

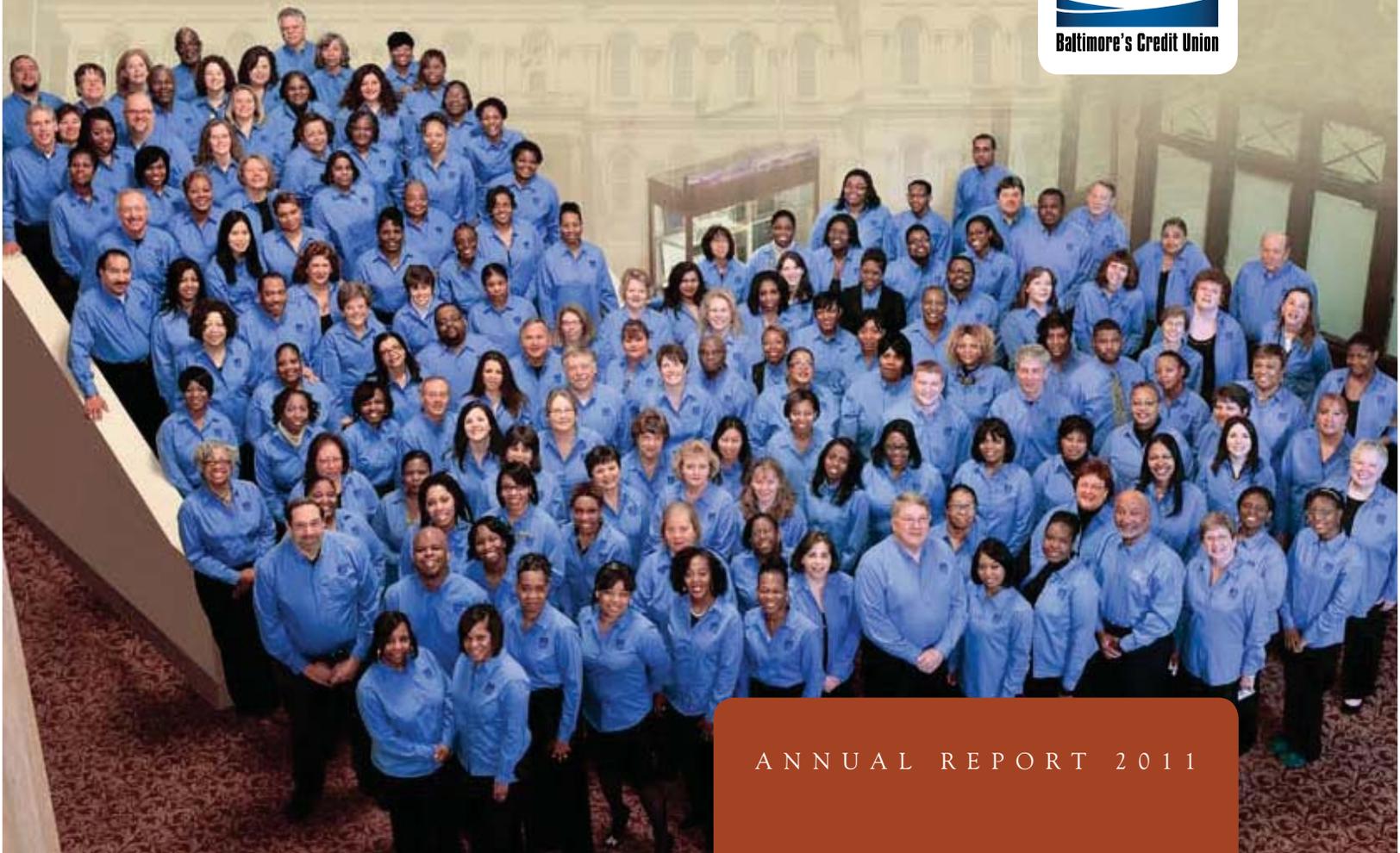


# On Your *Account*

SUMMER 2012

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

MECU – Serving our  
members since 1936



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

# Message from the Chairman of the Board and the CEO



Dear Valued Members,

This past year has been very exciting for MECU; we celebrated our 75th Anniversary! This gave us the opportunity to celebrate with some of our long time members and reflect on how much has changed in that period of time. And yet for MECU our core values stay the same – providing high quality financial products and services for our members and working together toward a strong, stable community.

MECU, like all credit unions, is led by a volunteer board of directors and volunteer supervisory and credit committees. All my fellow volunteers are MECU members and work in the community we serve. We are committed to serving the members and representing their concerns.

We know that the slow economy is still causing problems for the City and the State, and that balancing budgets often means that our members have to take furlough days. Although the economy is still slow, there are some signs of improvement that we hope will continue. Job numbers are stabilizing and people are slowly going

back to work. People bought more during the holidays in December, and MECU's Jingle Loan let many of our members have festive holidays with their families. Because the economy is still sluggish, the Federal Reserve plans to keep interest rates low for the next two years. This decision provides MECU members with a real opportunity to buy a home and lock in very low interest rates. A fixed rate mortgage preserves that low rate for the life of the loan.

When MECU was founded in 1936 it was the middle of the Great Depression. We can learn from that period that we too will again experience prosperity. If members take advantage of the financial tools that MECU offers now on its website and through workshops, they will be well prepared to take advantage of the improvements as they come along.

MECU's 75th Anniversary was a time for reflection, but it was also a time to celebrate our present and develop the tools we will need for the future. We marked this anniversary with the opening of MECU's ninth branch at Commercentre in Pikesville. Members can bring their coins to the new coin counter in the branch and learn how to use online banking at the computer kiosk. The opening of this branch continued MECU's growth to serve our members where they live. It is open Monday through Friday from noon until 7:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

## 2011 Highlights



*When MECU was founded in 1936 it was the middle of the Great Depression. We can learn from that period that we too will again experience prosperity.*

One of our strengths at MECU is our community outreach and MECU has even won a number of awards for this. The reason for this commitment is that working to strengthen our communities is one of the best ways to strengthen MECU. Throughout the year, MECU employees volunteer at many organizations including Our Daily Bread, Sandtown Habitat for Humanity and Meals On Wheels. In fact in 2011, they volunteered over 4,000 hours.

This year, MECU will work with the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts to not only strengthen our communities, but to also help them have some fun. We are sponsoring the Neighborhood Event Grants, which will provide funding to neighborhood groups and

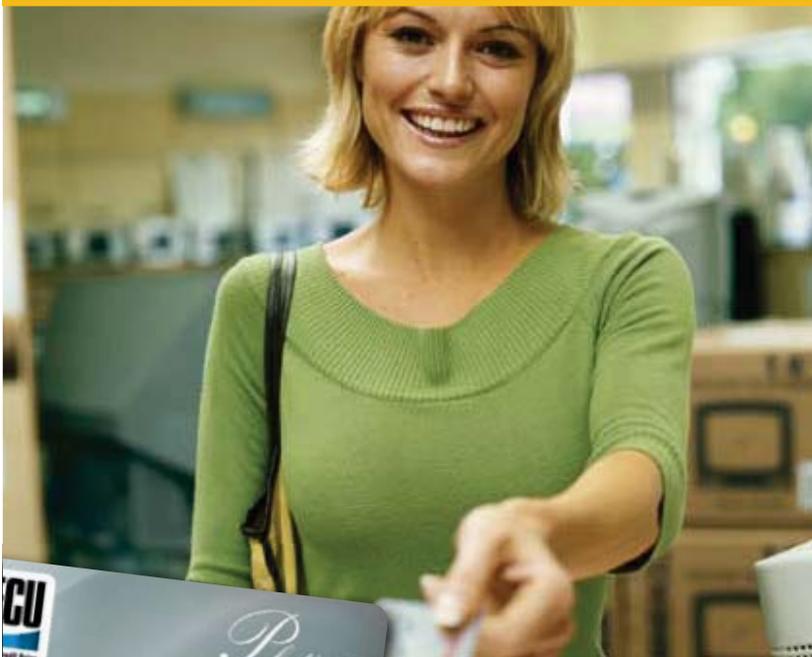
associations to help them throw block parties, organize neighborhood clean ups and any other type of event they would like to organize. We're looking forward to talking with members at some of these events, and to reaching out into all areas of our community to learn about their financial needs and how MECU can help them.

Sincerely,

Herman Williams Jr.  
Chairman of the Board

Bert J. Hash Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer





## IT'S TIME TO SWITCH TO MECU'S VISA® PLATINUM CARD

Is your bank giving you less and charging you more to use their credit card? These days, typical credit card interest rates are 18% or more and fees are higher. MECU's Visa Platinum's low rate hasn't changed in over 10 years.

### Just look at what you get:

- Lower minimum monthly payments
- No balance transfer fee
- No annual fee
- No cash advance fees\*\*
- Rewards on every dollar spent — merchandise, travel, even gift cards

You get an even lower introductory rate for the first six months! And you can check account status and pay bills at [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com)

**Apply online at [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com) or by phone at 1-800-373-2914 24/7.**

\*APR-Annual Percentage Rate. Introductory APR for the first 6 statement closing dates following the opening of your account. After that, your rate will be 9.90%. Credit limits are based on Credit Worthiness and ability to repay. If you do not qualify for a VISA Platinum, you may be considered for a VISA Classic or Gold.

\*\*ATM fees may apply

# RESULTS OF ELECTION ANNOUNCED

## Annual Meeting Held March 20

The annual meeting of the Members of MECU was held Tuesday, March 20 at the Corporate Offices in Baltimore. An asterisk (\*) following a director's name below indicates his/her election/re-election to a 3-year term beginning in 2012. The 2011 MECU Annual Report is now available in our branches or you may request that one be mailed to you.

**Board of Directors:** Active Directors – Active Directors – Roman Clark, Fire; G. Louise Green\*, Finance; A. Soula Lambropoulos\*, Health; Benjamin Meli, DPW; Peggy A. Peacock, HCD; Charmaine M. Thomas, Police. Retiree Directors – Ernest J. Glinka; Gary W. McLhinney; Herman Williams Jr.\*; Directors at Large – Kaliopé Parthemos, Mayor's Office; Lorretta Johnson, BTU; John T. Walker III\*, BCPS. Director Emeritus – Harry Deitchman.

## MECU'S COMMITMENT TO MEMBERS

MECU is always looking for better ways to serve our members. Recently, every MECU employee took part in special training to make sure we were taking care of our members and making sure we exceeded their expectations. To signify that commitment, every person taking the training signed their name to a slip of paper that was made into a chain. This chain reminds us that it takes all of us at MECU, working together, to serve our members.



# MECU CAN HELP **SAVE YOU MONEY**

## WHEN BUYING OR REFINANCING A HOME

**P**lus, members who finance with MECU are eligible to receive a loan interest rebate each year\*. That's CASH BACK to you! When you add this to our already low mortgage rates and discounts for First-time Homebuyers and Buy in Baltimore programs, why would you go anywhere else?

**Call 443-263-8501 or go to [www.mecu.com/mortgage/oya](http://www.mecu.com/mortgage/oya) to apply**



### Benefits of a MECU Mortgage Include:

- Loan interest rebate\* – means you get back a portion of the already lower interest you pay on the loan
- Interest rate discounts – Baltimore City and First-Time Home Buyer purchases saves you an extra 0.25% on your rate\*\*
- Benefits of Membership - MECU reinvests earnings to its Members...our earnings become your savings!

\* Subject to annual board approval

\*\* Restrictions apply

### Check out our Great Rates Too!

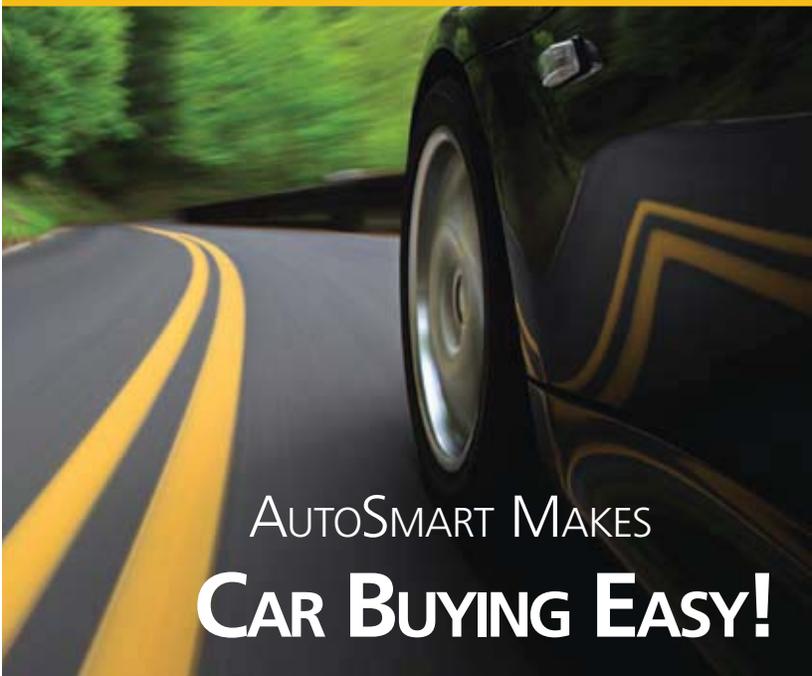
	Base Rate (as low as)	APR* (as low as)	Monthly Payment* (\$150,00 loan amount)
<b>0 Points Option</b>			
30-year fixed rate	4.000%	4.137%	\$716.12
20-year fixed rate	3.875%	4.065%	\$899.12
15-year fixed rate	3.250%	3.490%	\$1054.00
10-year fixed rate	3.125%	3.473%	\$1457.08
7/1 ARM (adjustable rate)	3.125%	3.391%	\$642.56
5/1 ARM (adjustable rate)	2.875%	3.341%	\$622.34
3/1 ARM (adjustable rate)	2.750%	2.988%	\$612.36
<b>1 Point Option</b>			
30-year fixed rate	3.750%	3.966%	\$694.67
20-year fixed rate	3.625%	3.925%	\$879.61
15-year fixed rate	3.000%	3.380%	\$1035.87
10-year fixed rate	2.875%	3.427%	\$1439.77

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate based on a 80% Loan to Value ratio. Rates are subject to change. Monthly Payment amount is based on a \$150,000 loan amount for principal plus interest at the lowest available APR and does not include taxes and insurance which will increase your monthly payment. Your actual rate may be higher based on your credit score, loan amount, repayment term, collateral, credit history and ability to repay. Rates will be 0.50% higher on Investment properties. Subject to verification of collateral. Adequate property and flood insurance is required. MECU membership required. Rates as of: April 1, 2012.

## COIN COUNTERS IN THE BRANCHES

**H**ow much spare change do you have hiding in your home? You can turn your spare coin into cash with our new Dream Changer Self Service Coin Machines. Located at the Parren J. Mitchell Branch and the Commercentre Branch, the Dream Changer Coin Machines are fast, easy and fun. Not only does it convert your spare change into cash, but is educational for young and old alike...so be sure to bring the kids!





## AUTO SMART MAKES CAR BUYING EASY!

**H**ave you tried MECU's AutoSmart yet? It's a one stop shop to research your car options, calculate your savings and get pre-approved for a low-rate MECU loan.

Besides researching specific cars, you can get buying tips, learn the differences between buying and leasing and analyze whether it's best to take the 0% financing or the rebate.

### **When you're ready to buy AutoSmart's 3 easy steps will get your new car on the road.**

- Compare vehicle information and get dealer quotes
- Apply for your MECU loan – lower rates mean lower payments
- Insure your new car and get discounts through MECU partners

Already know the car you want? You can still get MECU's low rates and apply right online at [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com) or call 1-800-373-2914 24/7.

# AutoSmart

Research — Finance — Save

[www.mecu.com/autosmart](http://www.mecu.com/autosmart)

## BANKRUPTCY IS NOT THE EASY WAY OUT

If you are thinking about bankruptcy, the laws have changes and it is not an easy way out. The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 requires counseling and education for all individuals filing for bankruptcy. This must be done through a U.S.Trustee-approved non-profit credit counseling agency and a certificate of completion for both pre-file counseling and pre-discharge education class must be obtained from the counseling agency.

One other problem with bankruptcy is that you lose your MECU membership. At MECU we will work with you as you work through your debt problems and help you to reestablish your credit. If you find that bankruptcy is the only way out of your financial emergency, you can "reaffirm" your debt with MECU. This means that you are telling the court that you will repay your debt to MECU. You can get help with developing a payment plan and managing your debt for free through Accel and The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of MD and DE.

**To speak with an Accel financial counselor free of charge, call (877) 33ACCEL.**

**To get help from CCCS go to [cccs-inc.org/](http://cccs-inc.org/) or call 1-800-642-2227.**

## MECU MOBILE APPS!

Coming soon! To a smart phone near you! MECU will introduce mobile banking apps for both iPhone and Android users. Watch for more information at [www.mecu.com](http://www.mecu.com). You can stay up-to-date on what's happening at MECU by following us on Facebook — [www.facebook.com/BaltimoreMECU](http://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreMECU) and Twitter @MECUofBalt.



# SPRING CLEAN YOUR FINANCIAL PAPERS

Part of MECU's continuing series of articles to help members increase their financial knowledge. With spring upon us and Tax Day just past, now is the perfect time to organize your files and clean out your old paperwork. Below is a general guide on what to keep and what to toss:

## Keep Forever

(preferably in a fire/waterproof safe, with a copy in another safe location off-premises)

- Marriage license
- Birth certificates
- Divorce decrees
- Social security cards
- Wills
- Trusts
- Estate planning documents
- Records of loans that have been paid off
- Records of state funded assistance

## Keep as long as you hold the asset

- Home deed
- Car title
- Insurance policies
- Warranties and manuals

## Discard after seven years

(when no longer needed for tax purposes)

- Tax returns
- Purchase records for investments
- Records of charitable donations
- IRA contributions
- Retirement plan year-end statements
- Flexible spending account documentation
- Child-care records

## Discard after two years

- Checking and savings account statements
- Credit card statements (if you plan to file for medicaid, hold on to these for five years; if they support tax items, keep them for seven years)

## Discard after one year

(when you have received end of the year statements and filed taxes for that year)

- Utility bills (unless you claim a home-office deduction, in which case, three years)
- Pay stubs
- Monthly or quarterly investment statements

Make sure to shred the documents that you no longer need in order to prevent identity theft! If you have any questions or special circumstances, you may want to check with your tax advisor.

**This article was developed by Accel for its member credit unions. MECU members can call Accel to get help with developing a budget, managing debt and many other financial areas. To speak with an Accel financial counselor free of charge, call (877) 33ACCEL.**



Baltimore's Credit Union

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

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**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'Malley 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



Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency. Additional coverage provided through Excess Share Insurance Corporation to a combined total of at least \$325,000. Equal Housing Lender - We do business in accordance with Federal Fair Lending laws.



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443-263-8501

