

Member Newsletter

MARCH 2022



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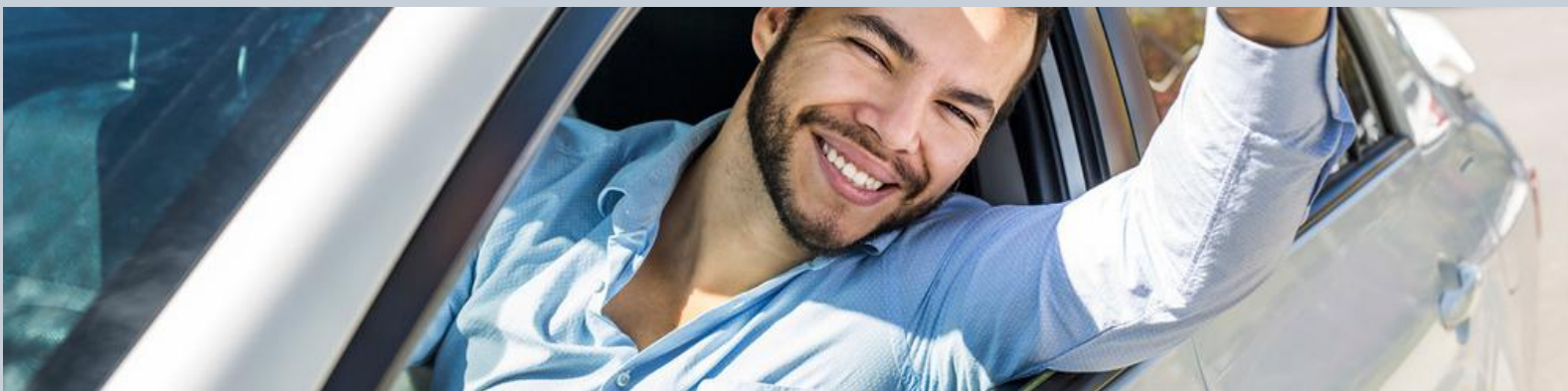
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800.440.4120

www.freedomfcu.org

BUY OR BUY OUT: WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN MY CAR'S LEASE IS UP?



In the wake of the pandemic, the national inflation rate is at a 30-year high, and the car market has experienced extreme price surges. Now that the economy is on a path to recovery, the demand for new and used cars has surged. Unfortunately, for car shoppers, the supply chain has not recovered, and the industry is facing a global shortage of microchips, an essential component in new cars.

[CONTINUE READING ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



STRESSED FROM HIGH INTEREST DEBT?

Simplify your life!

Small Rates. Big Change. Get started with a **0% Visa Balance Transfer*** or a **Debt Consolidation Loan as low as 4.99% APR^{1,2}**!

APPLY ONLINE TODAY

5 STAR SERVICE?

Share Your Freedom Experience!

Your feedback matters! Did you have an awesome experience? We would love to hear about it. Scan the in-branch QR codes when visiting us, or click the link below to leave us a review today. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

LEAVE A REVIEW



* The 0% introductory rate will revert to the current standard rate as applicable after the 15 month promotional period. That is 7.74% APR to 15.24% APR for the Platinum VISA, or 9.24% APR to 17.24% APR for the Platinum Rewards VISA, based on individual credit worthiness. Rates are subject to change. Rate will vary with the market based on Prime.

1 APR = ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE. Rate effective as of 11/1/2021. All rates are subject to change. 4.99% rate is with automated payment and e-Statement enrollment, and is based on 36 month term, \$1,000 up to \$25,000.

2 The lowest consolidation loan rate requires automated payment and e-Statement enrollment, or the rate is 0.25% higher. Other rates and terms available. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Payment example for a 60 month debt consolidation loan would consist of 60 monthly payments of \$18.87 per \$1,000.00 borrowed based off of the 4.99% APR. Some restrictions may apply. Rates available on approved credit. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate.

REMINDER: FINANCIAL PLANNING AND INVESTMENT BASICS

Freedom's financial planning partners at The Kelly Group are hosting a webinar with speaker Dr. Daniel Crosby, New York Times and USA Today Bestselling author of "The Laws of Wealth: Psychology and the secret to investing success". A psychologist, behavioral finance expert, and renowned speaker, Dr. Crosby will address in his accessible and entertaining style timeless principles for managing your investment behavior.

WHEN: March 3rd, 2022 - 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

WHERE: This will be a virtual event. Login instructions will be emailed.

REGISTER NOW

BEST NEW ACCOUNT EXPERIENCE AWARD



THANK YOU!

Freedom Federal Credit Union is proud to be Harford County's Best Bank / Credit Union!

Exceptional service and support since 1953.

Freedom Federal Credit Union is honored to be named Harford Magazine's 2021 "Best of Harford" in the category of Banks and Credit Unions.

In the words of our CEO, Mike MacPherson, "We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our membership. Your recognition is the single biggest compliment we could have received. We take pride in that we are a Credit Union made up of Employees, Board Directors, Committee Volunteers, and Members, who are all working to better the communities we serve in meaningful ways."

We are grateful for your continued support and loyalty. It is an honor to serve you.

-The Freedom Team

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for the 2022 Freedom Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting of Members, which will be held virtually on **Tuesday, April 12th at 4 PM**. Be on the lookout for the registration link in the coming weeks!

BEST OF THE BEST IN MEMBER EXPERIENCE

Freedom was named the Best of the Best by MemberXP for all three of their primary member experiences: Transactions, New Accounts, and New Loans.

This recognition is granted to Credit Unions that achieve and maintain specific criteria, based on member feedback through survey participation.

Freedom members consistently rated us top scores when it came to the ease of their transactions and their overall experience, and included that they would recommend us to a friend!

We are honored to have received this recognition, and want to thank all of you who participated in the surveys over the last year.



THE METAVERSE AND NFTS 101

Our world is constantly evolving, and the technology that was a wonder just a decade ago, is now dated. Let's take a look at two major innovations in the tech world and finance, as well as how they may affect our very near future: The metaverse and NFTs.

What is the metaverse? The metaverse is a scaled, interoperable network of real-time rendered 3D virtual worlds to be experienced simultaneously by an infinite number of users. In simple English, the metaverse is an all-immersive digital universe where users can live, connect and even make financial transactions through virtual reality and augmented reality.

Does the metaverse exist? While some forms of the metaverse already exist, the full experience envisioned by tech giants likely won't be ready for consumer use for another five to 10 years. However, small aspects of the metaverse, including ultra-fast broadband speeds, online worlds that are always "on" and virtual reality headsets bringing the user into another world, are already quite common across the internet and gaming world.

How will the metaverse affect the world of finance? Experts envision a world where a consumer can enter a massive virtual shopping mall, purchase a unique digital item and sell it in a different virtual world, such as on Twitter or eBay. In addition, the expected meteoric rise in popularity of the metaverse creates a unique investment opportunity for the savvy investor.

What are NFTs? NFTs (non-fungible tokens) are a kind of crypto asset in which each token has a unique value. This is as opposed to "fungible" assets, like Bitcoin and dollar bills, which all have exactly the same value. Because every NFT is unique, they can be used to authenticate ownership of digital assets, including artworks, recordings and virtual real estate or pets.

How do NFTs work? NFTs can be anything digital, like music, videos or drawings, but digital art has been monopolizing NFT trading since its inception. NFT art collecting is not unlike fine art collecting in the real world: Millions of people can buy a Monet print, but only one person can own the original – and pay for it. Similarly, while anyone can own a copy of a digital piece of art, the original can sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars, or in some cases, millions.

What's the purpose of NFTs? NFTs present a world of financial possibilities for artists and collectors. Digital artists with real talent can earn a pretty penny through NFTs and will continue enjoying dividends of their work far beyond its initial sale. Every time the NFT changes hands, the artist gets a percentage of the profits. Collectors can use NFTs to purchase unique digital artwork as a financial asset. A work of art always carries with it the possibility of becoming wildly popular and spiking in value. Digital artwork is no exception. In addition, owning an NFT comes with some basic rights, which include being able to post the image online.

FREEDOM EVENTS

SEE WHAT'S COMING UP AT FREEDOM FCU

SELECT AN EVENT TYPE ▼

Stewards of Wealth
and Well-Being

THU, MAR 3, 2022 6:00PM

[Join Dr. Crosby on
Managing Investment
Behavior](#)

Virtual



WED, MAR 16, 2022 5:30PM

[19th Annual Mega
Networking Event](#)

Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel
Towson

There is always something happening at Freedom!
Stay up-to-date on the latest events on our [website](#).

HCPS LIMELIGHT SPONSORSHIP



Freedom was excited to sponsor HCPS' virtual Limelight event in January. The HCPS Limelight program celebrates employees who consistently demonstrate outstanding customer service. Honorees are nominated by their school administrator. Each honoree received a 'Thank You' gift card, and a drawing was held for the grand prize of a \$100.00 Amazon gift card. Congrats to our grand prize winner, Patricia Dunaway from North Harford Elementary!

FREEDOM IS BANK SAFE CERTIFIED

Freedom has once again earned the AARP BankSafe Trained Seal in recognition of the training we have undergone and policies we have in place to better protect the assets of older Americans.



**Working to
prevent financial
exploitation**

Learn more: aarp.org/banksafe.

GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

We are now accepting entries for this year's Golden Apple Educator Award! Entrants must be a Freedom Member* and an employee at a Harford or Baltimore County school (public or private).

Freedom Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce, we have DOUBLED the AWARDS and are now offering **EIGHT Annual Educator Awards of \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500 and \$500**, four each to Harford and Baltimore County Education Employees who may be a deserving teacher, school administrator or school support employee.

To enter, complete the entry form and submit an essay that explains why you deserve the award.

Find essay topics on our website. Scoring favors proposals demonstrating the greatest impact on local schools, classes, students, and/or the community at large.

- **Entry deadline is May 30, 2022 (NEW EXTENDED DEADLINE!)**
- **Submit by email to marketing@freedomfcu.org**
- **We will announce the winner by June 17, 2022**

LEARN MORE

*New members are also welcome to apply!

FREEDOM DONATES CLASSROOM LIBRARIES



Freedom Federal Credit Union, in partnership with Harford County Public Schools, is providing all new educators, teaching in Kindergarten through Second Grade, with starter libraries for their classrooms.

Across the county, 42 new teachers, in 22 schools, will receive a bundle of over 500 grade-specific reading books appropriate for their students and aligned with their curriculum. This is the first time an organized effort has been made to broadly equip new teachers at HCPS with a classroom library to ensure no one is starting off without essential reading resources for their students.

If you are an educator within Harford County or Baltimore County schools, you are eligible for **Freedom's Golden Apple Program**, a special savings and rewards program for educators.

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 last issue's winner:
EFIA O.!

*Must be 18 or older to enter. Employees and Members of the Board of Directors of FFCU are not eligible to win. Gift Card will be digital, sent via email. Drawing runs until 3/31/2022.



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freedomfcu.org

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

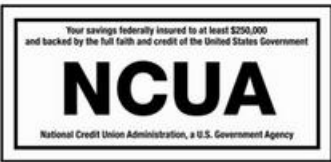
1304 Churchville Rd
Bel Air, MD 21014

Edgewood*

8213 Hoadley Rd,
Building E 5002
Gunpowder, MD 21010
**Access restricted to APG
Base personnel and visitors.*

Honeygo

5000 Honeygo Center Dr,
Perry Hall, MD 21128



Happy with your Freedom experience? Consider referring us to friends and family, sharing your experience, or leaving us a review [online](#).