive the higher rate being offered on Bump-Up Share or IRA Certificates. The election to move to the higher rate must be made in writing. No additional changes will be permitted. The new rate will be effective from the date Freedom receives notification of the election and will continue for the remainder of the Bump-Up Share Certificate term. If you never elect the exchange option, the original rate will continue.

Fees could reduce earnings on the account. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal that could reduce earnings.

[Learn more](#)

## Access Your Tax Return Quickly with Freedom:

Freedom makes it easy for you to access to your tax refund faster. You can have your tax refund deposited directly into your Freedom account when you file your taxes. Just have your return sent electronically, directly to Freedom using our routing number 255077299.



## News and Events:

- Bad weather? Check on branch closings or late openings by calling 410-420-3131.
- Our **Patriot Program** support now extends to 29 Harford County schools. The mission of the Patriot Program is to provide an opportunity for students to develop patriotism and appreciation for our country's past, present and future. It's also designed to promote a sense of citizenship and pride in our shared American heritage.
- Our next **Shred Day** is coming in May at our **Park Avenue Branch**. Date will be announced in April's newsletter.



Bring your financial documents to shred. Please limit the number of boxes to 4 and no business materials.

## Debt Consolidation – Tips to a Better Financial Future

A recent financial study found that the average American household carrying credit card debt has an outstanding balance of \$15,564. And households with any kind of debt (including mortgages, student loans, medical expenses, etc.), on average owe \$131,431.\* These are staggering numbers, with a big financial impact on families struggling to pay bills, and still trying to save money for future needs.

Finding solutions to paying off high-interest debt is always one of the most important ways of securing a healthy financial future. Paying off your highest interest debt first will reduce the total amount you pay in interest significantly. It will also reduce your monthly payments, which can then be used for additional savings.

If high interest debt, like credit card debt, is negatively impacting your finances, a debt consolidation strategy could provide significant relief.

There are several safe and smart ways to consolidate credit card (or any high interest rate) debt, so you'll want to research them before deciding what's best for you. Some strategies will be more affordable than others, and your choices may be limited by your credit score.

### **Consolidate With a Lower-Interest Credit Card**

Look for a credit card with a low interest rate or one offering a promotion, like a 0% interest rate for a specific term. You can transfer multiple high interest rate credit card balances to a single credit card with a lower annual percentage rate, or APR, and save money on monthly finance charges as you pay down your debt. Freedom currently offers a [0% APR intro rate\\*\\*](#) for 15 months on balance transfers for our Visa Platinum and Visa Platinum Rewards Cards.\*\*\*

### **Apply for a Personal Loan**

Personal loans usually have lower interest rates than credit cards, and they typically have more favorable loan terms. By consolidating your high interest debt into a personal loan, you'll have a lower rate with a more favorable length of time to pay it. Keep in mind that you'll need good credit to qualify for the lowest interest rate on a personal loan. Freedom offers a [debt consolidation loan](#), with an APR as low as 5.99%.\*\*

### **Debt Management**

If you are still finding it difficult to repay your high interest debt, or believe you need more professional help, you may want to reach out to a reputable credit counseling agency about a debt management plan. They will work with you to come up with a plan just right for you.

So, whether you transfer credit card balances, pay off debt with a personal loan or enroll in a debt management plan, the important thing is you take action to address the issue and you stick to the plan. Freedom Federal Credit Union is your trusted partner every step of the way. [Contact Us](#) to see how we can help.

\* \* Nerdwallet.com's 2017 American Household Credit Card Study

\*\*APR = ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE. All rates are subject to change. Some restrictions may apply. Rates available on approved credit. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate.

\*\*\*Applies to purchases and balance transfers done in the first 90 days after the VISA account opens. A balance transfer fee of 3% will be applied. Rates will revert to the current standard rates applicable. VISA Platinum 8.99% to 16.99% APR based on credit worthiness. VISA Platinum Rewards 10.49% to 18.00% APR based on credit worthiness. Rate will vary with the market based on Prime Rate.

## New EasySaver Account



Make Saving Easy with EasySaver! When you enroll in the EasySaver Share Savings Account, Freedom will round up the amount of your Freedom debit card purchase to the next whole-dollar amount. For example, if you spend \$12.50, \$0.50 will automatically be deposited into your EasySaver account. The total of the rounded-up amounts will be transferred to your account each day, where it will now earn a 3x higher dividend rate! Funds may be withdrawn or transferred to a checking account for convenient access and use.

[Savings has never been so easy!](#)

## Design Your VISA® Credit Card



Make paying more fun — design your own credit card! Members can customize the image on their Freedom VISA credit card to just about anything they want\*, for only \$10.00\*\*. You can choose an image from [our personal photo library](#), or your own. [Click here](#) to design your Visa® in three easy steps!

**\*\*There is a \$10.00 charge to use this feature, which covers processing expenses.**

To learn more, review our [Design Your Own Card FAQs](#) document.

## Tax Season Is Here

Save up to \$15 on TurboTax Federal tax products with your Freedom membership discount!







## **2018 Annual Golden Apple Educator Award competition**



Freedom Federal Credit Union announces its 2018 Annual Golden Apple Educator Award competition. With \$3,000 in prizes, the competition is open to all Harford County Public School employees.

The essay competition is designed to recognize a Harford County Public School Employee who is a deserving teacher, school administrator or school support employee. Freedom is looking for the idea which will most impact Harford County's students, classes, schools, and community.

Three winning school employees will receive cash awards; \$2,000 for first place, and \$500 each for two runner-up awards. Preference will be given to school employees who are Freedom Federal Credit Union members, and are enrolled in one of Freedom's special school employee benefits packages: Golden Apple or Golden Apple-Plus. [Learn more](#) about the benefits of becoming a Golden Apple Member!

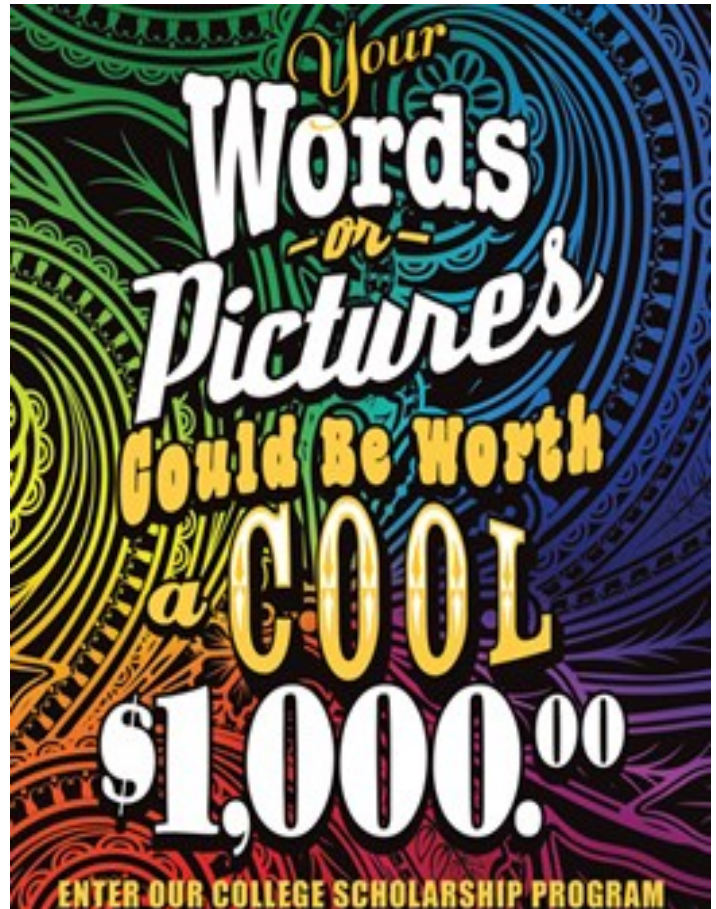
To enter, applicants must submit an essay that details how they would use the award money and why they deserve the award. The essay may address one or all of the following questions:

1. What is your creative idea to benefit your students, your class or your school? If you win, how will you use the funds to implement your idea?
2. Will you take a continuing education class or classes to improve your own education and expertise (be specific) and how will that benefit your students, your school, or the community?
3. Will you purchase supplies for your students, classroom or school, and how will that improve learning student learning?
4. Will your idea, training, or purchase affect the overall Harford County Community? If yes, how so?

Interested applicants may complete an entry form [available online](#), or at any of Freedom's [five Harford County branches](#). Completed entry forms must be submitted by May 1, 2018 to [marketing@freedomfcu.org](mailto:marketing@freedomfcu.org). All entries will be reviewed by a panel of Freedom employees, volunteers and community partners. The winners will be announced June 15, 2018.

# You're Golden

**Thank you for your service with HCPS and  
dedication to education!**



The Credit Union College Scholarship Program is underway now! The Maryland and DC Credit Union Foundation is once again offering a college scholarship contest for credit union members. Each of the 12, \$1,000 scholarships goes toward college or trade school tuition. Freedom members entering their freshman through senior year of college or trade school are eligible.

Members can apply for one of 12 scholarships in three categories. Options include 10 essay-based scholarships, a video-based scholarship, and one photo-based scholarship. [Click here](#) for additional information and to apply! The deadline for applications is March 31, 2018. Awards will be announced in May 2018.

### **Contact Us**

800-440-4120

[memberservices@freedomfcu.org](mailto:memberservices@freedomfcu.org)

[freedomfcu.org](http://freedomfcu.org)



*Belong To Something Special*

### **Stay Connected with Freedom**



Check out Freedom's Philosophy Blog – [“We Must Agree”](#) written by Mike MacPherson, President and CEO.

