



Member Newsletter

JULY 2020



IN THIS EDITION...

- Freedom's Card Manager App
 - Freedom's Baltimore County Expansion
 - Turn Your Backyard Into an Oasis
 - \$25 Gift Card Drawing
- ...and so much more!

Connect With Us on Social Media!



800.440.4120

www.freedomfcu.org

FREEDOM'S CARD MANAGER APP



Freedom's new Card Manager is a free mobile app that gives you advanced control, convenience, and security over your Freedom debit and credit cards, right from your smartphone or tablet.

The Freedom Card Manager App is now available to download for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Click [HERE](#) for more info!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Late last year, Freedom began the process of requesting, with the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the governing agency that regulates credit unions, for the ability to expand our field of membership, in order to serve more residents within the state. I am extremely excited to announce to you that the NCUA has approved our request. **Effective immediately, in addition to Harford County, Freedom membership is now open to businesses and any individuals who live, work, worship, volunteer, attend school, or have family in Baltimore County.**

Your Board of Directors have also unanimously approved this field of membership expansion. With NCUA's approval, as well as Board approval, we can now provide what we call the "Freedom Advantage", our unique credit union service offering, to the greater Baltimore County communities. We will be able to better serve a larger group of Maryland consumers and businesses, many of whom we have heard from directly, that have been underserved, and address their immediate and long-term savings and lending needs as only a credit union, like Freedom, can do.

We are excited to roll out our plans for welcoming Baltimore County residents to Freedom and communicating our value proposition. We are working hard to provide the best financial institution and structure we can to serve not only our new communities within Baltimore County, but all of Harford County as well.

Freedom is an organization best qualified to meet the financial service needs of both Harford and Baltimore Counties. We're financially strong, with full-service, easily accessible locations and a wide range of financial products, services, and accessible, intuitive technology.

We have also put great focus on our social responsibility, supporting those same communities we serve. In fact, we have made it our mission to be a trusted financial partner that does more than just banking, by creating a community support culture of people helping people that meets the needs of our members and the communities we serve. We now have even more opportunity to do good in the community, for even more organizations, businesses, and people across both Baltimore and Harford Counties.

I know this is a big change for us, and you may have some questions as a result of this announcement. I want to take this opportunity to try and answer some of these for you now.

Why did Freedom want to expand its Field of Membership?

Making Freedom membership available to all those who live, work, worship, volunteer, or attend school in Baltimore County was a logical step in our Credit Union's evolution. Nearly 3,000 current Freedom members are already Baltimore County residents and were able to join because of some affiliation with Harford County. We have heard directly from so many Baltimore County residents over the years that they wish they could join Freedom. With just a few credit unions and numerous big banks in Baltimore County, credit unions are few and far between, even though they represent a better financial choice for most consumers. And we know Freedom will provide Baltimore County the exact type of financial institution that so many have said they want.

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How is this a good thing for current Freedom members?

Because of the way a credit union is structured, as a financial cooperative, the health and strength of the organization is strongly dependent on the membership being engaged and utilizing its products and services. The more members that are an active part of the credit union and using its products and services, the better the ability to offer lower cost loan options, higher deposit rates, better technology and access, and more community support. Our expansion into Baltimore County will allow Freedom to provide our unique financial offerings to more consumers that need them and provide a much needed financial alternative to the big banks. In doing so, we will be able to increase our membership, and the ability to serve all our members, and our shared communities better.

With 32,000 members and growing, Freedom has been a strong financial partner to our members for over 67 years, and we look forward to being an even better partner with this expansion.

Does this mean we are taking away resources to support Harford County? Absolutely not! Our expansion into Baltimore County does not take anything away from our focus, commitment, and support to the Harford County community. On the contrary, our expansion will afford us greater resources to expand our support of Harford County residents, businesses, and organizations. We are, and have always been, a part of this great community, and will continue to serve it as we always have.

Will you be opening new branches in Baltimore County?

We will look at all our options with respect to new and future physical locations, in both Harford and Baltimore Counties, to best serve our expanded membership. We will also review how we already serve members, regardless of location, by leveraging technology for those who like and want to conduct business electronically and remotely, on their own schedule. One of the biggest lessons we have learned during these past few months is that members are quite adept, and look for, newer technology to serve their banking needs. We will, therefore, consider all options to offer the best balance between physical locations and technology that best serves our membership.

We will continue to share information and details about this exciting news for Freedom Federal Credit Union and its membership, and where we go from here. In the meantime, if you have family, friends, and/or coworkers who live, work, study, volunteer, have family, or worship in Baltimore County, please help us spread the news of who we are, and share with them the Freedom Advantage!

I want to thank all of you for your ongoing trust and confidence in Freedom. It is because of you that we are here, and will continue to be here, for many years to come. Our future is bright, and together, there's no telling what we can accomplish



Michael MacPherson
President and CEO



REFI YOUR RIDE

Take 2.00% APR¹ Off Your Current Auto Loan Rate

Make no payments for up to 90 days² and save hundreds or even thousands over the life of your loan.³ **Freedom can approve your loan in minutes - either online, over the phone or at a branch.** Refinance with Freedom and start saving today!

[Click HERE to Learn More](#)

EMPOWER CHECKING

A Rewards Card That Works for You

Earn 3.00% APY* on your average monthly balance up to \$10,000, with no minimum balance requirements or monthly account fees.

Power up your earnings!

[Click HERE to Learn More](#)



1 Minimum APR 2.24% APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Actual rates are based on individual creditworthiness and may be higher based on credit performance. Certain restrictions apply. Estimated monthly payment per \$1,000 borrowed is \$17.63 for 60 months at 2.24% APR. 2 First payment may be deferred for 90 days. Interest will continue to accrue from the date of the loan disbursement and become due once payments begin. Not all applicants will qualify for 90-day deferred payment. Subject to credit criteria. Existing auto loan must be open for at least six (6) months. New loan term with Freedom cannot exceed 66 months. 3 Depending on loan terms, your monthly payments may or may not be reduced. Any actual amount of money you save will vary. 4 Refinancing available only on auto loans from another financial institution. Not available on existing loans with Freedom Federal Credit Union. *Annual Percentage Yield (APY) as of November 1, 2019. If your account meets the criteria described below, you will earn 3.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on balances up to \$10,000 and 0.25% APY on balances of \$10,000.01 and higher. Balances that do not meet the account requirements for a given month will earn 0.05% APY. No minimum balance requirements. No minimum to open account. No monthly maintenance fees or penalties. Fees may reduce earnings on accounts. To earn the higher rate, you must opt-in to electronic statements, and complete a minimum of 15 qualifying Point-Of-Sale (POS) purchase transactions per month using your Freedom Federal Credit Union debit card. To qualify, debit card transactions must process, post, and clear within the calendar month. Debit card transactions may take one or more business days from the transaction date to post to an account from the date the transaction is made. Both PIN and signature POS transactions qualify. ATM transactions do not qualify. Product and rates subject to change. Membership eligibility applies.

NEED TO STOP BY A BRANCH?

Be sure to monitor our [website](#) to stay up-to-date on our branch hours and policies. As always, our online and mobile banking options are here when you need them, and we are always making improvements to ensure you have the best possible experience.

DESIGNATION OF SAVINGS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Freedom Federal Credit Union has earned the annual Military Saves Designation of Savings Excellence award. This honor is reserved for financial institutions that succeed in getting people to open or add to wealth-building accounts.

Angela Caban, Military Saves Director says “The financial institutions awarded went above and beyond to encourage and support the military community to save.” “The designees awarded all pivoted to promote a fully digital campaign in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” she continued. “These banks and credit unions don't just tell people why it's important to save, they help them do it. They all play an important role in Military Saves Month by making it easy to save. When individuals utilize saving accounts, they build financial security.”

Military Saves Month, held in April, is an annual opportunity for the entire military community to assess their savings status and make a plan to start or increase saving, and for organizations to support good savings behavior.

Freedom is honored to have received this distinction, and we thank you for your continued support.



HELP FREEDOM STUFF THE BUS

DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES HERE



HELP US STUFF THE BUS

With your generous support, we can provide our most vulnerable children with the critical supplies they need to be ready to learn. All donations support children in Harford County.

July 27 - September 18

Essential School Supplies Needed

Pencils • Markers • Crayons • Glue Sticks • White Glue • Pocket Folders
 Highlighters • Dry Erase Markers • Colored Pencils • Loose Leaf Paper
 Composition Books • Erasers • Scissors • Graphing Calculators
 Pencil Boxes • 3 Hole Binders (1.5") (3") • Binder Pouches • Backpacks
 Index Cards • Ziploc Bags • Tissues • Hand Sanitizer (lots!)

Monetary and registry donations are accepted at www.bit.ly/harfordtoolsforschools



SCAN ME

Although many classrooms will be virtual this fall, essential supplies are still needed. Help us provide Harford County Students with the tools they need for academic success!

Please note that this year, collection boxes will not be available in Freedom branches. Check out the [Harford Education Foundation's Facebook](#) for more information and instructions for donating.

TURN YOUR BACKYARD INTO AN OASIS

A stay-at-home summer doesn't need to be boring. Here are ways to cost effectively maximize your outdoor space. From entertaining in style to keeping the kids busy, we've got you covered!

UPGRADE YOUR OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Make your outdoor space seem bigger by creating different seating areas for different purposes. Think a cozy coffee nook, a lazy hammock, a pair of lounge chairs for catching the afternoon sun and a patio table for entertaining guests. If you've already got a nice patio set, freshen it up by replacing the cushions and adding some summery throw pillows for a whole new look. Brighten up your outdoor space with some sconce lights along the walls or string up some old holiday lights for a festive feel.

ADD A SPLASH OF FUN

Above-ground pools can cost as little as a few hundred dollars or as much as a few thousand for a larger, upgraded model. Most take a week or less to install. And then it's an endless splashing summer!

MAKE IT NATURAL

Yes, you're already outdoors, but that doesn't mean you're surrounded by greenery. Even city slickers can add the natural touch to small apartment porches with some potted plants, a container garden or a trellis with climbing flowers.

FUN FOR THE KIDS

The sky's the limit when it comes to outdoor play; just have fun and let your creativity flow freely. Put up a rock-climbing wall, build a swing set, or install a backyard splashpad.

Once you've created the backyard of your dreams, celebrate with a cookout, and enjoy your relaxing new space.

The graphic features a large yellow circle with the Freedom Federal Credit Union logo at the top. Below the logo, the text "#FREEDOM SPIRIT WEEKS" is written in large, bold, white letters. Underneath, the dates "JUNE 12 - AUGUST 6" are displayed. Three circular images are arranged horizontally: the first shows a group of graduates with caps and gowns, the second shows a person hiking in a forest with a green dollar sign, and the third shows a group of people holding hands. Below these images, a list of weekly themes is provided: "GRADS WEEK / TAG LOCAL WEEK / CHALK IT UP WEEK / WHAT'S FOR DINNER WEEK / PROJECT PRIDE WEEK / BACK TO NATURE WEEK / MY PERFECT PET WEEK / SPIRIT WEEK". At the bottom, social media handles for Facebook (@FreedomFCU) and Instagram/Twitter (@FreedomFedCU) are shown, along with the NCUA logo.

FREEDOM'S SUMMER CONTEST SERIES

Freedom is proud to present a new summer contest series called [#FreedomSpiritWeeks](https://www.freedomfcu.com/#FreedomSpiritWeeks).

Every Friday, during the contest period, Freedom will challenge the public to submit entries according to the week's theme on social media. Entrants will be placed into a weekly drawing to win a \$50 eGift Card.

Weekly winners, along with other selected finalists, will have a chance to compete for a \$250 prize in a final showdown at the end of the contest.

Your entry could win you a \$50 eGift Card, or the Grand Prize— \$250 DOLLARS! Hurry, this contest ends on August 6th, 2020.

LOOKING FOR A STUDENT LOAN?

We've got you covered! Freedom has partnered with Sallie Mae to offer Student Loan options that are designed specifically for you*! Click the link below for more information.

[Learn More](#)

*These loans are made by Sallie Mae Bank or a lender partner. Freedom Federal Credit Union is not the creditor for these loans and is compensated by Sallie Mae for the referral of loan customers. Visit <https://www.freedomfcu.org/personal/personal-loans/student-loans/> for full details and disclosures.




P.O. Box 1545 Bel Air, MD
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freedomfcu.org

CHANGES TO FUNDS AVAILABILITY EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020

Effective July 1, 2020: The amount Freedom makes available for withdrawal by checks that are not subject to the next day availability is increasing from \$200 to \$225.

In addition, the amount available for withdrawal on the second business day after the day of your deposit for large deposits or exception hold amounts, will increase from \$5,000 to \$5,525.

WANT TO WIN \$25.00?

Of course you do. Find the Green Dollar Sign () hidden on a page in this newsletter. Click [HERE](#) to tell us which article it was in and you will be entered to win a \$25.00 Gift Card* -- Good luck!

CONGRATULATIONS to JUNE's winner
Mark K.!

*Must be 18 or older to enter. Employees and Members of the Board of Directors of FFCU are not eligible to win. Drawing runs from 7/17/2020 until 7/31/2020

BRANCHES

For hours and ATM info, visit freedomfcu.org

Park Avenue

2019 Emmorton Rd
Bel Air, MD 21015

Forest Lakes

1990 Rock Spring Rd
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Swan Creek

1830-C Pulaski Hwy
Havre de Grace, MD
21078

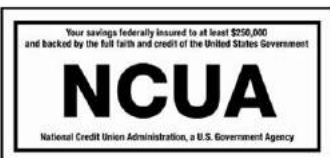
Fountain Green

1304 Churchville Rd
Bel Air, MD 21014

Edgewood*

8213 Hoadley Rd,
Building E 5002
Gunpowder, MD
21010

**Access restricted to APG
Base personnel and visitors.*



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