

July 2018 e-Newsletter



Belong To Something Special



Homeruns For Healthy Kids

Partnership with IronBirds Benefits MedStar Pediatrics

Freedom has partnered with the Aberdeen IronBirds and MedStar Health to create *Homeruns for Healthy Kids*. Each time an IronBirds player hits a homerun during the season we'll donate \$100 to benefit services for children at the MedStar Health Bel Air Medical Campus.

Homeruns for Healthy Kids builds on Freedom's partnership with MedStar Health. To date, we've donated over \$30,000 to MedStar Health to support initiatives benefiting pediatrics and neurological rehabilitation services for children in Bel Air.

Join us in supporting our local team, and our local kids!

Our Certificate Rates Beat the Big Banks

52-Week Special — 1.65% APY*

25-Month Special — 2.25% APY*

55-Month Special — 2.85 % APY*

(With a low \$300 minimum on all!)

Freedom. Better Savings with Greater Returns.

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rate effective June 1, 2018 and is subject to change. Limited time offer.

Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal that could reduce earnings. Upon maturity, 55-month Special renews to 48-month Regular Share and IRA Certificate, and Special 25-month renews to 24-month Regular Share and IRA Certificate.

Summer of Freedom



It's the [#SummerofFreedomFCU](#) Photo Contest! Post pictures with your Freedom sunglasses during your summer adventures for the chance to win weekly prizes or a grand prize of \$500!

1. Pick up your free sunglasses at any Freedom Branch
2. Take a fun, creative picture with your Freedom sunglasses
3. Pick your preferred social channel (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
4. Like or Follow Freedom's page (FreedomFedCU)
5. Post the picture using [#SummerofFreedomFCU](#)
6. Check back every Friday for weekly winner



See our [Contest Rules](#) for full details

Freedom Supports HCPS

Freedom Federal Credit Union provided \$25,000 to Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) in support of their Annual Employee Service Recognition Program.

This program recognized 494 employees who have reached 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 years of service. The annual event, which took place on May 9th at the Water's Edge Event Center, is a special occasion for 141 of those employees who are celebrating a 10+ milestone year with the school system. Their commitment is celebrated during the dinner and service awards are presented to the honorees.



Freedom Federal's Business Development Director, Patrice Ricciardi (Middle), celebrates honorees with Joseph Schmitz (Left), Executive Director of Middle/High School Performance and Richard Jester (Right), Fallston High School Principal.

In addition to Freedom's annual contribution to the Service Recognition Program, Freedom also provides financial education to HCPS students at all grade levels and offers HCPS staff exclusive access to the Credit Union's Golden Apple Program.

Whatever life brings, whatever you need, **Think Freedom!**



Anything Loan - as low as 5.49%*

*freedomfcu.org/anything

Credit Unions: A Community Asset at Home and Abroad



Freedom's Philosophy Blog:
*Written by Mike MacPherson,
President and CEO*

I was recently in Ireland and while there were many amazing sights, there was one recurring thing that caught my eye. It seemed as though on every road I traveled and in every town I visited, there was a credit union. They were at the heart of the community.



Maybe not as easily detectable in a big city like Dublin, but town after town there were credit unions, some with names entirely in Gaelic. It reminded me how relevant and important a local credit union is to its members and the community. Sure they provide the financial services, products, etc. one could need, but a credit union is much more.

Credit unions represent you, the members who own it. They employ local people, make local decisions and support local businesses and communities. While the physical locations may not



always be on main street like the ones pictured, rest assured that for Freedom, the hometown pride and commitment is as strong as if we were right next door to your local sweater shop, toy store or pub.

Silent Purse Auction & Retail Sale

DONATE

Your Gently-Used Handbags & Help Homeless Families with Children in Harford County Build a Better Life!



Stop by any Freedom Federal Credit Union Branch between now and July 31, to donate your gently used handbags.

For Additional Donor Information
410-273-6700 • www.harfordfamilyhouse.org

Golden Apple Annual Education Award



Freedom Federal Credit Union President and CEO, Mike MacPherson, with 2018 Golden Apple Annual Education Award recipients. (L to R): Jacob Bennett, Kathleen Ford, and Tara Recor

Freedom hosted a reception at the Credit Union's Bel Air branch to celebrate this year's Golden Apple Awards winners. Kathleen Ford, a music teacher at the John Archer School won this year's grand prize. Ms. Ford received \$2,000 for her plan to better connect students with disabilities through music and song. One of Ms. Ford's goals is to purchase a complete set of *Music K-8* magazines and CDs. Her entry also calls for adapted instruments, assistive devices and software. These items will better enable students with severe physical challenges to produce music independently.

Although we received a record number of submissions this year, Ms. Ford's thoughtfulness and creativity in considering how the award could affect positive change for her students, school, and community made her application standout.

Additionally, two other winners were selected: Jacob Bennett, Kindergarten Teacher at Havre de Grace Elementary, and Tara Recor, Gifted & Talented Resource Teacher at Prospect Mill and Halls Cross Roads Elementary schools. Both Mr. Bennett and Ms. Recor will receive \$500 each to fund initiatives at their respective schools.

The Golden Apple Educator Award benefits Freedom members who work for HCPS and have a creative vision for education that can only be met with community support. Contest applicants must submit an essay demonstrating how their idea would serve their students, class, school and the Harford County community. A panel of Freedom employees, board members, and community leaders judges each year's entries.

Share Certificate Laddering A Safe, Secure Way to Grow Your Money

Share Certificates, also known as Certificates of Deposit (CDs), are government-insured investment products that offer better interest rates than your standard savings accounts. They must be invested for a set period, known as a term, usually anywhere from three months to five years. In general, a longer term comes with a higher interest rate, and will give you a better return, as long as you don't access the funds before the term matures.

Certificate Laddering is an investment strategy that offers you the best of both worlds, a higher interest rate on your savings, and access to your money on a regular basis.

What is Certificate Laddering?

With Certificate Laddering, you invest in several Certificates, each with staggered terms, which will allow them to reach maturity at regular intervals. When each Certificate matures, you have the choice to withdraw funds, renew them for a new term, or withdraw some and re-invest the rest.



How It Works:

The traditional Certificate Ladder model divides your investment evenly over five Certificates, with one maturing each year. For example, if you had \$10,000 to invest, you could spread out your money like this:

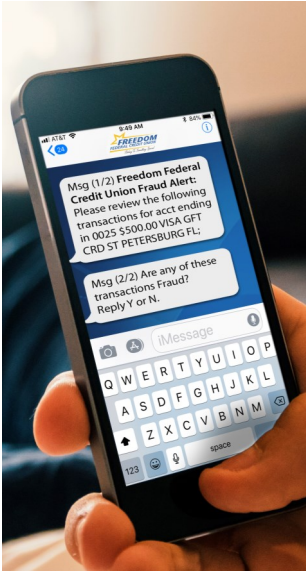
- \$2,000 in a One-year Certificate
- \$2,000 in a Two-year Certificate
- \$2,000 in a Three-year Certificate
- \$2,000 in a Four-year Certificate
- \$2,000 in a Five-year Certificate

After your One-year Certificate matures, you can reinvest that money in a new Five-year Certificate. The next year, you can continue this pattern by reinvesting the money from your original Two-year Certificate in another Five-year. You'll eventually reach a point where your ladder is made up entirely of long-term Certificates, which earn the most interest.

Each year, one of your Certificates will mature, allowing you easy access to your cash, while generating higher amounts of interest, all in a safe, steady, and secure manner. It's that simple.

Freedom is currently offering great rates on share certificates. If you are interested in setting up a Share Certificate Ladder, call or visit any Freedom Branch to get started.

Register for Freedom's New Fraud Alert System



Freedom's first priority is to protect you and your finances from any type of potential compromises. In light of the rash of recent breaches at several retailers, we are taking proactive steps to strengthen our fraud prevention processes.

Our new, automated system will reach you faster by text or phone with information you need to identify potential fraudulent activity, and stop it immediately. We'll even have live agents on stand-by, ready to help you at any time.

The new system allows you to receive an automated call that easily walks you through reviewing suspicious activity on your card. In addition, you can sign-up to receive text messages on your mobile phone. [Learn More](#)

Introducing MoneySmart



Freedom is happy to introduce our new Online Financial Management Tool, MoneySmart. With MoneySmart, it is easier than ever to manage your money, monitor spending and actually see where your money goes.

MoneySmart provides:

- A more complete financial picture, with the ability to sync your accounts from more than 17,000 financial institutions
- Ability to automatically tag and categorize transactions, so it's easier to understand spending habits
- Better visual tracking of your progress, reach financial goals quicker and easier
- A cash flow calendar that shows what is coming in and going out

[Learn more](#)

Important Information For Members: Remote Deposit Capture

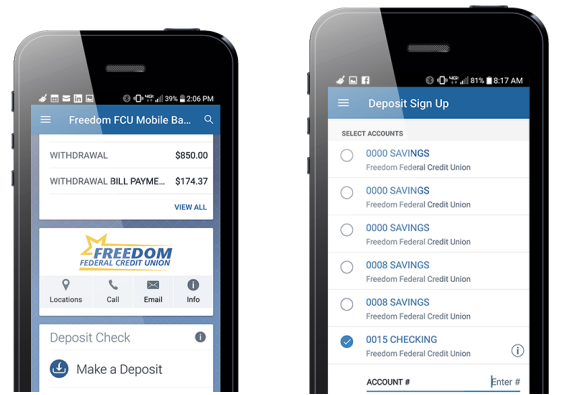
In order to better align with upcoming changes to federal regulations, Freedom is modifying our standards for how checks are endorsed and deposited electronically. As a result, as of July 1, 2018, all Freedom deposits made through Remote Deposit Capture, on our mobile banking app, are now required to have specific endorsement verbiage included.

The new endorsement must read: "For Mobile Deposit Only at Freedom FCU". The endorsement must also include the account number of the account the check is being deposited, and finally, a signature of the member endorsing the check.

1. Your Signature
2. "For Mobile Deposit Only at Freedom FCU"
3. Account #

Deposits received without the proper endorsement, after June 30, could result in rejection of the check.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact us at 410-676-5700.



Contact Us

800-440-4120
memberservices@freedomfcu.org
freedomfcu.org

Stay Connected with Freedom

Happy with your Freedom Experience? Consider writing us a review on our Facebook page.

