

Items of Interest

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Merck Employees Federal Credit Union



Fall 2018

Get it Done Before the Holidays: Home Repairs and Remodels

The holidays are fast approaching. Whether your home is in need of repairs before Winter weather hits or you just want to make your kitchen fabulous for Thanksgiving, Merck EFCU can help you get the financing you need to make the necessary upgrades or changes.

Stop by a branch or apply online for a home equity loan or line of credit. Remodels, renovations and repairs are easier with financing from a trusted partner, like Merck EFCU. Plus, rates are still low.

Our fixed rate home equity loan has a maximum term of 7 years for up to \$50,000.

Our home equity line of credit (variable rate) has a maximum term of 15 years for up to \$200,000.

To learn more about the rates and terms, call the credit union at 732-594-3018, visit merckcu.com or stop by one of our branches.



Is Your Car Winter Ready?

Before the snow and ice hit, make sure your current vehicle is Winter ready. Follow these tips for making sure your car keeps you safe in the snow.

1. Get an oil change. Make sure if your car is nearing its 30,000 mile check-up to get that taken care of too. Don't procrastinate on these before the weather turns colder.

2. When was the last time you replaced your wipers? Snow and ice, plus salt from road treatments make seeing difficult. Make sure your wipers are new and your washer fluid is full.

3. Make sure your tire pressure is at the appropriate level for your vehicle and if necessary, switch to your snow tires for the season.

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Fall into a Better Credit Card with Merck EFCU

With a Merck EFCU Visa or MasterCard, you can celebrate no annual fees, plus Merck EFCU doesn't charge fees for balance transfers, late payments, over-limit or cash advances. Plus, both of our credit cards offer rewards.

Our Merck EFCU Visa Platinum Credit Card offers up to 1% cash back on purchases.

Our Merck EFCU MasterCard offers reward points that can be redeemed for travel or merchandise.

Both cards offer low interest rates, plus with no fees, you will definitely save money compared to competitive credit card programs.

Apply online at merckcu.com, call us at 732-594-3018 or visit any branch office.

Fall into a better credit card today!



MERCK
Employees Federal Credit Union

'Tis the Season to Fight Card Fraud

Most people celebrate the holiday season spending money. Whether it be for gifts for family or friends, travel to visit family, or buying the needed groceries to throw the perfect holiday party, most people are pulling out their credit or debit card for one thing or another.

According to Statista, online holiday shopping is projected to increase 15.3% in 2018. In 2017, American shoppers spent over \$5 billion shopping on Cyber Monday alone. Each holiday season, Americans pull out their cards and shop online to a total of hundreds of billions of dollars in the last two months of the year. These online transactions could put you at risk for fraud. We've come up with a few suggestions to help give you peace of mind while shopping.

Use a small number of cards. Make your purchases on one or two cards instead of spreading them out over many. This will not only help you keep track of your purchases, but if anything does get compromised, the impact will be limited to only those cards you used.

Check your statements and keep your receipts. Compare your receipts with your statements once they are available. Fraudulent charges don't usually show up as large purchases. If you aren't actively keeping track and you see a small charge on your card that you don't immediately recognize you may be more willing to think that you simply missed something you bought. Contest any charges that seem suspicious as soon as possible.

Turn on account activity alerts. Most major card issuers are now offering account alerts for their cardholders. Consumers can sign

up and choose the notifications they wish to receive. The notifications can be sent for certain dollar amounts or each time a purchase is made without the card being present. During the holidays, when the number of purchases is increasing, these notifications can help you stay on top of any fraudulent transactions.

Watch the URL. Pay attention to the websites you are visiting. There are scams that use fictitious URLs that look like major retailers to gain access to your information. Verify that "https" appears in the URL. These sites offer secure, encrypted transactions. Don't disclose your credit card information over the phone or online unless you can verify it is legitimate.

Protect your phone. Many Americans use their phones to shop or do other financial business. Password or fingerprint protect your phone and don't allow your phone to store credit card information. Doing so will reduce the risk of losing confidential information should your phone fall into the wrong hands. You can even equip your phone with security software, similar to that on a computer.

Try mobile wallets. Make purchases using mobile wallet apps (ApplePay, SamsungPay, Google Wallet, etc) is not only convenient, but offers additional layers of security. There are added protections in place like biometrics and tokenization.

Check your credit report. Regular



credit report monitoring is important all year long. Check for unauthorized credit inquiries that could signal fraud. This level of vigilance is important in protecting yourself from fraud.

Make sure to follow these tips this holiday season to avoid having credit or debit card fraud ruin your holiday fun.

continued from page 1 4. Check your battery and make sure the connectors are good and there is no corrosion.

5. Put together an emergency kit for your car that includes: a blanket, ice scraper, water, a flashlight, flares, gloves, jumper cables, a first aid kit, hard candies, a small shovel, a small tool kit, paper towels and a tire gauge.

If you don't think your car can make it through the Winter months, don't risk it. Consider your financing options with Merck EFCU before you head to the dealer to purchase a new vehicle. We have a variety of auto loan options with varying rates and terms, we have an option to fit your needs.

Stop by a branch location, visit merckcu.com or call 732-594-3018 for more information or to apply.

Save Time with Mobile Deposit

Mobile deposit is a fast and convenient way to deposit checks into your Merck EFCU account without having to visit a branch.

First, download the Merck FCU Mobile Banking app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.

Then, log into mobile banking. Note, Home Banking is required to access mobile banking. If you need to apply for Home Banking, visit a branch, e-mail us at merck_efcu@merck.com or call us at 732-594-3317.

Next, choose the checking account you would like to deposit the check into and click the camera icon.

Once complete, the funds will be deposited directly into that checking account according to the funds availability policy.

Mobile banking with mobile deposit is a simple and secure method for managing your financial life on the go. Download the Merck FCU Mobile Banking app today.



Why Switch to e-Statements and e-1099s?

Going green with e-statements and e-1099s is not only great for the environment, but it also benefits you as a member of Merck EFCU.

Here are the other reasons you should consider getting your statements and 1099s delivered electronically.

1. Merck EFCU members who sign up for e-statements and e-1099s receive a higher interest rate on their checking account.



2. Because e-statements are delivered through Shadow 1 Home Banking, they are accessible from any computer anywhere you are.

3. E-statements and e-1099s are encrypted and password protected for security purposes, and because they don't travel through the mail, they help prevent identity theft.

4. Having the documents delivered electronically eliminates clutter or the need to shred documents when the time comes to discard.

5. Looking up transactions or account history is easy with e-statements, which are available for up to 18 months after you register.

Sign up for e-statements and e-1099s today through Shadow 1 Home Banking. It's rewarding in more ways than one!

A Message from MEMBERS FINANCIAL SERVICES...

- How much protection do I have against the next big market drop?
- What's better for me, ROTH or Traditional 401(k)?
- Are all my beneficiaries up to date?
- I'm being forced to take Required Minimum Distributions from my IRA- What can I do about it?
- What should I know about the new tax plan?
- And the biggie...am I on track for retirement?



Daniel Campanelli, CFS, CRPC, CFP and Merry Scala are the MEMBERS Financial Services advisors serving the credit union members and their families. Would you like answers to any of these questions? Do you have any others you would like to ask about?

Dan and Merry can be reached by calling Linda in Rahway at 732-594-7705 or linda_phillips@cunamutual.com or Marcy in Elkton at 540-298-5822.

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MERCK
Employees Federal Credit Union

Rahway, Bldg. 32/RV32-15: Box 2000
Rahway, NJ 07065
Hours: M-F, 8 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 4 pm

Upton Place: 397 Upton Place Rahway,
NJ 07065
Hours: M, T, W, F, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm /
Thursdays, 10 am - 6 pm

Whitehouse West: 1 Merck Dr.,
Whitehouse Stn. 08889-0200
Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays,
8:30 am - 1 pm

Kenilworth, K-15: 1200 Galloping Hill
Rd. Kenilworth 07033
Hours: M, T, Th, F, 8:30 am - 1 pm

Stonewall: 2778 South East Hwy, Elkton,
Va. 22827
Hours: M, T, Th, F, 9 am - 12 pm, 1 pm
- 4 pm / Wednesdays, 9 am - 1 pm & by
appointment

Email: merck_efcu@merck.com

Website: www.merckcu.com

Main Directory (732) 594-4046

Member Service
Department (732) 594-3317

Loan Department (732) 594-3018

Upton Place Branch
(732) 594-CASH
(732) 594-2274

Whitehouse West
Branch (908) 423-CASH
(908) 423-2274

Kenilworth Branch
(908) 740-CASH
(908) 740-2274

Stonewall Branch (540) 298-5822

Shadow 1 24-Hour
Telephone Teller or
800-SHADOW1 (732) 594-5200
(800) 742-3691

To report lost or stolen Cards or PINs, call:

For Shadow 2 Visa Check Card (800) 554-8969

For MasterCard or Visa
Platinum Credit Card (800) 237-6211

Use CO-OP, PLUS or Exchange ATMs, worldwide, for
cash. (60¢ charge at CO-OP ATMs for Credit Union
Members.)

For ATM Locations:
• CO-OP ATMs: 1-888-SITECOOP
(888-748-3266) or www.co-opatm.org
• PLUS ATMs: 1-800-THE-PLUS
(800-843-7587)

For Accel Exchange Cash Back Locations & ATMs:
• 800-519-8883 or www.accelexchange.com



Real Estate Loan Rates

Home Equity	5.00%
<i>Real Estate Loans listed above are Variable Rate based on Prime.</i>	
Fixed Rate 2nd Mortgage - 60 months	
\$50,000 max	3.75%
Fixed Rate 2nd Mortgage - 84 months	
\$25,000 min - \$50,000 max	4.00%

Home Equity Loans on primary residences only in NJ & select counties in PA & VA. Costs may apply in VA. A fee applies anywhere a walk-thru appraisal is required. Ask your professional tax advisor what your savings will be borrowing with a Home Equity Loan.

Call daily for 1st Mortgage Rates or visit:

www.merckcu.com

Click on Mortgage Central. Then scroll down and click on **Quick Quote** to begin. **Rates change daily**

Other Home Equity rates & terms available. Refer to the credit union's Rate & Fee Schedule for full details on all loans. No points or fees for Home Equity Loans or 2nd Mortgages except costs may apply in VA. Refinance from other institutions with no MEFCU fees.

Shadow 2 ATM Locations

No charge of any transaction with a Shadow 2
Visa Check Card at Shadow 2 ATMs.

Rahway	• Bldg. 32* (near elevators) • Bldg. 34** (west vestibule) • Bond St. Cafè*** (by front door) • Scott Avenue*** (across from Guard House - 24/7)
Upton Place Branch	• Upton Lobby Foyer** Available regular business hours only.
Whitehouse Station West Branchburg	• Credit Union Lobby** 1 Merck Drive • Main Lobby** Rte. 22
Kenilworth K1 Kenilworth K15 Madison	• Main Atrium Lobby** • East of front desk** • LL Garage Vestibule**
Boston	• MRL Boston* 33 Avenue Louis Pasteur
Durham	• OSF Bldg.* 5325 Old Oxford Rd.
Stonewall	• General Service Facility** 2778 So. East Side Highway • Factory Gate Guard House*

* These Shadow 2 ATMs do not accept deposits.

** These ATMs accept Checks only.

*** This ATM accepts cash or Check deposits.

The Credit Union will be closed on the following days:

- Thursday, November 22, 2018
- Friday, November 23, 2018
- Monday, December 24, 2018
- Tuesday, December 25, 2018
- Wednesday, December 26, 2018*
- Thursday, December 27, 2018*
- Friday, December 28, 2018*
- Monday, December 31, 2018*
- Tuesday, January 1, 2019

*The Upton Place Branch (397 Upton Place, Rahway NJ) will be open their normal business hours on these days.

Projected Rates/4th Quarter 2018

Savings	APR	Yield
Share Savings & PODs	1.625%	1.635%
IRAs	2.250%	2.269%
Checking with eStatements	0.500%	0.501%
Checking without eStatements	0.125%	0.125%

For additional information, please contact the Rahway Office to obtain a copy of current rates & disclosures.

Current Loan Rates

• New Vehicle & Prior ONE Model Year (100% of purchase price including sales tax and other charges)

• Other Secured Loans - Motor Vehicle Title - maximum = 90% of NADA Loan value

36 months	2.50%
48 months (min. \$8,000 on Other Secured Loans)	2.75%
60 months (min. \$10,000 on New & \$15,000 on Other Secured Loans)	3.00%
72 months (min. \$20,000 on New Vehicles only)	3.25%

• New Vehicle & Prior ONE Model Year (90% of purchase price including sales tax and other charges)

• Other Secured Loans - Motor Vehicle Title - maximum = NADA Loan value

36 months	3.50%
48 months (min. \$8,000 on Other Secured Loans)	3.75%
60 months (min. \$10,000 on New & \$15,000 on Other Secured Loans)	4.00%
72 months (min. \$20,000 on New Vehicles only)	4.25%

• New Vehicle & Prior ONE Model Year (100% of purchase price including sales tax and other charges)

• Used Vehicle - new RVs = 100% of purchase price excluding sales tax & other charges & Used RVs max. = NADA Used Retail value

• Stock Secured - regularly traded on the NYSE up to 70% of current market value

• Bond Secured - up to 70% of current market value

36 months	4.00%
48 months (min. \$8,000 on Other Secured Loans)	4.25%
60 months (min. \$10,000 on New & \$15,000 on Other Secured Loans)	4.50%
72 months (min. \$20,000 on New Vehicles only)	4.75%

• Signature - Ready Money

12 months	9.50%
36 months	11.00%
48 months (minimum \$6,000)	11.50%
60 months (minimum \$15,000)	12.00%
Shared Secured - 72 month max. term	3.625%

Above APRs 0.25% higher when not repaid automatically via EFT - automatic transfer from Share Account

Mastercard/Visa 9.96%
Credit card rates are variable based on Prime.