

# Credit Protection: To Freeze or Not to Freeze

One of the best ways to protect your credit from potential fraud and unnecessary inquiries is by freezing your credit. This free service is available from all three credit bureaus. It doesn't affect your credit score, and helps prevent the opening of fraudulent credit accounts in your name.

When a credit freeze is in place, it prohibits lenders from viewing your credit report and offering credit accounts\*. If a fraudster tries to use your credit to open a fake account or loan it will be blocked.

For best results, you should place the freeze with all three credit bureaus. This can be done online or by phone. The credit bureaus may offer premium credit protection services on their site, which are not free. Be sure you are signing up for just the free credit freeze service to avoid any unnecessary fees or monthly charges.



## Unfreezing Your Credit

If you are planning a big purchase like a mortgage or vehicle, or applying for a credit card or other loan/line of credit, you can unfreeze your credit temporarily. We recommend contacting the credit bureaus before you apply. If requested online or by phone, the freeze can be lifted quickly – usually within 1 hour in most instances.

Freezing your credit doesn't prevent you from having your identity stolen, but it significantly reduces the ability for someone to create a fraudulent account in your name.

*\*Lenders with whom you already have an account, as well as debt collectors acting on their behalf, will still be able to view your report. However, until you unfreeze your credit they cannot open any new accounts in your name.*

# Are You Able to Spot a Fraudulent Check?



Fraudsters are constantly trying to find people to fall for their scams. They can become very persistent either through email, text, or even social media direct messages. Today, check fraud remains one of the top types of consumer fraud. So what are some signs you can look out for to avoid falling victim to a check scam? Check out our Check Scams Video series on our YouTube channel to learn the warning signs of check fraud. Visit youtube.com and search "APLFCU" and click the red subscribe button to be notified of new video releases as they are published.



P.O. Box 418 Laurel, MD 20725

## MAIN OFFICE

11050 Johns Hopkins Road  
Laurel, MD 20723  
443-778-5250  
800-367-5796 (out of area)  
Fax: 240-228-5545

## Lobby Hours:

Mon., Tue., Thu. & Fri.  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Wed., 9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Saturday  
9:00 am to Noon

## Drive-Thru Hours:

Mon., Tue., Thu. & Fri.  
8:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Wed., 9:30 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday  
9:00 am to Noon

## COLUMBIA BRANCH

8870 McGaw Road  
Columbia, MD 21045  
443-778-5250  
Fax: 410-309-3522

## Lobby & Drive-Thru Hours:

Same as Main Office

## APL CAMPUS BRANCH

11100 Johns Hopkins Road  
Laurel, MD 20723  
443-778-5250  
Fax: 240-228-3060

## Weekday Lobby Hours:

Same as Main Office and  
Columbia Branch

## CALL CENTER:

Use Main Office Numbers  
Mon., Tue., Thu. & Fri.  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Wed., 9:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Saturday  
9:00 am to Noon

## SURCHARGE-FREE ALLPOINT ATMs

to find locations:

- visit [aplfcu.org](http://aplfcu.org)
- use your mobile device
- use your GPS device
- call 800-976-4917

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(as of 08/31/2022)

Assets - \$619 Million  
Savings - \$561 Million  
Loans - \$434 Million  
Members - 28,665

## CURRENT RATES

Visit [aplfcu.org](http://aplfcu.org)

## SPREAD THE WORD

APL Federal Credit Union is open to anyone who lives, works, attends school or regularly conducts business in Howard County, Maryland, and members of their families. Family members do not have to live or work in Howard County to be eligible for membership.

## CONTACT US

Website:

[aplfcu.org](http://aplfcu.org)

e-Mail:

[MemberServices@aplfcu.org](mailto:MemberServices@aplfcu.org)

Telephone Banking:

443-778-5858  
Out of Area: 800-382-1993

Lost or Stolen Visa Card:

After hours and weekends  
800-367-5796

Routing Number:

255077998



# INSIGHT

The Quarterly Newsletter for APL Federal Credit Union Members

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022

# To Freeze or Not To Freeze





# David's Desk



In conjunction with the start of the new school year, the Credit Union's staff participated in providing backpacks and school supplies for students here in Howard County. Our staff community outreach committee organized the project with supplies donated by the Credit Union.

While our staff filled the backpacks with the various school supplies, we built on our team dynamics with a rousing game of, "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" We then delivered the 98 backpacks to HCPSS counselors and Luminus – a non-profit organization that serves immigrant families here in Howard County – for distribution to students in need.



As we provide donations and service in our Howard County community, we represent all of you, our member/owners. In addition to our daily member service, it is such a positive experience for me to participate with other staff members who willingly join in these service activities that improve lives within our community.

David Woodruff, President/CEO

## GREAT SAVINGS WITH APL FCU



According to bankrate.com, the average 60-month new car loan rate hit 5.08% in September\*. Based on an average car loan amount of \$36,000, APL FCU's "One Rate" Auto Loan would save you more than \$2,000 in finance charges over the 5-year term. For used vehicle loans, or for longer terms of 72 or 84 months, the savings would be even higher.

Unlike many other lenders, we don't believe in charging a higher rate to our members who purchase a used vehicle, or who choose a longer term to get a lower monthly payment that fits into their budget. And we don't advertise an "as low as" rate that is only available for consumers with excellent credit, who purchase a new vehicle and finance it for a very short term (often 36 months).

With our "One Rate" Auto Loan, all approved applicants get the same low annual percentage rate of just 2.99%\*\*. This rate is good for new, used or refinanced vehicle loans, for any term up to 7 years, with no model year restrictions.

### Mechanical Repair Coverage

In addition to our low auto loan rate, APL FCU can also save you hundreds of dollars or more with our Mechanical Repair Coverage (MRC).

With the average car price skyrocketing the past couple of years, many consumers opt for an extended warranty to protect themselves against unexpected and costly repairs. APL FCU's MRC is a great alternative to purchasing an expensive extended warranty from the dealer. MRC can be quoted to you at the time you apply for an auto loan, so you can compare it to the dealer's offering. And the cost can be rolled right into your auto loan. For complete details, visit [aplfcu.org](http://aplfcu.org) or contact Member Services at 443-778-5250.

\*Based on bankrate.com's average car loan rate data, published on 9/7/2022. \*\*Annual Percentage Rate for APL FCU's One Rate Auto Loan is shown as of 10/1/2022 and subject to change without notice.



## Credit Union Scoop

### APL FCU VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to be considered for a future volunteer role on the Board of Directors or other APL FCU Committee, please contact John Pohlen at [john.pohlen@aplfcu.org](mailto:john.pohlen@aplfcu.org) or scan the QR Code for complete details.



### TOYS FOR TOTS

APL FCU will be collecting physical toys for the Toys for Tots Foundation this holiday season at all branch locations starting Sat., Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. Monetary donations will also be collected. Simply ask your service representative how to donate. Please make all physical donations by Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to ensure gifts can be distributed in time for the holidays. You may also make a donation directly on the local Toys for Tots official website ([baltimore-md.toysfortots.org](http://baltimore-md.toysfortots.org)). Please help us spread joy to the children most in need.



### CAR LOAN DESCRIPTION UPDATE

With record vehicle loan volume over the past several years, we now have quite a few of our members have more than one vehicle loan at the Credit Union. This could cause some confusion when viewing the loans in online/mobile banking or on a monthly statement, as the loans were all titled, "VEHICLE FIXED RATE LOAN" followed by a loan number.

In early September we updated our system so that each vehicle loan now shows the vehicle year, make and model in the description. This makes it easy to identify each loan without having to remember the corresponding loan number.

— SEASON OF —

**GIVING & RECEIVING**

Visit [aplfcu.org](http://aplfcu.org) for complete details

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