



# On Your Account

WINTER 2015

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

## COME HOME TO GREAT RATES WITH MECU

**MECU paid  
members over  
\$3.5 million in  
cash bonuses  
in 2014!**



# MOVE IN WITH MECU!

Looking to buy a home in the near future? Or maybe reduce your current mortgage loan payment or consolidate higher-rate bills into one monthly loan payment? We've got great rates, special discounts, down-payment programs, plus cash back in the form of our Loan Interest Rebate<sup>†</sup> that may make owning a home more affordable than you thought possible.

Conventional and FHA mortgage loans are two of the most popular loan types used to buy a home or refinance a loan. We offer both. We are happy to walk you through the process with your Realtor!

## Buy in Baltimore, Get a Discounted Home Loan

Do you love city living? Or, are you an empty nester wanting a home near all the excitement of Baltimore City? Take a look at MECU's Buy in Baltimore program. You choose the conventional MECU mortgage product that is best for you, 30-, 20-, 15- or 10-year terms, and we reduce the interest rate by 0.25%<sup>††</sup>!

It's easy to pre-qualify for a mortgage 24/7 right online at [MECU.com/mortgage](http://MECU.com/mortgage) or call 1-800-373-2914.

Features & Benefits	FHA Mortgages	Conventional Mortgages
Ideal if:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have less than 5% of the purchase price as a down payment (3.5% minimum down payment required)</li> <li>Works best if you are a first-time home buyer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have 5% or more of the purchase price as a down payment</li> </ul>
Terms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed — 15, 20, 25, or 30 years</li> <li>Adjustable — 5/1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed — 10, 15, 20, or 30 years</li> <li>Adjustable — 3/1, 5/1, 7/1, or 10/1</li> </ul>
Advantages:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Seller assistance" up to 6% of the purchase price allowed</li> <li>100% of "Gift" funds can be applied towards the down payment and closing costs</li> <li>Non-occupant co-borrower permitted</li> <li>Rates are generally lower than a conventional mortgage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash back in the form of our Loan Interest Rebate<sup>†</sup></li> <li>0.25% loan rate discount for homes purchased within Baltimore City and First-Time Home Buyer purchases<sup>†</sup></li> <li>No Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) with 20% or higher down payment</li> </ul>
MECU Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FREE Pre-Qualification</li> <li>FREE 60-day rate lock</li> <li>NO pre-payment penalty</li> <li>Quick, easy and convenient 24/7 Loan Application Service online and by phone</li> </ul>	

<sup>†</sup> Loan Interest Rebates are subject to annual Board approval. Certain conditions apply. Not available on FHA loans.

<sup>††</sup> Must have, or open, a MECU checking account with direct deposit and direct payment. Buy in Baltimore and First-Time Home Buyer rate discount is not available on FHA loans.



# EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR MECU MORTGAGE

## Online:

- Automatic Payment from any checking account
- MyLoanCare.com
- Bill Pay at MECU.com

## By Phone:

1-800-274-6600

## In Branch:

Make a payment at the branch and up to one additional month's payment in advance.

## By Mail:

LoanCare Servicing Center  
P.O. Box 37628  
Philadelphia, PA 19101-0628



24/7 Loan Application Service

1-800-373-2914



Visit Us Online 24/7  
[MECU.com/mortgage](http://MECU.com/mortgage)

## Apply for Any MECU Loan 24/7: Online and By Phone

Whether you're buying a home, refinancing a mortgage, looking to buy a vehicle or get a credit card, MECU has convenient options!

- Online 24/7: click on the **"Get a Loan"** link on [MECU.com](http://MECU.com) then choose the loan product you need.
- By phone 24/7: call **1-800-373-2914**. A representative will take all the necessary information.



# 8 STEPS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

**1. Know Your Credit Score:** Pull your credit reports, review them and dispute any inaccuracies. Avoid applying for new credit such as car loans, credit cards and unsecured loans before buying a home. Try to keep or get your credit score above 640. The better your score and payment history, the better the interest rate. For a free credit report, visit [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com).

**2. Know Your Budget:** Determine how much you can afford to pay each month, factoring in property taxes, homeowner insurance, and mortgage insurance if you are not putting down 20%. As a good rule of thumb, your mortgage payment should be no more than 31% of your gross income.

**3. Gather Your Down Payment:** Required down payments generally range from 3.5% to 20% of the sales price. Most home purchases require at least \$1,000 of your own money. Gift money, grants and incentives can help cover these costs.

**4. Closing Costs:** These costs are in addition to the purchase price of your home. Typically both buyers and sellers will incur closing costs. These costs can be 3% to 5% of the purchase price.

**5. Get Pre-Qualified for a Loan:** Doing so will let you and your Realtor know how much you can borrow and will let sellers know you are a serious buyer.

**6. Make the Offer:** Once you find the home of your dreams, your Realtor will write the purchase contract. Be prepared to provide a check for your earnest money deposit, typically about 1% of the purchase price.

**7. Apply for Your Mortgage:** Once you find the right home and have an "accepted" purchase contract, you'll need to officially apply for your mortgage loan. Your lender will need a copy of the purchase contract, receipt for "earnest money" (deposit), proof of income (tax returns and W-2 forms), deposit account statements, and other documentation related to your purchase.

**8. Close on Your New Home:** This is the process that makes the house officially yours. Your Realtor and lender will guide you through the process.

**See how a MECU mortgage loan can work for you!  
Visit [MECU.com/mortgage](http://MECU.com/mortgage) or call 1-800-373-2914  
today! Available 24/7!**





# NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK FOR HOME SWEET HOME?

Now that the decorations have come down, are you thinking your home could use a facelift in the new year? New carpeting? A bigger kitchen for future holiday entertaining? A new roof before the spring showers?

**MECU's Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)** can help you pay for 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 winter get-a-way vacation!

Take advantage of MECU's low 12-month introductory rate of 2.00% fixed APR\*! After the introductory period, your rate adjusts to a low 3.25% variable APR\*.

**It's easy to apply for a MECU Home Equity Line of Credit! Just go online at [MECU.com/homeequity](http://MECU.com/homeequity) or call our 24/7 Loan Application Service at 1-800-373-2914.**

## **MECU's Home Equity Line of Credit also comes with:**

- Cash back in the form of our Loan Interest Rebate\*\*
- NO Application or Annual Fees
- NO Closing Costs† or Points



\* APR — Annual Percentage Rate. Rates current as of January 1, 2015 and are subject to change without prior notification. MECU reserves the right to change this product or rates at anytime. Rate as low as 2.00% APR is fixed for twelve (12) 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%. The maximum APR in Maryland is 18%. The post-introductory (standard) rate may adjust on a quarterly basis. Eligibility for the introductory rate requires a minimum draw of \$10,000 at account opening. 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. MECU membership required.

\*\* Certain conditions apply. Subject to annual Board approval. † MECU will pay the initial closing costs. If the line is paid off and closed 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.



# CHANGES TO MECU's BRANCH LOCATIONS

**O**n February 28, 2015, the Fallstaff Branch will be relocating to our nearby spacious and newly renovated Seton location at 4801 Seton Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215.

You may also choose to visit our nearby Commercentre Branch at 1777 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD 21208 or any of our other branches. See back page for all our convenient locations and operating hours.

## **New Branch Coming to the Cranbrook Shopping Center!**

With a growing number of members living in Baltimore County, MECU is opening a new location in the Cranbrook Shopping Center in Cockeysville in Spring 2015.

# COMING SOON IN 2015 FOR MECU MEMBERS!

## **FinanceWorks™**

Online Banking users will be able to see their complete financial picture in one convenient place! FinanceWorks™ is an online banking tool for managing finances — members can track, budget, set goals, run reports and more!

## **Still searching for health insurance?**

MECU partners with TruStage™ to offer the TruStage Health Insurance Program to simplify your search for affordable health insurance. Open enrollment ends February 15th. Visit [TruStageHealth.com](http://TruStageHealth.com) or call 1-888-416-2166.

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CREDIT UNION MEMBERS

**T**he \$12,000 Credit Union College Scholarship Program for 2015 is underway now!

**MECU members either in college or planning to attend next year can enter to win one of 12 \$1,000 scholarships.**

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2015. Awards will be announced May 2015.

**Apply online at [cufound.org/college-scholarship](http://cufound.org/college-scholarship). You must be a Maryland or DC credit union member to win.**

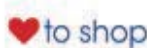
**Fraud Tip! Use Online Banking to easily and frequently review your MECU accounts to ensure there are no fraudulent charges!**



**LOVE MY  
CREDIT UNION  
REWARDS**

Members have saved over \$1 billion with Love My Credit Union Rewards.

Start saving today at [LoveMyCreditUnion.org](http://LoveMyCreditUnion.org)



# NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE MEMBERS TO VOTE ON CHANGE TO BYLAWS — MARCH 17, 2015

**M**ECU submitted several proposed Bylaw amendments to the Commissioner of Financial Regulation. The first change to the Bylaws, shown below, was approved pending a vote of the Membership. The second two changes below were approved as submitted. The information below includes the amendments to the Bylaws. The changes are underlined and the old information has been struck through with a line. The vote will take place at a Special Meeting immediately following the MECU Annual Meeting for Election of Directors on March 17, 2015 12:00 noon at MECU Corporate Offices, 7 East Redwood Street, 20th floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

The proposed amendment to **Article II Membership and Sphere of Operation, Section 1** will allow MECU to serve more people.

**Article II Membership and Sphere of Operation, Section 1:** Membership in MECU is limited to those whose salaries or wages, including retirement allowances, are paid in whole or part by the City or MECU.

Membership shall also include those persons who live, regularly work, worship, or attend school in, and businesses, including their affiliates and subsidiaries, located in an investment area serving the underserved pursuant to the Financial Institutions Article 6-301 (d) in Baltimore City, Maryland. Membership shall also include volunteers and employees of any employer, including their affiliates and subsidiaries, with less than 750 employees located within a twenty (20) five (5) mile radius of any branch of this credit union subject to Financial Institutions Article 6-303 (b) Common Bond Membership Fields — Small Groups. Membership shall also include retired City employees or their beneficiaries who receive a retirement allowance from the State.

The two additional approved amendments to the Bylaws are:

## **Article III Capital and Liability**

This change brings the language of this section into

conformity with the same section in **Article IV Deposits and Shares** and into conformity with Maryland Law.

**Article III Capital and Liability, Section 2.** Money paid in on shares may be withdrawn, but the Board shall have the right to require a member at any time to give sixty (60) days notice of intention to withdraw the whole or any part of the amounts paid in by the member but any such limit shall apply to all members.

## **Article VI Board of Directors**

The deleted information in the section below is obsolete and unnecessary. To ensure clarity, it has been removed from the Bylaws.

**Article VI Board of Directors, Section 1 (a)** The Board of Directors shall consist of twelve (12) members elected by the membership; seven (7) of whom shall be active City employees as set forth in Article VI, Section 8, of these Bylaws with no more than one (1) Board Member, including an at large director, representing any City Department; three (3) of whom are retired City Employee(s) and/or employee(s) of a member Agency who receive a pension from the City of Baltimore or the State of Maryland and two (2) directors at large.

~~The director(s) at large so chosen shall hold office for a term expiring in 2006 and at that time a successor shall be elected by the membership and shall qualify.~~

The term of each elected Board Member shall be for three (3) years from the date of the Annual Meeting following the election or until a successor takes office.

In the event that an active Employee Director separates from employment with the City, that Director shall serve until the next Annual Meeting and then the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with these Bylaws.

**Did You Know...** IRA contributions for 2014 can be made until April 15, 2015.

# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Members will be held Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 12:00 noon at the MECU Corporate Offices, 20th floor, 7 East Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202. All members are invited to attend.

## Directors and Committees Serving You

### Board of Directors:

**Active City Employee Directors** – Roman Clark\*, Fire; G. Louise Green, Finance; Benjamin Meli, DPW; Deborah Moore-Carter, Labor Commission; Kalliope Parthemos, Office of the Mayor; Peggy A. Peacock\*, HCD; Charmaine M. Thomas, Police.

**Retired City Employee Directors** – Ernest J. Glinka\*; Gary W. McLhinney; Herman Williams Jr.

**Directors at Large** – Lorretta Johnson\*, BTU; John T. Walker III, BCPS.

**Director Emeritus** – Harry Deitchman.

\*term expiring

**Credit Committee:** Reba Anderson-Graham, Retired; Neetu Dhawan-Gray, Associate Member; Marietta English, BTU; Stephanie Lansey-Delgado, Police; Glenard Middleton, DPW; Harry Peaker, Retired.

**Supervisory Committee:** Judge David Allen, Retired; Troy Brogden, Associate; Andrew Frank, Associate; Soula Lambropoulos, Associate; Jennell Rogers, Finance; Abraham Schwartz, F&PERS; Keith Scroggins, BCPS.

## Nominees for Directorships in 2015

Candidates for Directorship may be nominated by the Nominating Committee or by a petition of the members. The list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee will be available in the main office of MECU, (17th floor) on January 21, 2015.

If you have questions about the Annual Meeting or election procedures, contact Pam Harris at 443-263-4243.

**Disclosure of Board and Committee Compensation Schedule** – The role of the Board of Directors, Credit and Supervisory Committees is critical to the success of MECU in fulfilling its Mission. Setting the strategic direction, providing oversight, and acting as your elected representatives is a responsibility that is not taken lightly by these individuals. They invest hundreds of hours of personal time to MECU, attending meetings, educational sessions required by the State of Maryland, supporting MECU in the community, and more.

Because MECU is a state chartered credit union, its officials can be compensated for the many hours they contribute to the organization by paying an honorarium for meetings they attend.

As required by law, the compensation schedule is authorized each year by a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting in accordance with Section 6-331 Annotated Code of Maryland, Financial Institutions Article. Additionally, it is approved by the Commissioner of Financial Regulation for the State of Maryland based on the institutions' financial performance. This compensation is in exchange for services performed as an official, and it is reported as income to the Internal Revenue Service.

The proposed dollar amount that will be paid to each official is as follows: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary: \$5,000 per annum; Board of Directors: \$300 honorarium per meeting attended; \$300 per day for each day that a director attends an educational conference, as required by law, including travel days. Credit and Supervisory Committee Members: \$200 honorarium per meeting attended; \$200 for each day that a Committee Member attends an educational conference, as required by law, including travel days. The aggregate dollar amount paid to all officials for the 12 months proceeding January 2015 was \$344,873. The aggregate dollar amount of all officials' expenses, excluding the compensation outlined above, for the 12 months proceeding January 2015 was \$186,087.

## MECU Paid Members \$3.5 Million in Cash Bonuses in 2014

MECU members received some extra cash in December when MECU posted over \$1.8 million in loan interest rebates and extraordinary dividends to their savings accounts.

MECU paid members cash bonuses totaling \$3.5 million this past year. The Board of Directors votes annually on paying this bonus to the members and it has been a continuous tradition since 1981.

**It pays to be a member of MECU!**





Baltimore's Credit Union

### NEW BRANCH HOURS

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  
*This branch is relocating February 28, 2015*

#### 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 9-1  
Drive thru: Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 8:30-5:30; Thurs 9-5:30; Sat 9-1

#### 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 9-1

#### Loch Ridge Center Branch

8507 Loch Raven Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
Lobby and Drive thru: Mon-Fri 12-7;  
Sat 9-1

#### Dundalk Branch

7220 Holabird Avenue  
Dundalk, MD 21222  
Mon-Thu 9-4; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9-1

#### Commercentre Branch

1777 Reisterstown Road  
Pikesville, Maryland 21208  
Mon-Fri 12:00-7:00; Sat 9-1

#### Security Boulevard Branch

6669 Security Boulevard, Suite 5  
Baltimore, MD 21207  
Mon-Thu 9-4; Fri 9-5:30;  
Drive thru: Mon-Wed 8:30-5:30;  
Thurs 9-5:30; Fri 8:30-5:30

#### Seton Branch

4801 Seton Drive  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
Mon-Thu 9-4; Fri 9-5:30; Sat 9-1  
Drive thru: Mon-Wed 8:30-5:30;  
Thurs 9-5:30; Fri 8:30-5:30; Sat 9-1



Federally insured by NCUA



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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 2944  
BALTIMORE, MD

**Includes Mobile  
Banking and  
Mobile Deposit!**

# Do you have a MECU CashBack Checking account?

Visit [MECU.com/CashBack](http://MECU.com/CashBack) to learn more.



Federally insured by NCUA