

# FreeStar Financial

## News *Spring 2018*



### **Dear Valued Members,**

Happy spring! What a wonderful time of year. The days are getting longer, and the flowers are starting to bloom. Activity outdoors is starting to pick up, and actions within the credit union movement are also gaining momentum. Credit Union advocacy is critical in today's highly regulated financial industry. It is essential that credit union leaders regularly meet with legislators to share how new and current regulations affect our membership.

I regularly attend legislative meetings in Lansing and Washington DC on behalf of Michigan credit unions and to represent our FreeStar Financial members. Regulatory issues impacting our members and the credit union industry are the focus of these legislative discussions. As data breaches continue to occur in the retail industry, we urged lawmakers to enact data breach legislation to protect our members from fraud. Retail merchants should provide prompt notification when there is a data breach, allowing credit unions to deter potential loss. Merchants should also have strong security standards which will mitigate the risk of fraud when storing consumer information.

Another topic receiving considerable attention this year will be restricting the excessive fees and rates imposed by Payday Lenders. As a Credit Union, we pride ourselves in superior service to our members and work hard to help you reach your financial goals. Too often we have witnessed members who have been impacted by an endless cycle of debt from payday lenders. Borrowers may end up paying more in fees than what they received from the actual loan amount. Consumers should have protection from these predatory lending practices.

FreeStar Financial is proud of its commitment to our members. We will continue to engage in discussions with federal and state legislators on the issues and regulations that have the biggest impact on those we serve every day. At times we may invite you to reach out to your local representative to assist us in promoting Credit Union industry issues impacting your rights as a credit union member.

It is my pleasure, along with many credit union leaders throughout the United States, to advocate for the advancement of the credit union movement.

Sincerely,

**Drema D. Isaac**

President and CEO

Join Us for our  
**Annual Meeting**  
**April 19, 2018 at 3 p.m.**

Concorde Inn  
44315 N. Gratiot Ave.  
Clinton Township, MI 48036



**Take Your Dreams Higher.**

Follow us!



[www.FreeStarFinancial.com](http://www.FreeStarFinancial.com)



Spring 2018

## Spring Seminars

Please join us for the following FREE educational seminars at the **Main branch in Clinton Township from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Light refreshments will be served.

APRIL  
17

### Elder Law

Presented by Attorney Mickey Vizard from "Planning for your Future"

Discover ways to avoid probate, how to care for your loved ones in their retirement years, and the importance of assigning Power of Attorney and other privileges.

APRIL  
24

### Home Buying

Presented by Josh Puranen, Real Estate Loan Originator

Learn the steps to secure your dream home from getting prequalified, to planning for the down payment, and preparing for closing.

MAY  
8

### Brig. Gen. Doug Slocum

It is our pleasure to welcome back Brig. Gen. Doug Slocum, Commander of the Selfridge ANGB, to speak with members on topics affecting Selfridge and the community.



## Home buying season heats up

As the supply for homes decreases, a prequalification letter can put you in a better position with realtors to have your offer accepted. Our real estate lending experts will review your credit report with you and assess what you can afford. With your prequalification letter in hand, you'll be ready to shop for your dream house.

To schedule an appointment, **call 586-466-7800 option 2.** For more information on our mortgage options, visit [www.freestarfinancial.com/mortgage-solutions](http://www.freestarfinancial.com/mortgage-solutions).



## Protecting your account while you travel

Debit card breaches continue to be reported in the news. To protect our members, we utilize a risk assessment software that detects unusual activity on your debit card to protect against identity theft. If you are planning a vacation and will be using your MasterCard debit or Visa credit card, please let us know prior to departure so we can ensure you have uninterrupted use of your card while traveling in another state or country.

Please call us at **586-466-7800 option 7** for debit cards or **option 3** for Visa credit cards.

## Take Your Retirement Dreams Higher

Preparing for a comfortable retirement is more important than ever. At FreeStar Financial, we are here to help.

### Here are some helpful tips:

- The annual contribution limit for Traditional and Roth IRAs is \$5,500 for tax years 2017 and 2018 (2018 contribution limits are subject to change by the IRS).
- Taxpayers over 50 can contribute an additional \$1,000 for tax years 2017 and 2018.
- Credit union IRAs are federally insured up to \$250,000. This insurance is separate from the coverage on your other accounts.
- You can contribute to your 2017 IRA until April 17th. Please be sure to specify that you are making a contribution for the previous year.

Contact us at **586-466-7800 opt. 7** with any questions about IRAs.



*Earn more*  
on your money!

5-Year  
IRA, Roth and Coverdell Certificates of Deposit

**2.50%\***  
APY



[FreeStarFinancial.com/cd](http://FreeStarFinancial.com/cd) ▪ (586) 698-0245

\*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.  
\$500 minimum deposit required. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. See [www.freestarfinancial.com](http://www.freestarfinancial.com) for full details.  
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## Make your tax return work for you

Isn't it time that your money started working for you? If you're receiving a refund this year, now is the perfect time to save! We have several options to help your tax return grow. From our high-yield special Certificates of Deposit to our Money Management Accounts, we have a solution for you. Contact FreeStar Financial now and speak to one of our friendly representatives or visit [www.freestarfinancial.com/cd](http://www.freestarfinancial.com/cd) for additional details on how to grow your tax return.

## Holiday Closings

Our branches will be closed on the following days:

May 28 Memorial Day  
July 4 Independence Day

## Need a Fresh Start?

Spring is a time of renewal. It can be for you, too! If your credit is less than perfect, come see us now to get started on rebuilding your credit with a Fresh Start Loan. This 12-month program will get you back on track to improving your credit score.

Learn more at: [www.freestarfinancial.com/fresh-start-loan](http://www.freestarfinancial.com/fresh-start-loan).



## Save up to **0.50%** APR

Take advantage of your **loyal borrower discount** on your new vehicle today.

Our one-hour loan decision will get you on the road quickly.

Apply at **[www.freestarfinancial.com](http://www.freestarfinancial.com)**, visit your favorite branch, or give us a call at **586-466-7800 option 3**.

## Identity Theft Protection

Protecting yourself from identity theft starts with a plan. FreeStar Financial Credit Union offers three options starting as low as \$3.95/month. The basic package includes:

- Fully-managed identity recovery
- Credit monitoring
- Lost document replacement
- Expense reimbursement
- Internet monitoring

Get peace of mind by enrolling today at **<https://freestarfinancial.merchantsinfo.com>**.



**Call**

586.466.7800



**Click**

[www.freestarfinancial.com](http://www.freestarfinancial.com)



**Come In**

Visit your  
local branch

**[www.freestarfinancial.com](http://www.freestarfinancial.com)**

**586.466.7800**

**Fax: 586.258.0670**

## Save on insurance

With winter over, are you planning to store your snowmobile? Save on paying for insurance during the summer months by filling out a Collision Waiver form. Please visit **[www.freestarfinancial.com/member-resources/forms](http://www.freestarfinancial.com/member-resources/forms)** or any of our branches to request a form.

### Main Office

37570 S. Gratiot, Clinton Township, MI 48036

### Chesterfield Office

47011 Sugarbush, Chesterfield, MI 48047

### Selfridge Air National Guard Base

Building 715, SANG, MI 48045

### Sterling Heights Office

34642 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, MI 48312



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