



Member Newsletter

AUGUST 2024



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- Register for Our September Webinar
- The Kelly Group Says... Protect Yourself from Scams
- Congratulations to our Golden Apple Awardees!
- #SummerofFreedomFCU Contest Recap

...And more!

Connect With Us on Social Media!



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freedomfcu.org

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FREEDOM'S PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Freedom Members,

Back in March of this year, I announced to you some very exciting news about our intention to merge Atlantic Financial Federal Credit Union (AFFCU) into Freedom Federal Credit Union. Since then, a lot has been going on behind the scenes in support of the merger. I would like to update you now on one of those initiatives.

One of the first steps in the merger process was to ensure the field of membership (FOM) charters for both AFFCU and Freedom FCU matched identically. As a result, in May, we formally requested and applied to our governing body, the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) to expand our FOM to include Baltimore City and Carroll County, in addition to our existing charter which includes Harford County and Baltimore County.

I am pleased to inform you that the NCUA has approved the FOM expansion request. Your Board of Directors have also unanimously approved and ratified the new field of membership charter...

[READ MORE](#)



LOOKING FOR A SMARTER WAY TO PAY FOR COLLEGE?

We've Got You Covered

Freedom has partnered with Sallie Mae to offer Student Loan options that are designed specifically for you.* It's time to invest in yourself and your dreams!

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

ANY...NEED

Unexpected expenses can arise at any moment. [Our Anything Loan is here to help with life's surprises.](#)

With rates [as low as 4.99% APR¹](#) and the option to [defer payment for up to 90 days²](#), you'll be ready to take on... well... anything.

[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 customer.

1 APR = Annual Percentage Rate.

2 4.99% rate is with automated payment and e-Statement enrollment, and is based on 36-month term, \$500 up to \$30,000. Effective date is June 1, 2024. Some restrictions may apply. Rates available on approved credit. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate. First payment may be deferred for up to 90 days. Interest will continue to accrue from the date of loan disbursal. Not all applicants will qualify for the 90-day deferred payment. Certain restrictions apply. Speak with a representative for complete details. Federally insured by NCUA

SEPTEMBER WEBINAR: REGISTER NOW!

Join Freedom for our FREE September webinar: Making it Big in the Gig Economy. Together, we'll discuss how to shift your side gig from a 'job' to an investment. This virtual event will be held on September 5th at 7:00 PM.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

YOUR SMALL-TOWN DOCTOR OF FINANCIAL PLANNING SAYS: PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

There are some certainties in life beyond death and taxes. For example, you can always be sure that there are people who want to take your or your family's money in illegal ways. Here are just a few prevalent scams and some suggestions on how to protect yourself:

Check Washing - This is a type of fraud where criminals steal checks from the mail, use chemicals to erase the original writing, and then rewrite the checks for larger amounts or to different payees. In addition, even after the initial misuse of the altered check, the fraudsters may then use the personal identifiable information found on the check and from other stolen mail for credit card fraud and other unauthorized withdrawals from the checking account. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network estimates that there were 680,000 instances of check fraud in 2022, double the previous year's incidents. To help prevent yourself from becoming a victim of check washing and other types of check fraud, consider taking the following steps:

- Use gel pens. These contain ink that is resistant to washing and cannot be easily erased by chemicals.
- Do not mail checks in a standard outdoor collection box. Instead, mail them inside the post office.
- Frequently monitor your bank statements and online account for suspicious activity.
- Use electronic payment methods to reduce the use of checks.
- Retrieve your mail promptly and don't leave it in your mailbox overnight.

Ghosting - Here, an identity thief uses personal information obtained from an obituary to assume the identity of a deceased individual. That information is then used to access or open financial accounts, take out loans, and file fraudulent tax returns to collect refunds. Typically, a ghosting scam will occur shortly after someone's death--before it has been reported to banks, credit report agencies, or government organizations such as The Social Security Administration (SSA) or Internal Revenue Service (IRS). To help prevent such scams, add the following to your postmortem checklist as part of your estate planning process or following a family member's death:

- Report a death as soon as possible to the SSA, IRS, and applicable banks and other financial institutions.
- Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles to cancel the deceased's driver's license.
- Ask the major credit reporting bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) to put a "deceased alert" on the deceased's credit reports and monitor them for unusual activity.
- Avoid putting too much personal information in an obituary, such as birth date, place of birth, or mother's maiden name.

[CONTINUE READING ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 GOLDEN APPLE EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENTS!



Please join us in congratulating our 2024 Golden Apple Award recipients! We received a record number of entries this year, and are once again amazed by the creativity and passion displayed by our local educators. \$8,000 in classroom grants were awarded.

We hope you will [visit our website](#) to learn more about the eight Awardees and their visionary projects.

#SUMMEROFFREEDOMFCU 2024: SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST RECAP



Thank you to everyone who entered, liked, commented and shared during our #SummerofFreedomFCU social contest!

Missy Hall was our Grand Prize Winner, taking home \$1,000! 2nd place (\$250) was awarded to Coleen Baird, and the 3rd place prize (\$100) was won by Matthew Herold.

Did you miss out on the summer fun? No worries! We love hosting contests and events, so don't forget to 'LIKE' or 'FOLLOW' us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) - we would hate to see you miss out on future fun...



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FREEDOM ROCKS '24

Join Freedom Federal Credit Union on November 16th for our first major fundraiser, Freedom Rocks '24 Bull and Shrimp Roast in Support of The Freedom to Help Foundation.

At Freedom Rocks '24, you'll enjoy an evening of great fun, food, drinks, and music, including your favorite songs from the greatest bands of the '70s, '80s, and '90s.

All proceeds benefit The Freedom to Help Foundation.

The Foundation's mission is to enrich the communities we serve, empower individual success through education, provide resources for health and wellness, and to support our military and their families.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

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:

Rajiv 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 9/15/2024.

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

2025 Pulaski Hwy
Havre de Grace, MD
21078

Fountain Green

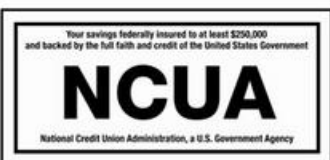
1304 Churchville Rd
Bel Air, MD 21014

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](#).