



MEMBER NOTES

News for Members of Michigan Educational Credit Union

OCTOBER 2026



MISSION STATEMENT

"To provide members with quality, comprehensive, cost effective financial services"

He'll Love The Ride! You'll Love The Rate!

This fall, you can make more room for adventure with an auto loan from MECU. Whether you're shopping for a new or used vehicle, we can help you get behind the wheel with competitive rates and flexible terms.

You can even get pre-approved for your loan before you shop. That way you'll know how much you can afford, putting you in a better position to negotiate at the dealership.

So load up the pup, roll down the windows and get ready for your next adventure. For current rates and to apply online, go to www.michedcu.org. Or, you can reach out to the Loan Department at any MECU branch. If you're a recent college or trade school graduate or if you're an active or retired member of the military, be sure to ask about our special discount.



Double Points Are In Season!

Make your list, check it twice – and **earn twice the points while you shop!** From October 1 through December 31, 2026, MECU World Rewards Mastercard® cardholders can earn **3 points per dollar on retail purchases**, including both online and in-store shopping. That's **double the usual 1.5 points per dollar!**

Whether you're checking off your holiday gift list, stocking up for celebrations or treating yourself to something special, your purchases can help you earn more rewards. And with points redeemable for travel, merchandise and even cash back to your MECU account, there are plenty of ways to enjoy what you've earned.

The MECU World Rewards Mastercard makes holiday shopping even easier with no annual fee, worldwide acceptance, a variable interest rate and no balance transfer fees. Plus, contactless technology lets you breeze through checkout at millions of locations, while chip technology provides enhanced usability and security around the world.

Ready to make your holiday shopping pay off? Apply for your MECU World Rewards Mastercard today and take advantage of this limited-time opportunity to earn double points on retail purchases! If you already have our World Rewards Mastercard, there's no need to enroll to take advantage of this promotion.

For more information or to apply, visit our website at www.michedcu.org or contact a branch near you. And be sure to ask about our special balance transfer offer for new cardholders!

* You will earn 3 points for each \$1 spent in the retail shopping category (including online and in store) from 10/1/2026 to 12/31/2026. Extra points earned for this promotion will be listed as "Holiday Points Earned" on your credit card statement under CURewards Points Activity. This offer only applies to accounts in good standing.



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CEO Update

It's hard to believe that 2026 is already coming to a close. It has been a busy and exciting year at MECU, with many positive developments and accomplishments to celebrate.

From a financial perspective, 2026 has been a successful year for MECU, including strong growth in our loan portfolio. We're also excited about the early impact of our recent field-of-membership expansion across the state of Michigan. We're already welcoming new members from communities beyond the counties we previously served, and we look forward to continuing to grow our MECU family throughout the state.

We also have an exciting project ahead this fall, as our Ann Arbor branch is scheduled for a complete remodel. The project is expected to take approximately 9-12 months, and we appreciate

your patience as we work to create an updated and improved experience for our members.

On a lighter note, MECU recently made its debut on TikTok! If you'd like to see a less formal – and perhaps more entertaining – side of your favorite credit union, I encourage you to follow us and check it out.

As we look ahead to 2027, we have many projects and initiatives in the works, all with one goal in mind: to make your MECU membership even more valuable and better aligned with your needs. We appreciate the trust you place in us and look forward to an exciting year ahead!



Jeff Cusmano

Family Gatherings: The Perfect Time To Talk

The holidays have a way of bringing families together, sometimes for the first time in months. It's a season of gratitude, connection, and reflection on what truly matters. It's also one of the best times to have a conversation most families avoid: estate planning.

That might sound heavy for a holiday gathering. But think about it this way: you're already surrounded by the people you love and the people who would be affected if something happened to you. Why not use that time to make sure everyone is on the same page?

Three Questions To Start With

- "Would you know where to find my important documents?"
- "Do you know who I'd want making medical decisions for me?"
- "Have we talked about who would care for the kids or the pets?"

Estate planning can feel like a heavy topic, but it's not just about death. It's about making sure the right people can step in when it matters.

If Your Family Resists

Start with yourself, focus on the practical, and keep it brief. You don't need to settle everything at once.

The Best Gift You Can Give Your Family

Some gifts get unwrapped and forgotten. Holidays come and go. But the peace of mind of knowing your wishes are written down stays with the people you love.

MECU has partnered with Legal Karma to make estate planning simple, affordable, and accessible for your family. To learn more, visit the MECU website and look for Wills & Trusts under the tab for Online Services.

Estate planning is an important step, and we're here to make the process simple and accessible. While we provide tools to help you create an estate plan, we are not a law firm and do not offer legal advice. Using our service is not a substitute for a lawyer and does not create an attorney-client relationship. If you have complex legal questions or need personalized advice, we encourage you to consult a licensed attorney.



Stay Ahead Of Seasonal Home Costs

As the seasons shift, so do the expenses that come with keeping a home comfortable and running smoothly. It's easy to underestimate how much utility bills can fluctuate. Add in other expenses – like gutter cleaning in the fall, storm prep in spring, or lawn care during peak growing season – and soon your budget is fluctuating as much as the shifting weather. With some planning, you can stay ahead of these costs and avoid feeling squeezed when these expenses arrive.



Simple Ways To Get Ahead

1. Build a Seasonal Sinking Fund

A sinking fund is just money you set aside for a specific purpose. Start a “home fund” and add a little each month, even in off-seasons. For example, if your winter heating typically runs \$600 total, saving \$100 per month from July to December can make the bill feel manageable instead of stressful. Preventive care can be far cheaper than emergency repairs. *(Helpful Tip: It's easy to open a separate Share Savings account at MECU and even name it yourself!)*

2. Get Smart About Energy Efficiency

- Seal gaps around windows and doors to reduce drafts.
- Switch ceiling fans to rotate clockwise in winter, pushing warm air down.
- Replace HVAC filters regularly for better efficiency.
- Unplug unused electronics – even this small step can help trim costs

3. Time Your Maintenance

- Schedule furnace and air conditioning unit checkups before the busiest season.
- Clean gutters before heavy rains or snowfall.
- Test your sump pump and smoke detectors as the seasons change.

4. Compare Utility Plans

Some providers offer budget billing, which spreads costs evenly over the year. Others may have seasonal discounts or rebates for energy-efficient upgrades. Spending a few minutes reviewing your options could save you real money.

5. Keep an Emergency Buffer

Even the best planning can't cover every surprise. A small emergency fund – ideally \$500 to \$1,000 – can give you peace of mind when an unexpected repair or bill pops up.

Making Seasonal Costs Feel Less Stressful

Seasonal expenses are part of homeownership, however they don't have to derail your financial wellness. The key is to build these expenses into your spending plan so you're ready when the seasons change.

Think of it this way: you don't have to solve everything at once. Each small step – setting aside a little extra, tackling one efficiency upgrade, or scheduling one preventive check – adds up to lower stress and smoother budgeting.

You're Not Alone

If seasonal costs or other expenses are weighing you down, remember that support is available. Budgeting resources through your financial institution can help you create a personalized plan. Free financial counseling is also available through our trusted partner, GreenPath Financial Wellness. For more information, call GreenPath at **877-337-3399** or go to greenpath.com/partner/michedu.

Homeownership comes with surprises, but your finances don't have to be one of them.

Heading Out Of Town? Let Us Know!

The holiday travel season is just around the corner. If you plan to travel outside of your normal shopping area and will be accessing your MECU account by ATM, debit card or credit card, please contact us to avoid having your accounts flagged for unusual activity. Be sure to indicate your travel destination(s) and the duration of your travel.

You can submit a Travel Notice by contacting us through any of the below methods:

- Submit a form within Digital Banking.
- Submit a form on the “Contact Us” page of our website.
- Send us an email at general@michedcu.org.
- Contact any MECU branch office.

Deposit Account Rates

For current deposit rates, including Share Savings, Draft/Checking, IRAs, and Share Certificates, scan the QR code below or contact MECU!



Celebrating Credit Unions Around The World

On October 15, 2026, credit unions in our community and worldwide will come together to celebrate International Credit Union Day® and the role that financial cooperatives play in improving the communities they serve and the lives of their members. This year's theme of "A Steady Signal in a Noisy World" reminds people that in a world full of noise, uncertainty and constant change, credit unions remain a steady signal: rooted in trust, people and community.

This year we celebrate 78 years of International Credit Union Day®. We hope everyone will join us in celebrating the credit union difference, our proud cooperative heritage and the wonderful opportunities credit unions offer members around the globe every day. On Thursday, October 15, join MECU as we celebrate with special treats at all of our branches in honor of this special occasion. It's a small way to thank our members for their business, support and loyalty.

What Can Your Equity Do For You?

Your home is more than just a place to live – it's a valuable financial resource. With home equity financing from MECU, you can tap into the equity you've built to finance home improvements, take a dream vacation, consolidate high-interest debt, cover educational expenses or pay for other major purchases. Enjoy competitive rates, flexible terms and personalized service designed to help you make the most of your home's value.

Choose from a variable-rate Home Equity Line of Credit for an ongoing project, or a closed-end, fixed-rate Home Equity Loan for a one-time expense. The interest you pay may be tax deductible (please consult your tax advisor).

Turn the equity in your home into opportunities for what's next. Visit www.michedcu.org or contact any MECU branch office to learn more and apply today.

Holiday Closings

Columbus Day
Monday, October 12

Veterans Day
Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 26

Christmas
Thursday & Friday,
December 24 & 25

New Year's
Thursday & Friday,
December 31 & January 1



Always Great Auto Loan Rates!

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College/Trade School Grad or Active Military Discount – 2025 and 2026

graduates and active or retired military service members can save .25% off MECU's current auto loan rates. Ask for details.



For current rates, contact the Loan Department at any MECU office or scan the QR code above!



Website: www.michedcu.org
E-Mail: general@michedcu.org

Toll-Free Phone:
(888) 261-3355
(Outside Metro Detroit area)

Office Hours:
9:30-5:30 Monday-Friday

Phone Service:
9:15-5:30 Monday-Friday

Plymouth Office:
9200 Haggerty Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
Phone: (734) 455-9200

Livonia Office:
14921 Middlebelt Road
Livonia, MI 48154
Phone: (734) 261-1050

Ann Arbor Office:
4141 Jackson Boulevard
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: (734) 761-7505

Brighton Office:
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Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: (810) 494-6000

Royal Oak Office:
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Royal Oak, MI 48073
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