

FreeStar Financial News Winter 2019



Dear Members,

As we embark on a new year, it's rewarding to reflect on how FreeStar Financial Credit Union has taken our members' dreams higher by giving back.

Many of you took advantage of our exceptional deposit rates, which are almost 10 times higher than banks. Members received \$1.2 million this year in savings account dividends and interest on certificates of deposit! Another \$30,000 was given in cash back with Boomerang Rewards Checking, where you can choose from Cash Back Rewards or Dividend Rewards. We invested in our youth by paying over \$2,000 to young members for good report card grades and gave out \$4,000 in scholarships to high school seniors.

Members who borrow with us benefit because we keep loan rates low, about 1% less than the national banks on auto loans. In addition, we offer the same competitive mortgage rates as the larger mortgage providers, but with lower fees to save you money. This year, the credit union issued \$62 million in loans to serve our members and help meet their financial goals.

It is our pleasure to return savings to members for choosing FreeStar Financial as their credit union. Members who make us their primary financial institution by opening a checking account receive even greater rewards. It's a good time to be a credit union member at FreeStar Financial and profit from our exceptional offerings! Our staff is always ready to tailor innovative financial solutions to your specific needs.

FreeStar Financial also believes in strengthening our communities. In the new year, we look forward to opening our fifth branch in Macomb County! On December 17, FreeStar Financial broke ground at a new location in Shelby Township, on Van Dyke just south of 26 Mile Road. This full-service branch will feature a modern layout and the latest in banking technology and convenience. We'll keep you informed of the grand opening date, which is expected by the summer of 2019. Please let your friends, neighbors, and family members in that area know they can join now to take advantage of FreeStar Financial's award-winning benefits and online services!

I hope you and your family enjoy a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Drema D. Isaac
President/CEO



Take Your Dreams Higher.

New Board Member Appointed



Catie Patyi

The Board of Directors appointed Catherine (Catie) Patyi to the Board of Directors at its October meeting, filling the vacancy left by Jonel (Jon) Jakupi.

Catie served as a credit union volunteer and internal auditor on the Supervisory Committee since January 2017 and has been a credit union member since 1980. She earned two Master of

Science degrees from Walsh College in Management and Accounting. She works as a Senior Revenue Management Analyst at Trinity Health in Livonia and has over 10 years of financial experience.

"FreeStar Financial Credit Union members are privileged to have such a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors," said Drema Isaac, President/CEO. "We appreciate Jon's contributions during his tenure and are confident that Catie's background in management and accounting will be an immediate asset to the Board."

Follow us!



www.FreeStarFinancial.com



Holiday Closures

- Jan. 1, Tuesday - New Year's Day
- Jan. 21, Monday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Clinton Township drive-thru and Call Center available
- Feb. 18, Monday - Presidents Day
Clinton Township drive-thru and Call Center available

Educational Opportunities

Join us for these popular seminars. Invite a friend or family member also. Light refreshments are served. View details and register online at: www.freestarfinancial.com/seminars.



January 22: Mortgage Mixer
Clinton Township Branch
6 p.m. - Mingle with Real Estate experts and enjoy hors d'oeuvres.
6:30 p.m. - Home buying presentation



February 9: Adulting 101
Shelby Township Community Center
9:45 a.m. - Registration and light breakfast
10-11:30am - Interactive, educational program for young adults. Fun and prizes!



February 23: Adulting 101
Rosso Hall, 38255 L'Anse Creuse, Harrison Twp.
12:45p.m. - Registration and snacks
1-2:30 p.m. - Interactive, educational program for young adults. Fun and prizes!



March 5: Credit Score Seminar
Clinton Township Branch
6:30 p.m. - Join our CEO and Assistant Vice President of Lending as they explain how to understand your credit score.



March 19: Mortgage Mixer
Hamlin Pub, Shelby Township
6 p.m. - Mingle with Real Estate experts and enjoy hors d'oeuvres.
6:30 p.m. - Home buying presentation

Home Buying season will be heating up soon!

Get prequalified today to make your dream home a reality. Contact our mortgage experts at **586-466-7800 opt. 2** or apply at: www.freestarfinancial.com/mortgage-solutions.

Equal Housing Lender. NMLS #411386



Lose the extra holiday weight

Chances are you've put on a few pounds of debt over the holidays. We can help you shed those unwanted pounds.

CONSOLIDATE YOUR DEBT: A **Personal loan** or **Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)** is a great way to save money on your monthly payments with rates much lower than credit cards. *Which one is right for you? See flowchart on right.*



Resist the urge to splurge

Less is more. In matters of money, it's spend less, save more. In financial terms that means shop smarter by avoiding impulse buys and binge spending.

CUT YOUR RATE: The annual percentage rate on store credit cards can be up to 29% APR*. Consider transferring your balances to a FreeStar Financial Visa with a fixed rate as low as 9.50% APR* and no transfer fee, and we'll cut your rate. Apply online at: www.freestarfinancial.com/VISA.



Rely on a good trainer

When trying to lose weight, having a personal trainer can make all the difference. The same is true with your finances. Stop in any branch office and see one of our friendly member service representatives. They'll review your credit report with you and find solutions to trim your debt.

BE INFORMED: Don't miss the "Make Your Credit Score Work for You" free educational seminar on March 5. Our CEO and Assistant Vice President of Lending will share their expertise about the dos and don'ts of credit. Register online at: www.freestarfinancial.com/seminars.



Establish a routine

Exercising is easier when it's done on a schedule, and so is saving when it's scheduled automatically.

AUTOMATE YOUR SAVINGS: Set up a portion of your direct deposit to be automatically transferred each month into a special savings account for an emergency fund. Learn more at: www.freestarfinancial.com/direct-deposit.



Lace up your shoes because it's a marathon, not a sprint

Just like losing weight doesn't happen overnight, neither will your debt relief. That's okay. It may take some time to reach your financial goals but getting started is the first step. Let us help **Take Your Dreams Higher** this year.

TRACK YOUR PROGRESS: Sign up for a free financial review with one of our Member Service Representatives to get personal assistance, **586-466-7800 opt. 7**.

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is accurate as of 12/31/2018. Rate is "as low as" and may change based on credit history, collateral, term, and other determining factors. The Visa APR of 9.50% corresponds to a Monthly Periodic Rate of 0.7917% for Platinum Cards on all balances. HELOC payment example: A loan of \$25,000 at 5.25% for 180 months would have a monthly payment of \$201.02. Not all applicants will qualify. Promotional rate is subject to change at any time without notice. Equal opportunity lender. NMLS #411386.

WHICH LOAN IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

ARE YOU LOOKING TO BORROW LESS THAN \$1,000?

No Yes

A **Personal Loan** might be right for you. With just your signature, you may qualify for up to \$25,000.



DO YOU NEED YOUR MONEY THE SAME DAY?

No Yes

A **Personal Loan** with a one-hour loan decision and cash the same day might be right for you.



DO YOU HAVE EQUITY IN YOUR HOME?

No Yes

A **Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)** might be right for you, with rates as low as 5.25% APR*. No annual fee or minimum draw.



We have a variety of other loan solutions available. Learn more at: www.freestarfinancial.com

Tax advantage for retirement



Preparing for a comfortable retirement is more important than ever. At FreeStar Financial, we are here to help you plan for your future by offering Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

Contact us at **586-466-7800 opt. 7** or visit: www.freestarfinancial.com/IRA for more information.



Scholarships for high school seniors

FreeStar Financial Credit Union is offering \$4,000 in scholarships:

- **Military Honor Scholarship (2) at \$1,000 each**
- **Community Action Scholarship (2) at \$1,000 each**

See our website for requirements and apply at www.freestarfinancial.com/scholarships.

Locations:

Main Branch

37570 S. Gratiot, Clinton Township, MI 48036

Chesterfield Branch

47011 Sugarbush, Chesterfield, MI 48047

Selfridge ANGB Branch

(Base access required)

Building 715, SANG, MI 48045

Sterling Heights Branch

34642 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Shelby Township Branch *Coming Soon!*

56350 Van Dyke Avenue, Shelby Township, MI 48316



Take Your Dreams Higher.

www.freestarfinancial.com
586.466.7800

SAVE TO WIN® THE SMARTEST WAY TO SAVE

Start small and you could win big! With just \$25, you can open a one-year Save to Win Certificate of Deposit (CD) and have chances to win each month. This year, make an investment in yourself by starting a savings plan that offers cash prizes each month. Learn more at www.freestarfinancial.com/Save-to-Win2019.

Notice: Annual Meeting Election

You are invited to join us at our Annual Meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet the Board of Directors and staff who serve you at FreeStar Financial Credit Union.

April 18, 2019

**3 p.m. at Concorde Inn
44315 N. Gratiot Avenue
Clinton Township, MI 48036**

Board of Directors up for re-election: Tom Churchwell and Catie Patyi

Supervisory Committee up for re-election: Karen Chaves, Henry Sommerstorfer and James Tenney

Nomination by Petition Procedures

Any other members who wish to be included on the ballot must follow the steps below:

1. Submit a written request to Drema Isaac, President/CEO, for a nomination package. **Please note: Completed packets and petitions must be received by March 8, 2019.**
2. To be considered for nomination, you must collect the signatures of 1 percent of the credit union membership supporting your candidacy. As of November 30, 2018, the credit union had 20,100 members.
3. After gathering 201 signatures, forward the signatory document along with a candidacy notice and resume to:

**FreeStar Financial Credit Union
Board of Directors Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 2800 • Mt. Clemens, MI 48046**

For more information on duties and responsibilities of these positions, please contact Drema Isaac at 586-466-7800 ext. 121.

Your Privacy Matters to Us!

You can view our Privacy Policy at www.freestarfinancial.com/privacyanddisclosures.