



# Member Newsletter

APRIL 2022



## IN THIS EDITION...

- Last Minute Tax Tips
- Spring Shred Days
- A Word From Our CEO
- Get Social!
- Enter to Win a \$25 eGift Card

...And more!

Connect With Us on Social Media!



800.440.4120

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

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2022 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS



The 2022 Freedom Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting of Members will be held virtually on Tuesday, April 12 at 4 PM. This will be an online, 'business-only meeting' and you must be a Freedom member to attend.

**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TODAY!**

# LAST MINUTE TAX TIPS

It's tax season! If you haven't filed yet, read through our list of last-minute tax tips. Use this information to maximize your refund and ensure there are no mistakes on your tax return.

## Consider Filing Electronically

The IRS e-file is available to all taxpayers, and many people can file electronically at no cost. Get started [here](#).

## Re-Check Your Social Security Numbers

Make sure every Social Security number on your return, including your own, your partner's and each of your dependent's, is correctly listed. Check that the SSNs related to claims for Child and Dependent Care Credit or Earned Income Tax Credit are accurate as well.

## Don't Forget Any Deductions

Here are some of the deductions people often forget to take:

- The home office deduction.
- Out-of-pocket charitable contributions, such as the cost of meal prep for the help you do at a soup kitchen or gas used while driving to a charity drop off.
- Student loan interest you've paid, or that someone has paid on your behalf.

## Claim the Full Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

The American Rescue Plan increases the Child and Dependent Care Credit and makes it fully refundable. The changes to the Child and Dependent Care Credit that apply only for tax year 2021 include:

- The highest credit percentage increased to 50% of qualifying expenses.
- Qualifying child and dependent care expenses increased from \$3,000 to \$8,000 for one qualifying dependent, and from \$6,000 to \$16,000 for two or more qualifying individuals.
- The adjusted gross income (AGI) level at which the credit percentage starts being reduced increased to \$125,000.

## Double-Check Your Figures

If you are filing a paper return, double-check that you have correctly calculated the refund or balance due.

## Get Your Return in On Time

If you won't be ready to file your return by April 18, you'll need to request an extension. It's important to note, though, that an extension to file does not include an extension for payment.

## Sign Your Form

Don't forget to sign and date your form, and to also have your partner sign if you're filing jointly. If you've hired someone to prepare your return, have the preparer sign the form and enter their Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN).



## FREEDOM'S LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

# SHRED DAY



Shred Days are back at Freedom! Check out the dates below, and visit our [events page](#) for more information.

### [Park Avenue Shred Day](#)

Saturday, May 7 from 9A - 12P

### [Honeygo Shred Day](#)

Saturday, May 21 from 9A - 12P

## GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

Freedom is 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). To enter, complete the entry form and submit an essay that explains why you deserve the award. [Find essay topics on our website](#). The entry deadline is May 30, 2022.

### LEARN MORE AND APPLY

\*New members are also welcome to apply!

## WHAT SEEMS UNIMPORTANT

I made the most important mistake at the most unimportant time. That was the phrase I uttered in a dream a few weeks ago. I was apologizing for something and said, "I'm sorry I made the most important mistake at the most unimportant time." It's a phrase I have not been able to shake. I kept thinking about it over and over trying to gain some insight as to what it might mean. I think I figured it out.

There are no unimportant times and there are no unimportant actions. Everything we say and do matters, on some level, in every moment. Even if it seems a trivial or mundane act, even the simplest thing, can have a major impact.

What I think my subconscious mind was trying to tell me is that you can't take anything for granted; a smile at a passerby, the door you don't hold, the stranger you help, the person you judge, you never know what that will mean or do to someone else. We all have a responsibility to think about the messages we send, the values we convey and the world we help influence because too many today place personal desire or want above the greater good.

I know nobody's perfect. We just need...

This article was written is by Freedom's CEO, Mike Macpherson. Click [HERE](#) to continue reading.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike MacPherson'.

Michael MacPherson  
President and CEO



## ANYTHING LOANS... WE MEAN 'ANYTHING'

*Get the support you need*

You may be in need of financial support that doesn't fit a specific loan category. We have you covered with Freedom's Anything Loan, now as low as 4.99% APR and including deferred payments up to 90 days!<sup>1,2</sup>

**APPLY ONLINE TODAY**

## LIVE MORE. DO MORE. EMPOWER CHECKING.

*The new standard of Free Checking*

Grow your savings, with all the freedom of a checking account. Earn 3.00% APY\* with an Empower Checking account from Freedom Federal Credit Union.

**LEARN MORE**



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 First payment may be deferred for up to 90 days. Interest will continue to accrue from the date of loan disbursement. Not all applicants will qualify for the 90-day deferred payment. Certain restrictions apply. Speak with representative for complete details. Some restrictions may apply. Rates available on approved credit. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate.

\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) as of 11/1/2021. 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.

## 5 STAR SERVICE?

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, and for sharing your Freedom Experience.

**LEAVE A REVIEW**



# ARE WE FRIENDS YET?

## GET SOCIAL

Join Us On Facebook for the Latest and Greatest from Freedom



Supporting teachers is our happy place 😊

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Freedom dropped by Golden Ring Middle School today to drop off some cool Freedom cinch bags for the students. Thanks to everyone there



P.O. Box 1545 Bel Air, MD  
21014 | 800-440-4120  
freedomfcu.org

## BRANCHES

For hours and ATM info,  
visit [freedomfcu.org](http://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

Get social with Freedom! If you have visited our website lately, you may have noticed that our Facebook feed is displayed at the bottom of the homepage.

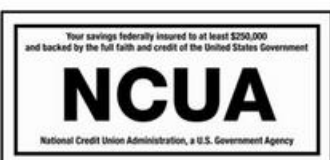
There is always something new to talk about, and we want to ensure our members are receiving the latest information. If you haven't already, be sure to 'like' our [Facebook page](#), follow us on [Instagram](#), and add us on [Twitter](#).

## 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:  
Amelie G.!

\*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 4/30/2022.



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