

October 2018 e-Newsletter



Belong To Something Special

Celebrate the Credit Union Difference

International Credit Union Day — October 18th

ICU Day is a day when Credit Unions all over the world celebrate the Credit Union Movement and show appreciation for our members. Credit Unions are not-for-profits with a rich history of putting members' needs first. Help us celebrate the Credit Union Difference!

This year, we're celebrating International Credit Union Day's platinum anniversary, a chance to look back after 70 years and be thankful for the lives and communities that have been improved by the unique principles and actions of our movement.



Freedom is celebrating International Credit Union Day all month with a new contest!

Go on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, and share our Credit Union Awareness posts throughout October for the chance to win weekly prizes or a grand **prize of \$100!** Weekly winners will be randomly selected and announced on Friday afternoons.

Visit our website for full Contest and Drawing/ Sweepstakes rules.

News and Upcoming Events:



Whether you are just getting started or have been in the market for some time, take advantage of these **FREE** seminars from Freedom to help you buy or sell a home.

Upcoming Seminars:

Where: Army Community Services Building
2503 Highpoint Rd. APG, MD

When: 11:30AM-1:00PM

- [Free Home Buying — Thursday, Oct.11th](#)
- [Free Home Selling Seminar— Thursday, Nov.15th](#)



- Our next **Shred Day** will be **Saturday, Oct. 6th, from 9:00 AM– 12:00 PM** at our Park Avenue Branch, in Bel Air. Please limit your shredding to four boxes.

Check Out Our New Coin Machine At Our Park Avenue Branch!

Looking to cash-in your coins?



The coin machine is available to members for **FREE***.

*Coin machine available to non members for a 7% fee.

Coupons: Are You Saving or Spending?



Coupons can help save you money on things you already planned on buying. The act of clipping coupons, widely known as “couponing” has become an art form unto itself. An online search of couponing will return dozens of websites and videos on how to do it “properly”. However, if you are not clipping carefully, coupons can easily cause you to spend more than you intended. In fact, many retailers design them to encourage you to buy items that aren't on your shopping list, or to buy more than you need. As with anything there are pros and cons to consider.

The Upside

Trying new products. Coupons are a great way for you to take advantage of trying new items. If you have a specific item in mind, be sure to check out the manufacturer's website to see if they are offering coupons.

Stocking up. Coupons help you stock up on foods or other products you buy in bulk or regularly. With the holidays approaching, it's a great time to be on the lookout for deals on candy and other seasonal items. Boxed and canned foods have long shelf lives, so when you see coupons, it makes sense to stock up.

Adding up the savings. Coupons give you the opportunity to exercise thrift with your hard earned dollars and the savings can really add up. Use those savings for your emergency fund, towards a vacation, home remodeling, retirement, or college education.

The Downside

Stores often raise their prices for coupon items. You notice a few coupons on some items you were interested in getting. You think you are going to save big time. Unfortunately, the retailer just hiked up their price on those items to full-retail value right before they released the coupons to the public.

Coupons are advertisements.

Some coupons are essentially glorified advertisements, enticing you to buy products that you have a coupon for when there are potentially less expensive options available (like buying a generic brand).

Coupons can lead to unhealthy choices.

Compromising healthy eating in order to save a few bucks is never a good decision. Although you may find some deals on organic vegetables or fruits, it is not likely you will find coupons for them.

Finding a Balance

There is a happy balance to couponing.

Stick to your budget.

Regardless of whether you have coupons or not, it is essential that when you shop, you stick to your budget. If you continue spending money on things simply because they seem like a good deal, you are not saving money. Before you shop, go ahead and check the sales flyers, and go through your coupons to help you stock up, but don't go over your budget.

Don't buy crazy amounts of items. Just because you have 15 coupons, doesn't mean you have to buy all 15 items. So, in addition to sticking to your budget, you also want to ensure you are not buying more things than you need.

Only buy things you will use.

That goes hand-in-hand with not buying crazy amounts of items just because you have coupons for them. Only stock up on products you need and regularly use, such as paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, juice and coffee.

Remember- although coupons can be an excellent way to save money on a few items here and there, they are only good if you planned on buying those items in the first place.

Freedom Seeks Candidates for Volunteer Director Positions

At Freedom's next Annual Meeting on April 9, 2019, an election will be held to fill three volunteer director positions, each for a three-year term. Directors must be members of Freedom Federal Credit Union. Additional director qualifications are: demonstrated leadership abilities, business experience, community involvement, and proven communication and interpersonal skills.

If you are interested in applying for a volunteer director position, please submit a written response no later than November 12, 2018 to:

Freedom FCU Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 1545
Bel Air, MD 21014

In your response, please address how you meet the criteria, and include your phone number and email address. Appointments for interviews will be scheduled between November 14 and December 14, 2018.

Important Information for Mobile

Banking Users

New, Enhanced Security for Our Mobile App

We have recently upgraded security features on our mobile banking app. In addition to your password, we will ask you to authorize the mobile device you use to access the mobile banking app.

This new security enhancement is called Two Factor Authentication (2FA), and is intended to provide an additional level of protection for you and your financial information. The first time you use our mobile app, after the upgrade, you will be asked to authenticate by providing your email address and a mobile telephone number where we can text or voice message you when we need to verify the device you are using for online banking.

Enhanced Security for High-Risk Transactions

We have also defined certain transactions as high risk where we will require you to enter your password. These would include adding a payee to Bill Pay or resetting your 2FA. Your Freedom Federal Credit Union mobile banking password is not the same as your passcode that you may use to unlock your device. Your password, however is the same as what you use to log-in to Online Banking.

If you have any questions regarding this upgrade, please contact us at [800-440-4120](tel:800-440-4120).

Freedom Awards HCC Scholarship



-Meet Laura-

"When I became pregnant with my first born, I decided to put my academic ambitions on hold. For twenty-two years, I have been very fortunate to have stayed home to raise my five children. Now that my children are a little bit older and are all in school, it's my time to hit the books. My education and pursuing my dream of becoming a nurse is very important to me. Currently I am in my second semester at Harford Community College and I LOVE it!! The Freedom Federal Scholarship Award will truly make a difference and I thank you for your generosity." -

Introducing MoneySmart

**A better way to
manage and save money.**

**NEW &
IMPROVED**
Set a Goal TODAY!

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

Login to Home Banking and click on the "My Financial" tab to start using today.

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*APY = Annual Percentage Yield.
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Contact Us

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