

Did You Know?

You Can Pay Your APGFCU® Loans From External Accounts

It's simple, and here's how:

1. **Log in to Online Banking**
2. **Select Transfers and Payments**
3. **Select Manage External Accounts**

Follow the easy instructions from there, and once you have linked your account at the other financial institution, it will show as an option in the "From" account field in the Transfer menu.

For step-by-step instructions
and to try it today, visit
apgfcu.com/OnlineBanking



Bigger Rate, Bigger Happy!

Earn More With a High Yield Checking Account

Our High Yield Checking just got even higher.

Now, you can earn a **whopping 4.00% APY***
on balances up to **\$20,000!**

Plus, get:

- 0.20% APY on any balances above \$20,000*
- 0.05% APY* if the account does not meet the required criteria

Plus, no monthly maintenance fee!

Visit apgfcu.com/HighYield, stop in any branch location or call 410-272-4000 to open a High Yield Checking Account today.



Holiday Closings

Monday, January 15, 2024

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 19, 2024

Presidents' Day

For remote access,
use Online Banking,
Mobile Banking,
ABBY Telephone
Teller and ATMs.

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 12/01/2023. If your account meets the criteria, you will earn 4.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on balances up to \$20,000 and 0.20% APY on balances of \$20,000.01 and higher. Balances on accounts that fail to meet the account requirements for a given month will earn 0.05% APY. APY is accurate as of last dividend declaration date. The rate may change after account opening. No minimum balance requirements. No minimum to open account. No monthly maintenance fees or penalties. Fees may reduce earnings on accounts. High Yield Checking is limited to one per member (per membership). To earn the higher rate, you must opt out of paper statements from APGFCU, have an ongoing qualifying direct deposit of at least \$200 per month into your High Yield Checking account, and complete a minimum of 15 qualifying point-of-sale (POS) purchase transactions per month using an APGFCU Visa Debit Card linked to the High Yield Checking Account. A qualifying direct deposit is an electronic credit of your salary, pension, Social Security, or other regular monthly income deposited to your account by your employer or an outside agency. Transactions that do not qualify as a direct deposit include, but are not limited to, transfers from one account to another, deposits from an internet payment service, and deposits made at an ATM. To qualify, debit card transactions must process, post, and clear within the calendar month. Minimum transaction is \$1.00. Debit card transactions may take one or more business days from the transaction date to post to an account from the date the transaction is made. Both PIN and signature POS transactions qualify. ATM transactions do not qualify. Membership eligibility applies.

Visit apgfcu.com to view Truth in Savings Disclosure – High Yield Checking for more details.

Let Us Help Plan for Tomorrow

Whether you're off to college, buying your first home or starting the financial conversation with your children, we have the tools you need to plan your next step.

Turn your goals into reality with our no-cost educational resources. The best part? You already have access to planning tools through our website, as well as Banzai Direct and GreenPath Financial Wellness, including:

- One-on-one financial counseling and group webinars
- Educational articles
- Virtual coaching sessions and interactive workbooks
- Videos, e-courses, games and calculators

Why wait? Visit apgfcu.com/Learn to review our resources and start planning today.



Bring High-Rate Payments to a Debt End!

Post-holiday bills rolling in? Team up with APGFCU and work to get out of debt.

With the help of APGFCU's various loan products, you could consolidate your higher-rate debt from multiple loans or credit cards into one easy monthly payment, access a lower interest rate and keep more in your pockets in 2024. From personal and home equity loans to our Easy Cash and home equity lines of credit, we'll help you go further with no early payoff penalty, flexible loan terms and more. Plus, we'll even deposit your funds directly into your account so you don't have to visit a branch!

Don't let debt snowball your plans. Visit apgfcu.com/GotDebt to get started.

Take the Next Step Toward Your Future With an APGFCU Scholarship

We're here to help students at every phase reach their dreams. If you or someone you know need help covering the cost of college, trade school or a certificate program, be sure to consider the 2024 APGFCU Annual Scholarship Competition. Spread the word and apply online now through February 16, 2024.

Visit apgfcu.com/Scholarship to learn more and apply for help reaching your personal and professional goals.



Federal Student Loan Reactivation Scams

After being paused for more than three years during the COVID-19 pandemic and extended eight times, federal student loan repayments resumed in October 2023. This lifting of government assistance during a difficult economic time means scammers have yet another opportunity to mislead borrowers.

With many borrowers concerned about repaying their now higher loan bill each month (as interest on federal loans also resumed in September), fraudsters are posing as employees of the U.S. Department of Education. They may offer "assistance" – for a price, of course – including lowering the monthly payment amount, avoiding a payment altogether or getting loans forgiven. However, these phony propositions are a ploy to steal your money, information and identity.

Here's how you can spot a scam:

- Are you receiving calls or texts promising special access to loan forgiveness? This does not exist. You can easily log in to your student loan account to review your debt relief and repayment options. If someone is promising something, especially for a fee, it is likely a scam.
- Did they ask for your Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID login information? Legitimate organizations will not ask for this information. Fraudsters ask for it intending to cut contact between borrowers and their loan servicers, and even steal your identity.

Be sure your contact information is up to date with the FSA system and your loan servicers to get updates about repayment plans.

If you feel like you are caught up in a too-good-to-be-true scenario, slow down, hang up or stop texting, and review the information on StudentAid.gov/Repay. Then, report your experience to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Monitor our Security page at apgfcu.com/Security for even more current scams.

Share Your Voice and Vote for Your 2024 Board of Directors



Voting for the 2024 Board of Directors Election is open as of January 3, 2024! As an APGFCU member-owner, you hold the power to shape the future of the credit union through your vote in the 2024 Board of Directors Election. Make your voice heard by voting for the candidates who represent your needs, goals and ownership in the credit union. Voting is open now through March 24, 2024.

Select the three (3) candidates whom you would like to represent your interests in the credit union for their elected three-year term. You may return your ballot by mail, vote online or drop your ballot off at your local branch now through March 24, 2024.

Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Review official election rules and cast your vote online at apgfcu.com/Election.



Easily Monitor Your Credit Score & Report With Online and Mobile Banking

As part of the many enhancements made to our Online and Mobile Banking platform earlier this year, you can now access free, ongoing credit score and credit report monitoring services, including:

- Personalized analysis of your score with clear, simple explanations of factors impacting your score
- Coaching videos and daily articles to put yourself in the best position to truly discover financial freedom

Log in to Online and Mobile Banking on your desktop or mobile phone to get started. Not enrolled? Visit apgfcu.com/OnlineBanking to sign up now.





Member owned. Member driven.

P.O. Box 1176, Aberdeen, MD 21001-6176
apgfcu.com | 410-272-4000 | 800-225-2555



Branch Locations

- Aberdeen**
996 Beards Hill Rd.
- Amyclae**
1200-A Agora Dr., Bel Air
- APG**
6485 Operations Ave.
- Bel Air**
321 S. Main St.
- Cecil College**
1 Seahawk Dr., North East
- Chesapeake City**
2579 Augustine Herman Hwy.
- Edgewood**
1321 Pulaski Hwy.
- Elkton**
1204 E. Pulaski Hwy.
- Fallston**
210 Mountain Rd.
- Forest Hill**
2010 Rock Spring Rd.
- Havre de Grace**
1045 W. Pulaski Hwy.
- Laurel Bush**
2113 Laurel Bush Rd., Bel Air
- North East**
2011 W. Pulaski Hwy.
- Rising Sun**
28 Rising Sun Town Center
- Riverside**
1327 Riverside Pkwy., Belcamp

Home Loan Center
Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Member Service Center
Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ABA Routing & Transit Number
255075576
(use this number to arrange electronic fund transfers)

Operation Statistics as of October 31, 2023

Assets	\$2,176,054,039
Shares	\$1,954,378,446
Loans	\$1,709,295,008
Members	154,743



Ranked #1 in Maryland

APGFCU is not affiliated with any non-APGFCU Internet sites listed in this newsletter. These sites are provided as reference only. APGFCU makes no representations about the content on these sites or subsequent links from those sites.



All loans are subject to approval.
Federally insured by NCUA
MC-AP-OT-010124

Coping With Inflation? Be Budget Aware.

Inflation continues to put pressure on household budgets. From groceries to gas, the purchasing power of your money is decreasing each month.

Our partners at GreenPath Financial Wellness offer you the following steps to keep "budget aware" and help navigate this period of high inflation, however long it lasts.

1. Take inventory of your full financial picture. Has your household income changed? Have you adjusted your budget for rising groceries, transportation or other expenses? Check your existing budget to see where you stand and where your money is going. If you don't have a budget, it can help to create a simple spending plan or roadmap of monthly expenses.

2. Continue to build an emergency fund to tap into when unexpected circumstances arise, such as a medical expense or costly home repair. An emergency fund helps reduce the chance of taking on debt to cover an unplanned expense. It might be tempting to pause monthly savings as rising prices take a bigger bite out of your monthly budget, but resist the urge. Put savings on autopilot with each paycheck. Even a small amount can add up over time.

3. Prioritize monthly spending in a time of rising prices. Rethink certain monthly expenses, such as subscriptions or streaming services. According to researchers, the average household has over four streaming services and spends an average of \$55 on them per month.¹ This may not seem like much, yet \$55 a month adds up to more than \$600 per year. If you're trying to cut expenses in the face of higher prices, ditching underused subscriptions can be a good place to start. As essentials get more expensive, figure out your new baseline. Limit credit card use and curb discretionary spending (dining out, entertainment).

4. Monitor debt, especially as interest rates rise. Paying off high-interest credit card debt can save you

money in interest, improve your credit score and free up room in your budget. Choose a debt payoff strategy that works for your situation.

5. Shop smart. Research the best sales, coupons and specials, especially on products that are low in inventory. Check dollar stores for deals on household items and stock up on those items where possible. Bulk retailers or wholesale clubs might be a good way to stock up on items in large quantities for a lower per-use cost. Strategically plan your higher-cost purchases. Swap out brand name items for generic ones as much as possible.

6. Keep tabs on your credit history. In times of rising prices, it pays to keep tabs on credit history, which is used to calculate your credit scores. The three-digit number of your credit score helps determine whether lenders approve you for new credit and what interest rates they offer. You can visit AnnualCreditReport.com to check your reports from Experian, Equifax and TransUnion – the three industry-standard credit bureaus.

7. Get free financial guidance from trusted experts at APGFCU and GreenPath. APGFCU offers no-cost webinars, classes and one-on-one sessions to address your unique financial concerns and goals. Both APGFCU and GreenPath offer access to financial assessments with certified counselors who lend an empathetic ear. Counselors look at your entire financial picture to help you ease financial stress and uncertainty through access to clear information and a personalized action plan.

Visit apgfcu.com/Learn to connect with an APGFCU counselor today and get a handle on your specific financial situation.

This article is shared by our partners at GreenPath Financial Wellness, a trusted national non-profit.

¹<https://www.jdpower.com/business/resources/despite-return-normal-people-spending-more-time-and-money-streaming-services-now>