

FOCUS NEWS

Financial Freedom **for ALL.**[®]

Hello Democracy Members,

As we approach the fourth quarter of 2024, I'd like to express my gratitude for your continued trust in Democracy Federal Credit Union. We are looking forward to the remainder of the year, and we are excited to share some important initiatives that we have in place to support you during the upcoming holiday season and beyond.

Beginning on October 15, we will launch a special Holiday Loan Promotion that will run through the end of December. This promotion will provide flexible borrowing options to meet your seasonal needs. Additionally, in December, we will again offer our popular Skip-a-Pay service, allowing you to skip a loan payment and enjoy some extra financial breathing room during the holidays.



Kenyahda Cahoon
President | CEO

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Holiday Loans Make the Season Merry and Bright

Let the holidays shine brighter this year and make it easy on your budget with a Holiday Loan. Get the extra cash you need to spend more time with your family and less time worrying about your budget. Use the funds for holiday travel, crossing everything off the wish lists, or just adding some magic to your celebrations.

- Borrow up to \$6,000
- 24-Month Term
- Low rate of 9.00% APR*
- Apply October 15 to December 31, 2024

[Learn More](#)

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Some products may not be combined with other Democracy FCU discounts. Loan decisions based on member qualifications and credit score.



Find Financial Freedom



Gift Yourself Better Credit This Year

You can build or re-establish your credit history with our Secured Visa® credit card! It's secured by funds in your Share Savings Account, so the application process is streamlined and easy to complete. With a higher credit score, you can get lower interest rates and higher loan amounts. Give yourself a gift this year by increasing your credit score!

[Learn More](#)

Coming Soon: Holiday Skip-A-Pay

Keep more cash in your pocket this December. Take a break from your payment on your auto loan, credit card or personal signature loan just in time for the holiday season! Relax knowing you have more for your budget to get gifts, go see family, or do anything you need to.

If eligible, certain Visa® credit card holders will automatically see a zero payment due on their December 23 statement and have the option to skip their payment.

Requests for Skip-A-Pay will be available on our website soon.

Get the Best Earnings: Money Management Savings

We want only the best for our members – so earn more with our Money Management Savings account! This high-yield savings account has greater dividends than a traditional savings account and gives you flexibility with your funds. Start saving more and open an account today!

- \$1,000 minimum investment to earn dividends
- Maximum of 6 withdrawals per month
- Automatic transfer of funds to checking to cover overdrafts

[Learn More](#)



Beware of Text Message Scams

Many of us have signed up for them: Text alerts to indicate that a package is on its way or a notification about suspicious bank activity. With the busy holiday season approaching, make sure you're staying vigilant as scammers try to target you while you're distracted with celebrations.

Watch out for these common text scams:

Package Delivery:

USPS warns that people are getting "package failed to deliver" texts with a link urging the individual to resolve the issue. Don't click on it. Instead, go to the USPS website directly and manually enter your tracking code.

Bank Fraud Alerts:

Sophisticated robo-texts are posing as banks and credit unions, alerting people about suspicious activity. Don't engage. Instead, call us directly. We will never ask for your personal banking information.

Student Loan Debt Forgiveness:

Government entities will not text you regarding your student debt. Visit your loan account provider directly for messages and information.

REMEMBER: One common tool scammers use against us is our own emotions. Scammers will try to incite fear, excitement, panic, and even "new love" to bypass our logical thinking and get us to make decisions we may regret.

Be wary if:

- You were contacted unexpectedly.
- The interaction heightens your emotions.
- The message invokes a sense of urgency or high stakes.

If you are ever unsure about whether a message you receive is a scam, get a third party involved like a trusted relative, friend, or the business you believe the scammer is impersonating. By taking a moment to stop, think, and involve an objective outsider, you can avoid becoming a victim of a scam.

Spotted a scam? Report it:

- Copy the message and forward it to **7726** (SPAM). This will help your wireless provider block similar messages in the future, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

- Visit: [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identity-theft/identity-theft-scams-how-to-prevent)

[Learn More](#)

Stay Diligent Against Fraud

Due to ongoing fraudulent activities, please remain alert and vigilant for any suspicious communications or transactions to protect your account.

Democracy FCU will **NEVER** contact you via phone, email, or text to request personal or financial information.



Democracy

Federal Credit Union

Financial Freedom **for ALL.**[®]

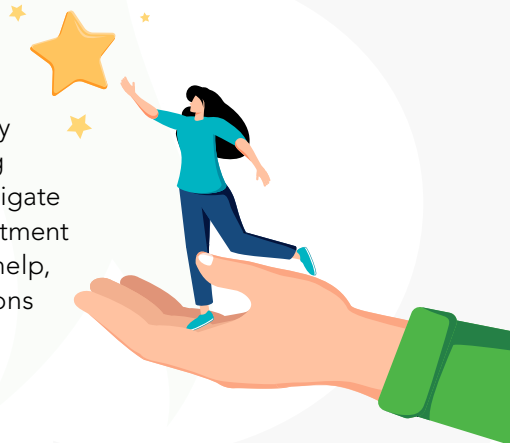
P.O. BOX 25516 / ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

PHONE: 202.488.5400 / TOLL FREE: 800.742.5582



We Are Here to Help

During challenging financial times, Democracy Federal Credit Union is dedicated to offering relief and support to our members. As we navigate economic uncertainties, the Collections Department is here to assist you proactively. If you need help, please don't hesitate to contact the Collections Department at **800-742-5582, ext. 8151.**



Holiday Closures

- Monday, October 14, 2024 – Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Monday, November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 28, 2024 – Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, November 29, 2024 – Day After Thanksgiving
- Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day
- Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day

CEO Message Fall/Winter 2024

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Where you left off

We are also making significant progress in enhancing your online experience. Our recently upgraded homepage now features a refreshed look, and we will continue to introduce additional improvements across the entire site to ensure more straightforward navigation and increased functionality. Stay tuned for even more digital services designed to make managing your accounts smoother and more convenient.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our community connection throughout the rest of the year. One initiative that I'm especially excited about is our upcoming November Shoe Drive, which kicks off October 15 and runs through November. This year, our staff is working collectively to collect new or gently used shoes to give back to the community. We are proud to share this effort with our valued members as part of our ongoing dedication to making a meaningful impact together.

Thank you for being a valued member, and here's to a strong finish to 2024!

Kenyahda Cahoon

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