October 2024

Member Insights

MERCK EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

From the desk of the President/CEO:

Member Appreciation Arrives, Holidays and Year-End Right Behind!



The credit union started Member Appreciation Season five years ago to show our members the love during the end of the year! It runs from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 and you can read about this year's offerings on this page. (There will be a few other surprises too).

The start of the "season" also signifies that Fall is here, the holidays are just around the corner and year-end isn't far behind.

It also reminds us of "appreciating" more than just the time of year, but also supporting great causes. This is something we know many of our members do. We have a number of members who make charitable donations throughout the year, but it is especially active during the holiday season as our thoughts turn to those in need.

Here at the credit union, we also do our part to support causes that are near and dear to our heart. One of our longest standing efforts has been with The Seeing Eye, a wonderful organization that trains guide dogs for people in need of their services. Members also help this effort by contributing to our Pennies for Puppies effort through cash donations at our branches. Seen here is this year's credit union puppy, Pixie. The credit union is sponsoring the training and support Pixie needs to become a top-notch guide dog!

In addition, the credit union is also a longtime supporter of Healing the Children

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Member Appreciation Season is Back!

From October 1 to December 31, 2024, Merck Employees Federal Credit Union is once again celebrating its members with the return of Member Appreciation Season. This is our way of saying thank you for your continued loyalty and trust. With exclusive offers and exciting giveaways, we're making this season extra special!

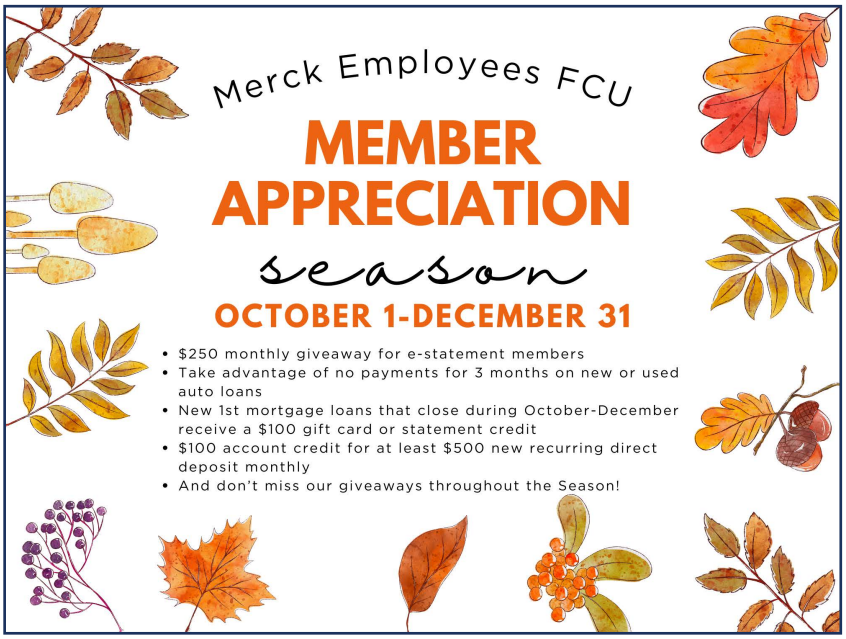
Here's what you can look forward to:

- **$250 Monthly Giveaway for E-Statement Members:** If you're signed up for e-statements, you're automatically entered for a chance to win $250 each month throughout the season.
- **No Payments for 3 Months on Auto Loans:** Take advantage of no payments for the first three months on new or used auto loans. It's a perfect opportunity to upgrade your vehicle without immediate financial pressure.
- **$100 Gift Card or Statement Credit on New 1st Mortgage Loans:** When you close on a new 1st mortgage loan between October and December, you'll receive a $100 gift card or a credit towards your account.

But that's not all—there will be **additional giveaways** throughout the season, so be sure to stay connected for your chance to win.

Don't miss out on these great offers! Member Appreciation Season is our way of giving back to you, our valued members. Keep an eye on your emails, visit our website, and follow us on social media for updates on all the exciting promotions and giveaways.

Thank you for being part of the MEFCU family! For more information, visit merckcu.com.



(Continued from Member Appreciation...)

New Jersey, which provides vital medical care to those children in need who lack financial resources for medical services. This organization has helped thousands of children return to health without their families being burdened with overwhelming medical debt.

Finally, another key organization the credit union supports financially and with volunteerism right in Rahway, NJ, home of the credit union, is Rahway Food For Friends, a food kitchen for people in need that provides vital services to thousands of residents in the Rahway area. We have seen in action many times how their dedicated and committed work is helping stamp out hunger in our area.

As Member Appreciation Season kicks off and the holiday season begins, we join you in all the good work you do with a variety of charitable efforts. Thank you for your membership in the credit union.

Paul Gentile
President/CEO
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Fraud Trend: Rise in Account Takeover



With recent data breaches at larger merchants, like Dick's Sporting Goods and Avis Car Rental, and local and regional utility companies, it seems hackers are always busy trying to get their hands on sensitive data.

Data from breaches like these can be used in lieu of social engineering or phishing attempts and simply procured by fraudsters on dark web. With the sensitive data in hand, fraudsters can then infiltrate online accounts, often called Account Takeover (ATO) fraud.

Here at the credit union, we have seen increases in account takeover attempts. Account takeover is a form of identity theft where fraudsters utilize personally identifiable information, session-hijacking or device takeover to overtake an online account or profile.

These types of attacks have been seen on ecommerce sites for years, with members reporting that, for example, they woke to find that someone had hacked into their Amazon account and ordered a bunch of items. But now, we are seeing similar types of attacks on online banking profiles where hackers then have access to account information.

To protect your accounts, the credit union recommends the following:

- Make sure your username and password are unique and not easily guessed based on other information (for example your first initial last name, or your account number);
- Utilize a strong password with capital letters, lowercase letters, symbols and numbers;
- Ensure two-factor authentication or soft tokens are utilized whenever available;
- Monitor your accounts for strange activity daily. Many providers even allow the ability to review recent login activity.

Your credit union accounts allow for always on two-factor authentication and the use of soft tokens (through Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator, etc.). Recent login activity can also be viewed in the Settings area of online banking.

If your username, password, email address, etc. have been found in a compromise we recommend updating the compromised information. This may mean utilizing a new email address for important items, such as financial relationships.

By staying vigilant you can help protect your accounts from this rising area of fraud.

MERCK EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Your Prescription to Financial Health

Member Services: 732-484-4811 Opt. 5
Loan Department: 732-484-4811 Opt. 2
Debit Card Lost/Stolen: 800-554-8969
Credit Card Lost/Stolen: 800-237-6211

Established in 1936, Merck EFCU is federally-chartered and federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

NCUA

Featured Loan & Deposit Rates

Auto Loans as low as 5.35% APR*

E-Checking 0.125% APR*

Credit Cards as low as 13.00% APR*

Share Cert. 6 months 3.85% APY*

Share Cert. 12 months 4.00% APY*

IRA Cert. 6 months 3.85% APY*

IRA Cert. 12 months 4.00% APY*

Savings 1.125% APR*

IRAs 1.675% APR*

Home Equity as low as 8.50% APR*

**Annual percentage rate. Visit www.merckcu.com or visit a branch for more information.*