



On Your Account

SUMMER 2008

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION OF BALTIMORE, INC.

SUMMER SAVINGS FOR **SUMMER FUN**

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your money in
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SUMMER SAVINGS FOR **SUMMER FUN**

Summer is rolling in, which means June weddings and July picnics. The kids are out of school and the family is trying to decide—should it be the mountains or the beach this summer. It's time to relax...but can you?

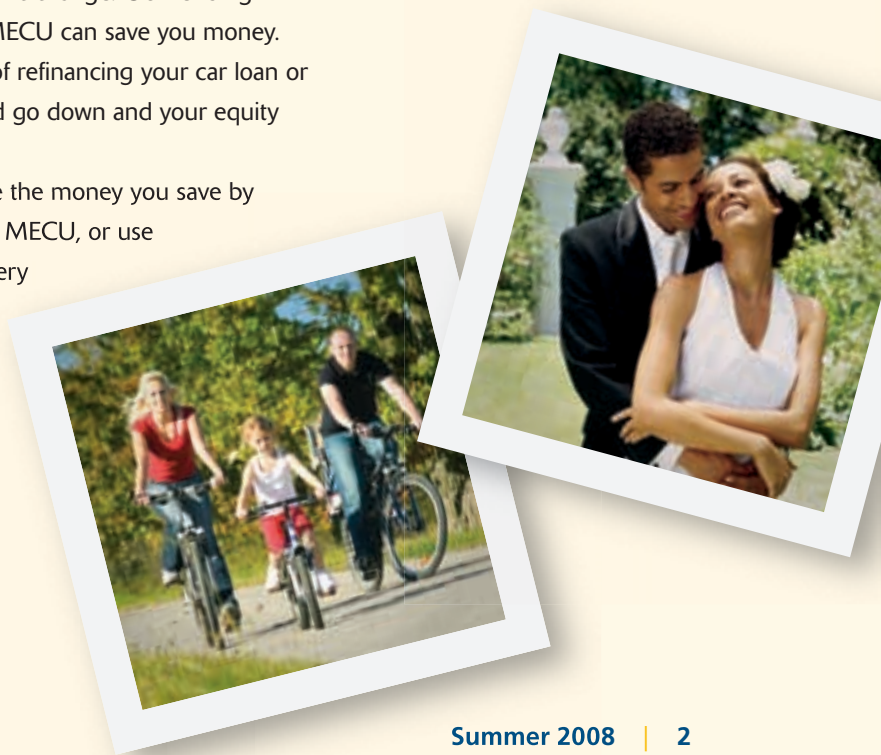
High gas prices can make it hard to think about the cost of a vacation, even if you traded in the gas guzzler for something more fuel efficient. And then there are the problems in the housing market. If you didn't get your mortgage at MECU, you could be wondering if there are any hidden clauses that you don't know about. Or, you might be unsure how much equity you have left in your house if housing values have gone down.

Not everything is negative in this time of economic change. Our lending rates are at an all-time low. Switching your loans to MECU can save you money. Check inside for special information on the benefits of refinancing your car loan or mortgage with MECU. Your monthly payments could go down and your equity could build up faster.

This is a great opportunity to save! Why not take the money you save by switching your loans and put it into an insured CD at MECU, or use part of your tax rebate. Our everyday CD rates are very high, guaranteeing a great rate of return—even before the cash bonus! And right now, the rates on Bump-up CDs are the same as regular CDs. You get great rates and a hedge on interest rates going up at the same time!

Come talk with us about your financial needs and goals. Who knows? After you talk with MECU, that summer vacation will start to look a whole lot easier to afford! ■

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KEEP MORE OF YOUR MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

Who wouldn't want more money to do the things they want? Here are a few ways to make it happen at MECU:

Money saving idea #1: Refinance your auto loan

You could be losing out if you financed with another lender. MECU checks the rates of other banks and credit unions to make sure the rates we offer are among the best or the best. When you refinance your auto loan with MECU, you'll probably get a better rate, your payments will go down, and you'll save money.

Money saving idea #2: Transfer your credit card balances to MECU's VISA® Platinum Card

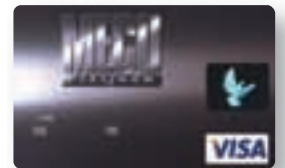
Chances are MECU can lower your current payments and help you pay off your balances faster. Take a close look at the credit card offers you receive from other institutions. They often end up costing you. That 0% introductory interest rate may sound great, but read the small print.

With other credit cards you may find:

- Once the intro rate period ends, your rate increases substantially, and one late payment can increase it more.
- Most other institutions have a balance transfer fee that can add hundreds of dollars to your balance. Many of them have a high annual fee increasing your costs.
- Your payments are applied to the part of the balance with the lowest rate first.

You can put a stop to this and keep control of your money with a MECU VISA Platinum Credit Card, featuring:

- A six month introductory rate of 1.99% APR* on purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances.
- NO balance transfer or cash advance fees and NO annual fee like other institutions.
- A low fixed rate of 9.90% APR on purchases, balance transfers, and cash advances after the introductory period.



Special Offer

If you refinance your auto before September 30, 2008, we'll give you a \$100 gas card*. Gas prices are predicted to reach an all-time high this summer, so this card will definitely come in handy. It could even pay for the drive to your favorite vacation spot.

To apply, call MECU's 24/7 Lending Center at (800) 373-2914, go to www.mecu.com for a secure online application, or visit any MECU office.

* Minimum \$3,000 loan. Gas card issued in 4-6 weeks.





Money saving idea # 3: Refinance your mortgage with MECU

With MECU's mortgage rates at an historic low, this may be your ideal opportunity to significantly reduce your current rate, lower your payments, and save money. Apply today with MECU's mortgage loan partner, Financial Security Consultants. ■

To apply call MECU's 24/7 Lending Center at (800) 373-2914, go to www.mecu.com for a secure online application, or visit any MECU office.**

* APR – Annual Percentage Rate

** Members who do not qualify for the Platinum card may be offered a Gold or Classic card.

Act Now to Lower Your Mortgage Payments!

Plus, save \$150 when you apply for your home purchase or refinance loan with MECU.

Just present this coupon when you apply for your loan.*

Call **410-823-3300** or visit www.fscontheweb.com to apply with Financial Security Consultants, MECU's mortgage lending partner.

*Approved, settled loans only. Coupon expires 9/30/08 and cannot be redeemed for cash or used in conjunction with any other offer.

Financial Security Consultants is a licensed mortgage broker in MD, DC, DE, PA and VA. Licensed in PA by the PA Dept. of Banking. Licensed in VA by the Virginia State Corporation Commission, license number MB-1004.

MAKE YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU THIS SUMMER

Now's the Time to Invest What You've Saved!

How are these for investments – insured Certificates of Deposit that pay among the highest rates offered, but if interest rates go up, you can ask to have the interest rate on your CD increased!

MECU's "Bump-Up" CDs are currently starting at the same initial interest rates as our regular CDs. But with a Bump-Up CD you can get the interest rate "bumped" or increased during the term of the CD if rates go up.

With the 24- and 36-month Bump-Up CDs you can increase the interest rate once during the CD term. With the 48- and 60-month Bump-Up CDs you can bump-up the interest rate twice.

It's easy to open a Bump-Up CD. If you use MECU's online banking, just go to the Open Account section after you've logged on. Or you can come into any MECU branch and open an account.

Where else but at MECU can you get the whole package – an insured investment and a hedge if interest rates increase!



Put your FREE Checking with Interest and Savings Accounts on Auto pilot.

MECU makes it easy to sign up for the services that will make saving money and managing your finances easier:

Direct Deposit

Have your paycheck, Social Security, or other funds directly deposited into your MECU checking account. See your payroll department today to set up direct deposit before your next pay.

Automated Payments

Avoid late fees and save time by having your utility, insurance, mortgage and other payments automatically deducted from your MECU checking account. Many companies let you sign up on their website. And you can use MECU's Free Online Bill Payer Service as an alternative.

Automated Transfers from Checking to Savings

It's the easiest way to establish regular savings habits and reach your financial goals. You can set these up through MECU's website.

Free Online Banking and Telephone Teller

Sign up for Online Banking and Telephone Teller to get 24/7 account access. For the highest level of convenience, manage your accounts with E-statements, E-Alerts and Bill Payer.

Overdraft Protection

Save money and avoid bounced checks with an Overdraft Protection account for your checking account. You can even use it as a line of credit when you need extra cash. To apply, call MECU's 24/7 Lending Center at (800) 373-2914, go to www.mecu.com for a secure online application, or visit any MECU office. ■



It's Cash Bonus Time!

Last year, MECU split the payment of loan interest rebates and extraordinary dividends into two payments at the end of June and the end of December! This gave our members some extra cash at the start of vacation season as well as during the holiday season.

We're doing it again this year! If you have loans and deposit accounts with MECU you will find your bonus deposited in your share account by June 30. The amount of your cash bonus is based on the amount of interest you paid on your MECU loans and the amount of interest we paid you on your deposit accounts—like your CDs and Money Market accounts.

Want more of a cash bonus in your account in December? Just move all of your loans and deposits to MECU! By the end of the year we will return over \$4 million to our members.





HOW FIT ARE YOUR YOUR FINANCES?

MECU talked with financial literacy expert Jennifer Matthews about what we could suggest to our members to help with their personal money management. Matthews provided some new insights that can help everyone manage their money better. Matthews is a firm believer in writing things down in order to accomplish what you want. There have been whole books written about the value of writing down your dreams in order to make them happen. Matthews gave us some specifics of what to do when it comes to our money.

First, Matthews repeatedly stressed that the best way to get a handle on our finances is to write down every time we spend money for a 60 day period, whether it's 50 cents for a pack of gum, a \$100 charge for a new pair of shoes, or a \$300 check to BGE. It helps to see how much money we spend without even realizing it. Then you can make decisions that will improve your budget. You may decide to make your lunch instead of buying it. Or, you may buy a bulk pack of chewing gum instead of buying individual packets at the supermarket checkout.

Next, Matthews talked about the value of writing down our goals and dreams. But they should be **SMART** goals.

That means goals should be:

Specific — focus on what we really want

Measurable — check our progress along the way

Achievable — don't give up

Realistic — not many of us will fly to the moon (or win the Lottery).

Time bound — will it be accomplished in less than a year, in one to three years, or longer than three years. Know when you want to accomplish a particular goal.

Matthews said the next step was to take our **SMART** goals and break them down into steps and then break the steps down into daily or weekly tasks. Steps and tasks may need to be "tweaked" as we go through them, but by having them written down we can see our progress. By regularly checking off what we've accomplished, and working toward our goals, we can definitely reach them. ■



PROTECT YOUR FINANCES **WHILE YOU TRAVEL**

For your protection against fraud, credit and debit card companies have processes in place to detect unusual activity. Unusual activity is generally based on the history of your account. Large transactions, many transactions in a short period of time, transactions made in another city, state, or country, and transactions on an account that has not been recently used are examples that could be considered unusual.

If unusual activity is detected, it's possible that your card could be temporarily blocked until you are able to be reached to confirm that you made the transactions.

Here are some safety tips for your summer travel:

- 1. Notify MECU before you travel.** Provide us with the dates and the location of your travel as well as a contact number.
- 2. Inquire about countries that are on a high fraud list before you travel.** Because of high fraud in certain countries, both VISA® and MasterCard® have restricted use in certain locations. If we know that you are traveling to one of the countries on the list we can put a note on your account so you will be able to use your cards during your travel.

3. Carry member service numbers when you travel.

In case your card is lost, stolen, or not able to be used while you're traveling, you'll want to make sure you contact us right away. Be sure to write down your card number and the member service number before you travel. Keep the numbers in a safe and separate place from your actual cards.

4. Never write your PIN on your Debit, Credit, or ATM cards.

5. Locate surcharge-free ATMs before you travel.

As a MECU member you have access to over 58,000 surcharge-free ATMs throughout the United States. Visit MECU's website at www.mecu.com to find one in your vacation area.

- 6. Save your receipts and check your account upon return from your travel.** Monitor your account when you return home to make sure your transactions have posted correctly and they were ones made by you. Notify us immediately if there are any suspicious transactions.

MECU Card Service Numbers

MECU VISA Credit (800) 554-7728
MECU VISA Debit (800) 248-6328
MECU ATM Card (410) 752-8313

NOTES OF INTEREST

MECU Forms the MECU Foundation.

MECU has a strong reputation for supporting the community. Much of this reputation comes from the number of hours the staff volunteers to work at non-profit organizations and the fund raising that we are able to accomplish through the MECU Charity Cup Golf Tournament.

To ensure that the many partners who donate funds and materials that make the Charity Cup a success receive the proper IRS recognition for their contributions, MECU formed a foundation to which these and other contributions can be donated. MECU uses the funds from the Charity Cup to make contributions to educational organizations and other worthwhile non-profits.

Besides being a vehicle for receiving Charity Cup contributions, the foundation will benefit the MECU employees who often organize walks and make monetary contributions to the non-profits we support. They will know that their contributions are going through a 501 C-3 foundation.

As MECU's involvement in the community grows, we hope the foundation will grow. This new development also offers an opportunity for our members to support their community through their credit union.

For more information on contributing to the MECU Foundation contact: Frank Ciesla (443) 263-4290.

MECU Rehabbing New Sandtown House

MECU has once again formed a partnership to rehab a house for Sandtown Habitat for Humanity. Our partners in this effort are Ciena Corporation and Provident Bank. Other credit union employees help through the participation of the Maryland/DC Credit Union Association.

Once a month, about eight to ten MECU employees head to 1508 Baker Street to do everything from demolition to framing. The future owner of the house also helps with the rehab. The house should be ready for dedication in October or November of 2008.

Free Home Buying and Credit Repair Workshops at MECU

MECU hosts regular workshops to help our members learn more about managing their money. To find out about upcoming workshops visit www.mecu.com, click on MECU's Community and then MECU Events.

Holiday Closings

MECU branches and business offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- Friday, July 4. Independence Day
- Monday, September 1 Labor Day
- Monday, October 13 Columbus Day

Don't forget, even when we're closed you can still apply for loans and access your accounts. To apply for a loan 24/7, call our Lending Center at (800) 373-2914. To access your accounts anytime use Telephone Teller, Online Banking, or any of our 58,000+ surcharge-free ATMs. To find a surcharge-free ATM near you, visit our website at www.mecu.com.

Hash Appointed to Maryland Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees

On April 14, 2008, Governor O'Malley swore in new members to the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust Board of Trustees including MECU President and CEO, Bert J. Hash Jr. The Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT) in 1992 to make affordable housing more available throughout the State of Maryland.

"Homeownership in our state and in our country is the key to a stronger, growing middle class, and we must do all that we can to protect homeownership throughout Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "I am confident that these members will help Marylanders make homeownership a reality through affordable housing options."

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide members with high quality financial services through sound management and innovation.

IN MEMORIAM

It was with great sadness that the MECU Board of Directors, Leadership Team and Staff learned of the death of two former Board Members.



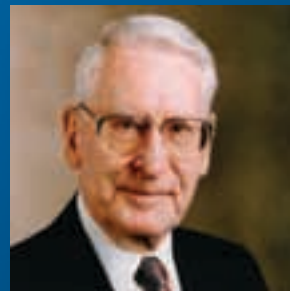
Mr. Charles L. Benton Jr., Director

Emeritus, passed away on March 22, 2008.

Mr. Benton joined the MECU Board of Directors in December 1962 and served

as Chairman from 1981 until 1986. He continued to serve as Vice Chairman from 1986 through 1995, at which time he became an ex-officio member of the board. In 2003 he became a Director Emeritus and continued to serve in that position until his death.

Mr. John T. O'Mailey, MECU's former Chairman of the Board, passed away April 22, 2008 at the Gilchrist Hospice Center in Towson. Mr. O'Mailey served



MECU and its membership from January, 1961 until his retirement in March, 2000. He served as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Directors.



2008 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



INSIDE:

Refinance your auto loan.
Get a \$100 gas card.

Refinance your mortgage.
See coupon inside for
more savings.

"Bump up" your CD to
a higher rate.

Take advantage of our
Cash Bonus and save more.



Corporate Offices

7 East Redwood Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Elmer Bernhardt Redwood Street Branch

7 East Redwood Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Mon/Tues/Wed 8:30-4:30; Thu 9:00-4:30; Fri 8:30-5:30

Fayette Remote Teller System

401 East Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 8:00-4:00; Thu 9:00-4:00

Herman Williams Jr. Fallstaff Center Branch

6814 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD 21215

John T. O'Mailey Hamilton Center Branch

2337 East Northern Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21214

Charles L. Benton Jr. Westview Center Branch

5910 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, MD 21228

Fallstaff/Hamilton/Westview Lobby: Mon-Thu 9-4; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9-3
Drive thru: Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 7:30-5:30; Thurs 9-5:30; Sat 9-3

Harry Deitchman PJM Business Center Branch

312 North Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21201
Mon-Wed 7:30-4; Thu 9-4; Fri 7:30-5:30; Sat 9-3

Loch Ridge Center Branch

8507 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21286
Lobby and Drive thru: Mon-Fri 12-7; Sat 9-3

Dundalk Branch

7220 Holabird Avenue, Dundalk, MD 21222
Mon-Thu 9-4; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9-3

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Your savings federally insured to at least \$100,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency. Additional coverage through Excess Share Insurance Corporation to a combined total of at least \$175,000. Equal Housing Lender—We do business in accordance with Federal Fair Lending Laws.