



ECU NEWS

Newsletter for Members • September 30, 2018

News Briefs

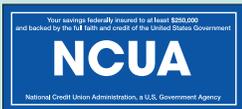


Free Seminars

ECU offers many free seminars covering topics such as home buying and selling, retirement planning, student lending, home construction, credit score, identity theft, and other topics that may interest you. For a complete schedule of all upcoming seminars offered by ECU, please visit www.ecu.org/eventsandseminars.

Christmas Club Account Reminder

The holidays will be here before you know it! Did you know you can withdraw funds from your Christmas Club account as early as September 1? It's a great way to get an early start on Christmas shopping! Remember, all funds will automatically transfer to your savings account on November 1.



GREAT NEWS!

It's Now Easier than Ever to Redeem Points or Cash on Your ECU VISA® Credit Card!

We've enhanced our online banking and mobile app to make it easier for you to cash in your credit card points! You can now conveniently redeem cash or points on your ECU Visa® Cash Rewards or Platinum Preferred credit card with a click of the button! Simply log in to your ECU Online Banking account, or open your ECU mobile app, and click on the redeem points button or redeem cash button located under ECU Credit Card Rewards to convert your points. It's that easy! To learn more about ECU Visa credit cards, visit www.ecu.org/visa.



Let's Remodel Your Home Together!

Open an ECU HOME IMPROVEMENT MORTGAGE

Go from drab to fab

- Up to 90% financing
- Fixed rate term options available
- No Private Mortgage Insurance required
- Extraordinary Dividend Year-End Bonus (Subject to ECU Board approval and member eligibility)
- Loans subject to certain qualifying criteria.

Apply online today and get up to \$1,000 off your closing costs!

Limited time offer



It's Just Around the Corner...

It's hard to believe, but it's less than three months to Christmas...and it's never too early to start planning your holiday expenses! Whether it's holiday gift giving, a holiday event, or travel expenses to Grandma's house, ECU can help with our Holiday Loan! For a limited time, qualifying members may borrow up to \$8,000 for 18 months, with rates as low as 4.95% APR*.

While you are taking care of this year's holiday expenses with a convenient ECU Holiday Loan, why not prepare for next year's holiday season by opening an ECU Christmas Club account this year? Regular deposits into your ECU Christmas Club account, even small ones, accumulate into funds that will be transferred to your savings account each November 1, just in time for holiday expenses!

Important information:

*APR is Annual Percentage Rate. Rate effective as of October 1, 2018. For every \$1,000 financed for 18 months, the payment would be \$57.76 at 4.95% APR. Loan subject to credit approval. Limited time offer.

ECU Mobile App Upgrades

Great news! ECU's top rated mobile app is better than ever. The following features can now be accessed via the app:

- ECU Credit Card Rewards
- Online Statements
- Skip A Payment
- Check Stop Payment
- Opening an Account or Loan

You can access these convenient upgrades via the 'More' menu item along the bottom of your screen.

Don't have our FREE mobile app?

Download it today via iTunes or Google Play.



ECU BESIDE YOU



Free Credit Freezes and Alerts

Thanks to a new federal law, soon you can get free credit freezes and year-long fraud alerts. Here's what to look forward to when the law takes effect on September 21:

Free credit freezes

What is it? A credit freeze restricts access to your credit file, making it harder for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. Usually, you get a PIN to use each time you want to freeze and unfreeze your account to apply for new credit.

What's new? Currently, credit freezes may involve fees based on state law. Starting this fall, it will be free to freeze and unfreeze your credit file and the file of children under age 16 throughout the country.

Year-long fraud alerts

What is it? A fraud alert will tell any business that runs your credit that they should check with you before opening a new account.

What's new? Currently, fraud alerts last 90 days. Starting this fall, an initial fraud alert will last for one year. It will still be free and identity theft victims can still get an extended fraud alert for seven years.

When the law takes effect on September 21, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion must each set up a webpage for requesting fraud alerts and credit freezes. The FTC will also post links to those webpages on IdentityTheft.gov.

And if you're in the military, there's more. Within a year, credit reporting agencies must offer free electronic credit monitoring to all active duty military.

Source: *Lisa Weintraub Schifferle*
Attorney, FTC, Division of Consumer & Business Education

Good things to know about credit freezes:

Freezing your credit does not prevent fraud on your credit or debit cards. Card fraud is a result of an identity thief stealing or purchasing your card information. ECU offers zero liability fraud protection and CardControl to help protect your funds.

To open a credit card, apply for a loan, insurance, employment or other services requiring credit access, you'll have to unfreeze your account. The freeze makes it impossible for anyone (including you) to borrow money or establish new credit in your name. Existing creditors will still be able to report borrowing and payment information on your report, and you will continue to receive pre-approved offers from lenders.

A credit freeze does not prevent you from getting your annual, free credit report, nor does it hurt your credit score. It is recommended that you continue to check your credit report.

Historically, the credit bureaus have recommend allowing a few days to lift a freeze to access credit. The new legislation requires the credit bureaus to speed up the freeze and thaw process.



Planning for retirement has never been more important. Americans are living longer, healthier, and more active lives than past generations and they want to ensure that all their needs are met. That means saving for a longer retirement is critical.

Everyone's situation is different, and fortunately, a diverse array of options are available to address your individual needs and goals. An ECU Asset Management Financial Consultant can help you navigate these options and choose the one that's suitable for you and your situation.

The most important thing you can do to work toward a secure financial future that aligns with your goals is to begin planning today! Call today for a free consultation with an ECU Asset Management representative.

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Harry Headrick Longview 903.381.6523

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Not NCUA Insured

Not Credit Union Guaranteed

May Lose Value



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