

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023 | SPRING ISSUE



From The Desk Of:

*Drema D. Isaac*

Drema D. Isaac - President & CEO

I encourage you to join the Board of Directors and myself at our 66th Annual Meeting. I'll highlight the Credit Union's 2022 accomplishments and plans for 2023. Chairman Raymond White Jr. will share why FreeStar Financial is a safe, sound, and secure financial institution.

The merger with Belle River Community Credit Union was our greatest success in 2022. We'll celebrate its first anniversary by sharing how this partnership benefited the membership, team members who serve you, and the Richmond community.

In 2023, we look forward to implementing upgraded mortgage loan origination software. This update will streamline your mortgage process to quickly determine next steps, upload documents, as well as sign electronically.

FreeStar Financial has been providing mortgage loans for over 65 years and maintains servicing for the life of the loan. In just three years, members originated over \$55 million in mortgages and \$27 million in Home Equity Lines of Credit (HELOCs).

Mortgage Origination		
Year	Mortgages	HELOCs
2022	\$11,423,844	\$15,485,023
2021	\$17,751,084	\$5,547,725
2020	\$25,951,681	\$5,844,263
Total	\$55,126,609	\$26,877,011

## ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2023

3:00 P.M. AT ZUCCARO'S BANQUET HALL  
46601 GRATIOT AVENUE (SOUTH OF 21 MILE RD)  
CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP, MI 48051

Last year, homeowners increasingly took advantage of their home's equity to open a HELOC. This line of credit helped members with other spending needs beyond home improvement.

The Credit Union always seeks to add value and improve our members' financial lives. I'm proud that we offer a wide variety of products and services to meet your daily needs or help take your dreams higher.

One other way FreeStar Financial works to help members is through advocacy. Your board and executive team meet with federal lawmakers each year on Capitol Hill while attending the CUNA Governmental Affairs Conference in Washington, DC.

CUNA is the Credit Union National Association that works to support and protect credit unions. At this event, we unite with industry leaders from across the nation. Our collective voice urges legislative support on bills to positively impact our membership and community.

At our 66th Annual Meeting, you have the opportunity to join fellow members to elect the board directors who govern our Credit Union and ask questions or share your thoughts. I hope to see you there.

## FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- Boost Your Savings with a 4.25% CD
- Make Waves with Our Affordable Boat Loans
- Put the Brakes on Your Auto Payment
- Q2 Team Awards Winners Announced
- We Awarded \$10,000 to One Lucky Member
- Meet the Managers: Gayle Bryant
- Get More from Your Home with a HELOC



We'd Love to Hear From You!



Scan here to share your 5-Star FreeStar Financial story.

# GROW YOUR **SAVINGS**, WITHOUT THE **RISK!**

Great rate **now**, potential to earn more **later!**

LOCK IN A RATE OF  
**4.25** %\*  
APY  
AT A TERM THAT  
FITS YOUR NEEDS

**13**  
Month

**18**  
Month

OR

**22**  
Month

Looking for a safe and secure investment option with a guaranteed interest rate? FreeStar Financial's Certificate of Deposit (CD) offers a competitive rate of 4.25%, fixed for the term of the CD. Choose a term that fits your needs, starting at just 6 months, and begin your journey towards achieving your savings goals. With FreeStar Financial, you can open a CD with as little as \$500, making it a great option for both short-term and long-term savings goals. Don't pass up the chance to increase your savings with a 4.25% CD from FreeStar Financial.

\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. APY is the total amount of dividends paid on an account, based on the dividend rate and the frequency of monthly compounding for a 365-day period, and expressed as a percentage. Rates and terms subject to change. \*\*New Money Only – Funds must come from cash or another financial institution. No existing FreeStar Financial deposits can be used to take advantage of this promotion. No limitations on the number of CDs opened per household or age of member. Member must visit a branch location or call to take advantage of these specials. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. Offer subject to change at any time without notice.

## MAKE **WAVES** WITH OUR **AFFORDABLE BOAT LOANS**

Are you ready to set sail on your next adventure?

*FreeStar Financial* can help make your dream of owning a boat a reality with our *affordable boat loans*.

Our fixed interest rates ensure you know exactly what your monthly payments will be, so you can plan and manage your finances with ease. Plus, our loan application process is quick and easy, so you can spend less time worrying about financing and more time enjoying the water.

**Contact us today and make waves with FreeStar Financial!**

SCAN THIS CODE OR VISIT OUR SITE TO  
**APPLY TODAY!**



## Q2 Team Awards Winners Announced

We're thrilled to announce the winners of our Quarterly Team Awards!

Jessica Reif, Branch Manager at our Shelby Township branch, has been named Team Leader of the Quarter. Jessica was nominated by one of her team members for always supporting them and sharing her knowledge and expertise. They said "Jessica has given me the opportunity to learn about the Credit Union, not just about the products and services that we provide, but about how each team member is able to provide each other and our members." Jessica has a combined 4 years of service with FreeStar Financial and since becoming the Branch Manager, has developed new credit union partnerships, gained the heart of members, and created a culture of success with her team.

Kristen Stricklen, Vault Teller at our Selfridge branch, has been named Team Member of the Quarter. Kristen has been with FreeStar Financial for just over a year, and is highly involved in various committees, volunteers at events, and is known for always being a team player. Kristen was nominated by one of her peers who recognized Kristen for being a hard worker and a valuable mentor stating "Kristen has made such an impact on not only my life, but the lives of other team members and members."

Congratulations to both Jessica and Kristen for their outstanding achievements this quarter! ■



JESSICA REIF



KRISTEN STRICKLEN

# PUT THE BRAKES ON PAYMENTS FOR 3 MONTHS



Get ready to hit the road in  
your dream car, **worry free.**

With **FreeStar Financial's** Auto Loan Deferment Program, you can take a breather and delay your payments for **up to 3 months.**

If you have a checking with direct deposit, you will get **0.25% off your rate!** Our rates are competitive, and the application process is **quick and easy.**



SCAN THIS CODE OR VISIT OUR SITE TO  
**APPLY TODAY!**



L to R: Josh Puranen, Matt P., Drema Issac, and Chris Clapp.

## We Awarded **\$10,000** to One Lucky Member

FreeStar Financial Credit Union recently awarded a \$10,000 prize to one lucky member, Matt P., as part of its \$10k Giveaway Promotion. The promotion was open to members who applied and closed on a qualifying home equity line of credit or mortgage loan of \$25,000 or more during the promotional period. Matt expressed his appreciation to FreeStar Financial Credit Union for making the loan process easy and fast. The winner was chosen through a live drawing, which was streamed on Facebook.

Matt P. was announced as our lucky winner during a live drawing held on Facebook. During the official check presentation Matt said, "I am so glad that I chose FreeStar Financial for my loan. The process was fast and easy, and I know that becoming a member with FreeStar Financial was the best decision I made."

To see more on the promotion and the check presentation, use the QR code to view the video. ■

## MEET THE MANAGERS

# GAYLE BRYANT



### Branch Manager

### Chesterfield Township

Gayle Bryant is a valued member of the FreeStar Financial team, with a Master of Science in Psychology from the University of Phoenix. She is a dedicated professional with a passion for helping members achieve their financial goals. In her free time, Gayle enjoys exploring new destinations, curling up with a good book, quilting, and knitting.

She is a proud grandmother and dog owner, and loves nothing more than sharing photos of her beloved family. Gayle joined FreeStar Financial in 2021, and she is delighted to have found such a welcoming and friendly workplace. She is particularly impressed by the members' unwavering dedication to the credit union, and is committed to providing them with the highest levels of service and support. ■



“FreeStar has been extremely friendly and welcoming. I feel like I've returned home.”

- Gayle



## Unleash the Power of Your Home with a HELOC!

Turn your dreams into reality with our **Home Equity Line of Credit!** Our smart and cost-effective borrowing option allows you to **borrow against your home equity** with interest charged only on the amount borrowed.

Borrow up to 90%\* of your home's value with **no annual fee** and **no minimum draw** required. Our **HELOC rate is guaranteed for 5 years** and adjusts every 5 years after that, ensuring you **only pay on what you borrow**. Use it to create the living space of your dreams, be prepared for life's surprises, invest in your future, or plan the perfect event.

### UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES FOR YOUR FINANCIAL NEEDS

- ✓ Home Renovations
- ✓ Emergency Fund
- ✓ College Expenses
- ✓ Debt Consolidation
- ✓ Vacation Trip
- ✓ Wedding Planning
- ✓ And So Much More!



Scan the QR code or visit our website to

**APPLY TODAY!**

Contact one of our **Mortgage Representatives** today to learn more and **unleash the power of your home**.

[mortgages@freestarfinancial.com](mailto:mortgages@freestarfinancial.com) | 586-466-7800 option 2

\*ONLY applies on 2nd lien HELOCs when FreeStar Financial is in 1st lien position. Otherwise, 80% is the maximum.

## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**May 29th**  
Memorial Day

**June 19th**  
Juneteenth

You can easily access your account 24/7 by using our mobile app or online banking.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest news, events and promotions.



FreeStarFinancial.com

586-466-7800