



# On Your Account

FALL 2013

M E C U O F B A L T I M O R E , I N C .



ARE YOU  
READY FOR THE  
**HOLIDAYS?**

**Let MECU help you  
get prepared!**





# MECU HELPS YOU GET SPRUCED UP!

Could your home use some sprucing up? Is it time for new carpeting? Does your kitchen have the double oven you need for all the baking you like to do?

MECU's Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) can help you pay for holiday renovations or home repairs at record-low interest rates! You can even use this flexible line of credit to consolidate higher rate loans, such as credit cards, into one monthly payment. You can also pay for school tuition, or make other major purchases like a holiday vacation.

Take advantage of MECU's low 6-month introductory rate of **2.00% APR\***! After the introductory period, your rate adjusts to a low **3.25% APR\***.

#### MECU's HELOC also comes with:

- Cash back in the form of our Loan Interest Rebate\*\*
- NO Application or Annual Fees
- NO Closings Costs<sup>†</sup> or Points

**It's easy to apply. Just go online at [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com) and fill out an application, or call our 24/7 Loan Application Service at 800-373-2914.**

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are current as of September 1, 2013 and are subject to change without prior notification. Rate as low as 2.00% APR is fixed for six (6) months then adjusts to a variable rate based on Prime minus 0.25% with a maximum 80% Loan to Value (LTV) or Prime plus 0.75% with an LTV of 81 – 90%. Prime Rate is obtained from the Wall Street Journal and is currently 3.25%, in effect since 12/17/08. The minimum standard APR that can apply is 3.25% and the maximum APR that can apply is your standard rate plus 6%, up to the Maryland maximum of 18% APR. Eligibility for the introductory rate requires a minimum draw of \$10,000 at account opening. Your post-introductory rate may adjust on a quarterly basis. The minimum monthly payment is \$100. All loans are subject to credit approval and verification of collateral. Adequate property and flood insurance is required, if applicable.

\*\*Certain conditions apply. Subject to annual Board approval.

†MECU will pay the initial closing costs. If the line is paid off within 12 months of original note date, closing costs must be reimbursed to MECU by the borrower. Closing costs vary and generally range around \$850 to \$1,000 on a \$20,000 line of credit.

# NEED SOME JINGLE

# JINGLE

## FOR HOLIDAY PURCHASES?

**W**ith MECU's Jingle Loan\* you can have the cash you want to make the season bright, and then pay it off in the New Year!

**Visit [MECU.com/holidayloan](http://MECU.com/holidayloan) for more information about the Jingle Loan and to apply.**

Once you have been approved, your Jingle Loan funds will be deposited directly into your MECU checking or savings account within seven business days after we receive all your completed documents. To verify that your money has been deposited into your account, check your account through MECU's Online Banking at [www.MECU.com](http://www.MECU.com) or through Telephone Teller at 410-727-6540.



*\*Eligibility for MECU's 2013 Jingle Loan requires you to be a member in good standing with direct deposit of your net pay, retirement or Baltimore City payroll to your MECU account at least 90 days prior to the time of application. Other conditions and restrictions may apply.*

### Did You Know?

MECU will lower your mortgage interest rate by 0.25% when you buy a house in Baltimore City.

## SHOW YOUR STYLE — DESIGN YOUR OWN CARD!

It's YOUR Card...



it too, should be  
UNIQUE

**E**veryone wants to show their unique style and now MECU members can make a statement every time they shop! Our Design Your Own VISA® Credit Card option allows you to take your favorite photo or design and put it on the front of your MECU VISA Credit card. Don't have a photo that quite expresses who you are? Choose a favorite image from our extensive card catalog. Either way, you'll have a card that shows your personal style.

#### IT'S YOUR CARD – MAKE IT UNIQUE WITH:

- A treasured family photo
- A picture of your pet
- Your favorite vacation memory
- An image of your hobby or other interest

#### It's easy to create your own card. Here's how:

##### STEP 1

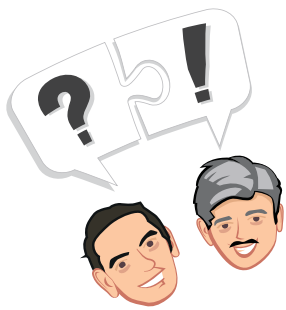
Log into your MECU Online Banking account and click on your VISA account link. Click on the Services tab, then on Design Your Own Card.

##### STEP 2

Upload your photo or choose one from our image library. Start Designing: move it, rotate it, change its size and more.

##### STEP 3

Click Submit and your new card will begin processing.



## ASK BERRY AND BILL!

**B**erry Grant and Bill Ritz, MECU's security and fraud experts, are here to answer questions about protecting your money.

**Q:** *With the holidays coming up we see more scammers trying to rob our members of their money. What are some of the most common scams our members receive?*

**Berry and Bill Answer:** There's a whole series of scams that use the same method to steal people's money. Here's how they work:

- A scammer sends you a check for a large amount of money and instructs you to deposit it in your account for various reasons.
- You are supposed to return most of the money to them minus an amount that you are to keep for your help, your salary or payment for a sale.
- You send the rest of the funds to the scammer and later find out that the check they sent you was fake and you've lost all the money you sent to the scammer.

In situations like this, the member made the decision to send the money. There is nothing MECU can do to get the money back.

This scam started defrauding people through letters and now many people receive emails. Scammers may list jobs for secret shoppers and personal assistants on sites like CareerBuilder and use this same technique. Or they may offer to buy something you're selling on Craig's List and want to send you a big check. It's important to use common sense. Would you send a stranger a lot of money and trust them to return most of it to you? So many people are having a hard time financially these days that they want to believe that "their ship came in."

### **SMART TIP FROM BERRY AND BILL:**

Check your accounts online every couple of days. If something doesn't look right ask about it. You may stop a fraud early before it damages your accounts.

## ONLINE FRAUD PREVENTION TIPS

**T**he following "best practices" will help you protect your information while banking online:

### **User ID and Password Guidelines**

- Create a "strong" password with at least 8 characters that includes a combination of mixed case letters, numbers, and special characters
- Change your password frequently, even if the system does not force you to change
- Never share password information
- Do not use an automatic login feature that saves usernames and passwords

We all get emails and text messages from companies and people we don't know. And sometimes we get emails from companies we think we know, but they turn out to be fake. Here are some "best practices" to keep your computer and your accounts safe.

### **Tips to Avoid Phishing, Spyware and Malware**

- Do not open emails from unknown sources. Be cautious of emails from a financial institution requesting account information. Opening file attachments or clicking on web links in suspicious emails could expose your device to malicious codes that allow an unauthorized person to take over your computer.
- Check with your financial institution to confirm if an email received is valid.
- Install anti-virus and spyware detection software on all computers, tablets, and mobile devices. Free software may not always provide the best protection.
- Install a dedicated firewall, especially if using broadband, DSL or cable.
- Check your settings and select at least a medium level of security for your browsers.
- Clear the browser cache before starting an online banking session in order to eliminate copies of web pages stored on your hard drive.



# ANOTHER WAY TO REDUCE YOUR ONLINE RISK

**W**e love the ease and freedom the internet gives us but know there are potential risks in certain types of transactions. When you are paying a bill online or making a purchase, some companies will ask for your account number and routing number of your financial institution so the funds can be directly withdrawn from your account. This provides another opportunity for ID thieves to acquire information that can be used to drain your accounts.

A safer way to make a purchase is to use your MECU VISA credit card. That way if your account number is stolen then used by a hacker, your risk is only \$50, not the whole amount that a hacker may charge to your card. If you are paying bills, you can either use your MECU credit card or MECU Online Billpay. **However you choose to pay, pay safe.**



## Did You Know?

As a MECU member you can use any of the over 4,000 shared branches around the country to do your banking when you travel? Go to [www.mecu.com/what-s-the-deal-/about-mecu/branches-and-hours/](http://www.mecu.com/what-s-the-deal-/about-mecu/branches-and-hours/) to learn more.



# CU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014

**A**re you headed to college or trade school in 2014? MECU is pleased to announce a college scholarship opportunity that may help you meet tuition costs. The \$12,000 Credit Union College Scholarship Program for 2014 is underway now! Our college-bound members are eligible to apply for:

- **One of ten** \$1,000 essay-based scholarships
- **One** \$1,000 video-based scholarship
- And new for 2014, **one** \$1,000 photo-based scholarship

And, yes, you may apply in all three categories! Deadline for applications is March 31, 2014. Awards will be made in May 2014.

This year's essay and video topic is: *"What can you do to help yourself become financially literate?"* Photo applicants are asked to capture and submit a photograph that represents a credit union core value.

Any member of MECU who is entering their freshmen through senior year of college or trade school may apply. "We're pleased to offer this opportunity for our young members," said Herman Williams, Jr., Chairman of the MECU Board of Directors. "The awardees receive needed financial assistance to help them meet their tuition expenses and the application topics stimulate innovative and useful responses to help us better serve our college-aged members."

Applications and details on the Credit Union College Scholarship Program can be found at: <http://cufound.org/scholarship.htm>



# PUMP UP YOUR FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE WITH MECU WORKSHOPS

**W**ant to learn more about managing your money so it goes further? Then take advantage of MECU's free workshops.

Except for June, July and August, MECU offers either the Homebuyers or Maintaining & Building Good Credit workshop every month. Check our website, [www.MECU.com](http://www.MECU.com), or the TV screens in the branches for more information and dates. Workshops are held at MECU headquarters, 7 E. Redwood Street, with registration starting at 5:30 pm and the workshop starting at 6:00 pm.

## **MECU's Growing Into Wealth – Young Adult Workshops**

In the spring and fall MECU offers a series of weekly workshops for young adults to help them develop valuable life skills. The fall series started October 1. The workshops are held at Village Learning Place, 2521 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21218 from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

### **Check the topics for the whole series:**

**Where Does All My Money Go? How to Create and Stick to a Budget**

**My Credit Doesn't Get It: How to Improve Your Credit Score**

**My Student Loans Are Spiraling Out of Control: How to Manage Student Loan Debt**

**I'm Sick of Paying Rent: How to Prepare for Home Ownership**

**Cracking the Code on Saving for Retirement**

**The 9-5 Life Isn't for Me: How to Launch and Finance Your Small Business Venture**

For more information on MECU's Young Adult Workshops and to register go to [www.MECU.com/wealth](http://www.MECU.com/wealth) or follow us on Facebook at BaltimoreMECU.

## **Did You Know?**

You can fill out and submit a mortgage prequalification form right on the MECU website.

Go to [www.mecu.com/apply-for-a-mortgage](http://www.mecu.com/apply-for-a-mortgage) or call 1-800-373-2914 24/7.

# 2014 MECU ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

As the year draws to a close, it is time to begin the process of electing individuals to represent you on the Board of Directors. MECU elections are conducted according to the governing Maryland law. Should you be interested in serving on the Board, here is how the process begins and some key dates:

*Nominating Committee- On or before January 2, 2014 the Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three members. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one member for each vacancy on the Board, after determining that a proposed nominee agrees to permit the nomination and if elected, to accept the office.*

**Nominations by Members** – Members may nominate candidates for directorship by signing a petition. Maryland State law requires the petition to be signed by at least 500 members who meet the eligibility requirements for the petition to be valid. The petition must be filed with the Secretary of the Credit Union on or before January 22, 2014.

**Balloting** – When only one member is nominated for each position to be filled, the Chairman may: take a voice vote; or declare the nominee elected by general consent or acclamation at the Annual Meeting. If there are more candidates for directors than positions to be filled, an election will be conducted. The election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Members on March 18, 2014.

## MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER WITH E-STATEMENTS

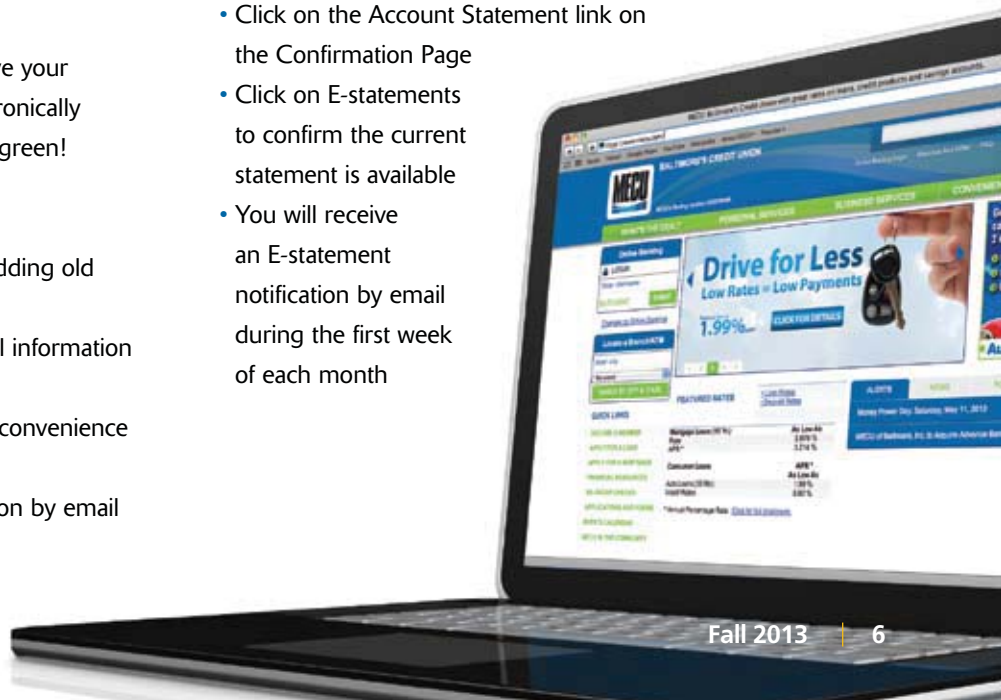
MECU's Online Banking lets you receive your monthly or quarterly statement electronically instead of through the mail. It's safe and it's green!

### Here are some more advantages:

- You eliminate the need for filing or shredding old paper statements
- You eliminate the worry of your personal information being compromised
- You can review your statements at your convenience 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- You will receive an E-statement notification by email during the first week of each month

### It's easy to sign up for E-statements. Here's how:

- Log into Online Banking
- Under the Administration tab – click on "Change Statement Delivery Preferences"
- Change from Paper to Online
- Agree to MECU's E-statement Disclosure and Statement Service Agreement
- Click on the Account Statement link on the Confirmation Page
- Click on E-statements to confirm the current statement is available
- You will receive an E-statement notification by email during the first week of each month







Want to see MECU in the community?  
Go to [www.youtube.com/mecutv](http://www.youtube.com/mecutv)

**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

**Commercecentre Branch**

1777 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, Maryland 21208  
Mon/Tues/Wed/Thu/Fri 12:00-7:00; Sat 9-3



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