

FreeStar  
Financial



# NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER ISSUE 2023



From The Desk Of:

*Drema D. Isaac*

Drema D. Isaac - President & CEO

Credit unions have always been a smart and secure place to keep your money. As member-owned, not-for-profit financial institutions, credit unions are dedicated to ensuring members' financial security and success. That dedication is evidenced by the growing number of credit union memberships nationwide, showcasing the unmistakable Credit Union Difference.

Unlike banks, credit unions operate on a cooperative model, prioritizing membership and community benefits. The Credit Union National Association (CUNA), in conjunction with the Michigan Credit Union League and other state leagues, champions this cause. They're steadfast in advocating, supporting, and advancing credit unions across America.

CUNA's quarterly Member Benefits Report is a testament to the tangible benefits of credit union membership. The 2023 First Quarter report noted that Michigan credit unions contributed \$765 million in direct financial benefits to their collective members, a significant increase from the prior year's \$485 million. This equated to an average member benefit of \$130, or \$273 per household, showcasing the financial advantage of choosing a credit union over a traditional bank.

These benefits stem from competitive pricing, higher returns on CDs, fee-free checking accounts, and lower interest rates on loans. For instance, members who finance a \$25,000 vehicle for five years at a credit union are projected to save an average of \$150 annually in interest expenses, as

compared to those who opt for traditional banking institutions.

Beyond these direct financial benefits, credit unions like FreeStar Financial provide enhanced access to healthy and affordable financial services, especially to low-income communities often overlooked by traditional banks. Credit unions are also at the forefront of supporting home ownership. The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) reports a notable growth in Michigan credit union loan portfolios, emphasizing their role in fostering financial well-being.

FreeStar Financial exemplifies this commitment. With a membership base of 22,400 and assets exceeding \$322 million, we're unwavering in our dedication to quality service and community engagement. Our "Take Your Dreams Higher" tagline encapsulates our pledge to elevate each member's financial prosperity through innovative and personalized solutions.

We are passionately devoted to impacting diverse groups, including students, seniors, and businesses. Our commitment is anchored in the mission to foster meaningful connections and offer progressive financial solutions that positively influence our members, team, and the broader community.

Thank you for choosing FreeStar Financial. Your membership amplifies the Credit Union Difference, affirming our collective journey towards enhanced financial security, empowerment, and growth. ■

## FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

- Put a Little More Giving in Your Pocket.
- Welcoming in the Season of Saving.
- Making 2024 Your Best Year Yet!
- Aid Amplified for Vets Returning Home.
- Chase the Sunshine with Our RV Loans.
- On-the-Go with Online Banking.
- Earn More with Rewards Checking.



**We'd Love to  
Hear From You!**



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

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# HOLIDAY

VISA CARD

Deck the halls, fill the stockings, and embrace the holiday spirit without worry! Our Visa® credit card is your go-to financial companion to cover all your seasonal needs. Enjoy a straightforward rate of **3.99% APR\*** and a credit limit up to **\$15,000**—no surprises, no hidden fees, just peace of mind.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO  
**APPLY TODAY!**



\*3.99% APR available for new FreeStar Financial Visa card holders for 12 billing cycles on new purchases and balance transfers made within 90 days of account opening. Standard rates and credit limits are subject to credit history and other determining factors. Equal Opportunity Lender. Federally insured by the NCUA.

*The Season of Saving*

# WINTER WONDER LOAN

The holiday season has a knack for sneaking up on us with expenses we didn't plan for. That's where Our Winter Wonder Loan comes in. Whether you're aiming to complete your holiday shopping list, add that magical touch to your home, or escape to a winter paradise, our loan has you covered for those unexpected moments.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO  
**APPLY TODAY!**



\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate is "as low as" and may change based on credit history, term and other determining factors. Payment example: A loan of \$5,000.00 at 8.74% APR for 26 months would have a monthly payment of \$219.77. Offer requires Payment Protection coverage OR active checking with a full payroll direct deposit of \$1,100 per month. Loan terms up to 24 months, can be extended for Payment Protection. APR may be higher, based on term of loan, and credit score. Rates are subject to change at any time.





## An Evening of Racing & Giving Back to Veterans

Our first-ever “Night at the Races” was more than simply a fun evening of racing. It was a heartfelt ceremony aimed at repaying those who had sacrificed so much - our veterans. This was FreeStar’s first major fundraising event, and the purpose was simple, to promote the Vets Returning Home project.

The night saw enthusiastic participation, and the community’s generosity was in full display. Together, attendees raised a substantial \$10,681. These funds are a game changer since they directly benefit veterans in need. Every bit matters and demonstrates how much people care.

Inspired by the success of this event, FreeStar Financial looks forward to future opportunities to engage with and empower our community, while always keeping the spirit of giving in mind. ■

## Can You Make 2024 Your Best Financial Year Yet?

The year’s end is sneaking up, but with it comes the thrill of a fresh financial start. Ready for your roadmap to financial clarity? Dive in with FreeStar Financial!

- ✓ **1. Track Every Penny.**  
Here’s a pro-tip: A spreadsheet for bills and expenses. Know what you spend. Know what you save. Total transparency.
- ✓ **2. Draft Your Budget Blueprint.**  
Every financial skyscraper starts with a solid blueprint - your budget. Dream of that epic vacation or a new home? Time to plan for it.
- ✓ **3. Crush That Debt.**  
Got lingering debt? Consider a switcheroo. Opt for a lower interest rate. Pay it off quicker. Save a ton. Win-win!
- ✓ **4. Your “Oh Snap!” Fund.**  
Unexpected costs can drop in like unwelcome guests. An emergency fund? It’s your personal financial bouncer. Be ready for anything.
- ✓ **5. Future-Proof Your Wallet.**  
Set aside 5-10% of every paycheck. Think of it as gifting your future self. Trust us, it adds up.

Achievable goals might feel like a high climb, but every step you take is a stride towards a stress-free financial skyline. And if you trip up? No worries. Lace up and start the trek again.

Jumpstart your New Year with a bank balance that makes you smile. Dive in with FreeStar Financial and take the wheel of your financial journey! ■



# EARN REWARDS FOR BEING YOU.

Harvest the benefits this autumn with our **Boomerang Rewards Checking Account**. Relish in **4% cash back** on purchases or cozy up with a warm **4% APY\*** on balances up to \$7,500. Crafted with your rewards in the heart of the season. Let your money fall into place!

APY = ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD. RATES MAY VARY AFTER THE ACCOUNT IS OPENED. NO MINIMUM DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO OPEN THE ACCOUNT. APPLIES TO REGULAR CHECKING ACCOUNTS. MUST BE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.



## CHASE THE SUNSHINE WITH OUR RV LOANS!



Whether you're seeking adventure or tranquility, our RV Loans offer friendly service, flexible terms, and the promise of unforgettable journeys.

Make this winter your best adventure yet with **FreeStar Financial Credit Union**.

**FUEL YOUR JOURNEY!  
APPLY TODAY!**

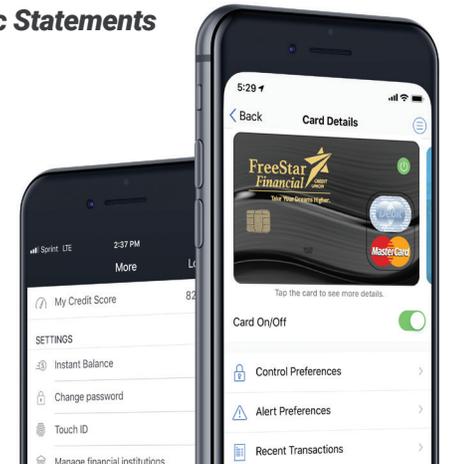


## ONLINE BANKING ANYTIME ANYWHERE

This summer, enjoy the freedom of banking on your schedule. FreeStar Financial's Online Banking gives you complete control over your finances, right at your fingertips. Whether you're planning your 2024 budget or managing your accounts, you can do it all online:

Plus, our mobile app will allow you to:

- ▶ Check Your **Account Balance**
- ▶ Mobile **Check Deposits**
- ▶ Check your **Credit Score**
- ▶ Access **Electronic Statements**
- ▶ **FREE** Bill Pay
- ▶ **Transfer Funds**



## UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**October 9th** - Columbus Day

**November 11th** - Veterans Day\*

**November 23th** - Thanksgiving

**December 25th** - Christmas

**January 1st** - New Year's Day

\*Drive-Thru/Call Center Only

Access your accounts 24/7 through Online and Mobile Banking. Make deposits, transfer funds, and more, all without visiting a branch.



**FreeStarFinancial.com**

**586-466-7800**

