



JULY 2023

How to Tell a Real Financial Risk From a 'Manufactured Crisis'

The debt ceiling standoff kept the nation on edge as politicians negotiated the terms to raise the government's borrowing limit. Some observers said the situation was a "manufactured crisis." The money was already spent, the bills were coming due, and the U.S. risked defaulting on its debt unless an agreement was reached to arbitrarily increase the country's credit limit.

Whether real or manufactured, the situation drummed up real worry.

Social Security recipients wondered if payments would be delayed. Federal employees were anxious about receiving paychecks. The stock market wrestled with the threat of a downgrade to the country's credit rating.

We can face similar financial issues that loom large in our personal lives. Are they a valid risk — or a fake narrative that can cost you money and cause needless anxiety?

Artificial deadlines

A false deadline is one of the most common ploys that can create money anxiety. "Buy today for the biggest discount!" Think car dealer ads. Or Black Friday. Or, for that matter, just about any holiday sale.

Interest rates are rising. Or falling. "You must act now."

Best defense: Take time to comparison shop and consider whether a purchase qualifies as a want or a need.

Fraudulent actors often use artificial deadlines to steal your money, too. One example: home foreclosure scams. Very few things can muster up as much instant fear as the risk of losing your home. And government imposters use the "pay now or else" ploy when threatening fake IRS tax collections or loss of Social Security or Medicare benefits.

Phony arrest warrant collections from crooks claiming to be law enforcement officers repeatedly plague some communities. These con artists are even known to use spoofed phone numbers that seem to originate from a sheriff's office or other local authority. "You must pay today or go to jail," they say, often demanding payment with a prepaid cash card. Same thing for scams involving "taxes owed" on lottery winnings or to settle "impending lawsuits."

Best defense: Resist the rush; don't take action or pay anyone immediately. Contact the real authority directly to verify any outstanding issues.

'Don't miss this opportunity'

Other urgency-building financial schemes involve investments of one kind or another. Particularly in times of stock market volatility, scammers will offer to "protect your principal," guarantee high-interest returns or provide "income for life." These ploys play to our fear of investment loss or of missing a quick-riches opportunity. Cryptocurrency has lured many unsuspecting investors to part with their money, with losses due to fraud amounting to over \$2.5 billion in 2022, according to the FBI.

There are also romance scams targeting the lonely, charity scams aimed at the generous and grandparent scams ensnaring the lovingly gullible. A new wrinkle in misdirected money fraud employs cash transfer apps. Venmo, Cash App and other payment applications are easy to use — and abuse. They're the same old scams but with a tech twist: demanding payment for merchandise you never ordered, a fake friend or relative in dire need of quick cash or someone trying to trick you into revealing your login info.

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Why Regular Rebalancing Makes Sense

Your investment portfolio may be off-kilter, and you may not even know it.

Everyone loves a winner. If an investment is successful, most people naturally want to stick with it. But is that the best approach?

It may sound counterintuitive, but it may be possible to have too much of a good thing. Over time, the performance of different investments can shift a portfolio's intent – and its risk profile. It's a phenomenon sometimes referred to as "risk creep," and it happens when a portfolio has its risk profile shift over time.

When deciding how to allocate investments, many start by taking into account their time horizon, risk tolerance, and specific goals. Next, individual investments are selected that pursue the overall objective. If all the investments selected had the same return, that balance – that allocation – would remain steady for a period of time. But if the investments have varying returns, over time, the portfolio may bear little resemblance to its original allocation.

Rebalancing is the process of restoring a portfolio to its original risk profile. Remember, asset allocation is an approach to help manage investment risk. Asset allocation does not guarantee against investment loss.

There are two ways to rebalance a portfolio.

The first is to use new money. When adding money to a portfolio, allocate these new funds to those assets or asset classes that have fallen. For example, if bonds have fallen from 40% of a portfolio to 30%, consider purchasing enough bonds to return them to their original 40% allocation. Diversification is an investment principle designed to manage risk. However, diversification does not guarantee against a loss.

The second way of rebalancing is to sell enough of the "winners" to buy more underperforming assets. Ironically, this type of rebalancing actually forces you to buy low and sell high.

Keep in mind, however, that the information in this material is not intended as tax advice, and may not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult your tax professional before rebalancing. The process may result in a taxable event.

Periodically rebalancing your portfolio to match your desired risk tolerance is a sound practice regardless of the market conditions. One approach is to set a specific time each year to schedule an appointment to review your portfolio and determine if adjustments are appropriate.

Would you like to discuss investments or your financial goals?

Reach out to Bill Anderson at 636-222-7585.

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About Bill

Bill has been a financial advisor since 2012, focusing on creating a client-centric experience by providing education, organization, objectivity, proactivity, accountability, and partnership. In 2012, Bill started his financial services career at Edward Jones, providing investment services, retirement planning, protection strategies, estate planning opportunities and education savings plans for almost six years. In April of 2018, Bill moved his practice to Huntleigh Securities to provide a more customized client experience for his varied clientele and continue to grow professionally. Since then, Bill has continued to grow his services and practice, and has expanded into offering services and advice to Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union members.



Upcoming Events & Holidays

Aug 26th	Trivia Night 6pm
Sept 4th	Labor Day CLOSED
Sept 16th	Shred Day @ Shiloh 9-11:30am

Plastic Free July®

This is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics? It's probably harder than you think! Learn more at

plasticfreejuly.org

LOAN RATES

EFFECTIVE July 15th, 2023

VEHICLE LOANS

The following are approx. payback terms.	AS LOW AS
Up to 36 months	5.95% APR*
37 to 48 months	6.25% APR*
49 to 63 months	6.95% APR*

OTHER LOANS

	AS LOW AS
Mortgage	Click for current rates
Share Secured	2.01% APR*
Stock Secured	9.25% APR*
Signature Loans	7.99% APR*
Personal Line of Credit	12.90% APR*

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rates are subject to change, and terms and conditions apply. Our website contains the most current rates. Contact GMFCU for complete details. NMLS #410276

LOST CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS

If your GMFCU credit or debit card is lost, stolen or if you suspect unauthorized use, please call:

CREDIT CARD - (800) 558-3424 | 24/7
DEBIT CARD - (314) 621-4575 or
(800) 621-4828 during business hours or
(800) 472-3272 | 24/7

Continued “How to Tell Real Financial Risk...”

Best defense: Be aware of common scams and skeptical of outsized promises. Know who you’re really talking to, and verify their identity and reputation.

Misinformation

The world is awash in misinformation these days. Financial falsehoods are soaked into our social networks. That can lead to a manufactured crisis for sure.

Mortgage fees are a case in point. Recently, word spread that home buyers with good credit scores were paying higher home loan fees than buyers with bad credit. A change in mortgage-regulator fees sparked the fake news. It’s simply not the case. Potential home buyers may have been put off by what they heard and changed their purchase plans.

Best defense: Confirm information from a legitimate source. I know, that’s hard to do these days, but government consumer agencies can be a good first step. The Federal Housing Finance Agency clarified its position on mortgage fees after there was so much confusion about its revised fee policy.

Beware of real financial risk

Let’s say you wisely avoid the many trapdoors leading to one manufactured crisis or another. There are still plenty of valid financial risks worth watching out for as you manage your personal finances:

- Taking on too much debt.
- Making late payments a habit.
- Spending more than you earn.
- Taking too much risk with your investments — or not enough.
- Overreacting to stock market changes.
- Having a persistent shortage of cash available for unexpected needs.
- Being unprepared for a loss of income.

A good decision today

When I was a financial advisor, I often leaned on this advice: “A good decision today will be a good decision tomorrow.” Sure, there is a shelf-life for making a wise choice, but it’s often longer than we might think.

Seeking a little perspective before making a decision — whether it’s a good night’s sleep or taking time to confer with a trusted, objective advisor — helps you gain clarity.

As mentioned above, government resources such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission can help sort out fact from fiction.

And possibly avoid a manufactured crisis.

Sweet Savings with Save to Win

With a Save to Win account every \$25 you save gets you an entry into a free cash drawing, it’s really that easy. You can save \$10 one week then \$15 the next and still qualify for an entry! Save to Win gives you the chance to win monthly and quarterly drawings.

Open a Save To Win savings account and get started today!

Learn more about Save to Win by visiting us online at goGMFCU.org

Congratulations to our May winners!



*Limit to 100 entries per month.

Home Sweet Home, No Stress Required



At Gateway Metro, we make mortgages easy. Our experienced Mortgage Team can answer any questions or concerns you have about getting a home loan. Buying your first home may not be as scary as you think! Let our team help put your mind at ease and assist you with funding your new home purchase.

You can request an appointment with our Mortgage Team by visiting goGMFCU.org and selecting [Request An Appointment](#).

*Must qualify for membership. Not everyone will qualify for the lowest rate.

Get Covered With a Personal Loan

With a Gateway Metro Personal Loan you can cover almost any expense that comes your way! Medical bills, school expenses, debt consolidation, a family getaway, or a weekend shopping spree are all uses for a personal loan through Gateway Metro.

We want to help you financially fulfill your wants and your needs. Our Personal Loans start as low as 7.99% which provides you with a lower rate than a standard credit card!



The Butterfly Committee Presents: Trivia Night

Join Gateway Metro's Butterfly Committee for a fun-filled night of Trivia! Enjoy an evening out with fun facts, refreshments and a chance to win some prizes.

Silent auction, 50/50 and more will be held during this trivia event to help raise donations. All proceeds go to help a great local cause, St. Louis Crisis Nursery!

August 26th, 2023 | 6PM
Crestwood Community Center
9245 Whitecliff Park Ln.
Crestwood, MO 63126

Cost per table is **\$250***

Make your reservations by contacting ButterflyCommittee@gmfcu.org

Light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages included. You are welcome to bring your own snacks and beverages of your choice.

*Max 10 people per table



Meet The Community: Channing Goodell

Written Jeri Peterson

Everyone knows Channing. She joined Gateway Metro three years ago. Whenever you go into our North County branch, she is that big presence who is ready to give her all for her Gateway Metro members and teammates.

Champion Brianna T. shared high praise for her branch mate. When asked to describe which of Gateway Metro's four core values Channing demonstrates daily she stated, *"I believe that Channing embodies ALL of Gateway's core values."* She goes on to say, *"Channing is knowledgeable, prompt and effective. The members love her and have a great rapport with her. She is a great source of light and laughter at work for both the members and her co-workers. She always puts her best foot forward no matter what the task is or which department within the credit union she assists. She will definitely get the answers needed for anyone. Channing gives great personal and professional advice. She works to help maximize our members' knowledge base and offers reassurance regarding their sense of security."*

Last, but not least, Brianna wants you to know, *"Channing is awesome. She gives her all. She is resourceful and resilient."* With that being said we celebrate Channing for demonstrating Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union's mission of "Helping people realize their financial potential."

Good job, Channing!



Channing G. - FSR

Stay On-the-Go With Mobile Deposit

Summer is go time. Keep up with your finances with our Gateway Metro banking app! Transfer money, manage your debit card, track savings goals and with Mobile Deposit you can easily snap a photo of a check to have it deposited into your GMFCU account from wherever you are. It's really that easy!

So don't roll your eyes next time you get birthday or babysitting money in the form of a check... go to the Gateway Metro app and start using Mobile Deposit today!



Grow with Clubhouse Crew!

With Cluhouse Crew, kids up to age 12 enjoy fun perks like Crews News newsletters, prizes from the treasure chest and Pay for A's! We are always looking for ways to help your kids learn about saving and have fun while they do it.

Now our Clubhouse Crew members have the opportunity to show off their coloring and puzzle solving skills by having their completed Crews News activity displayed on our website.

Visit us online today to view our NEW Clubhouse Crew Artwork Gallery! [Click here to view now.](#)



Colton - Clubhouse Crew Member

Cruise Your Way to Adventure

Celebrate your independence by cruising around in style this summer! Get a new auto loan with Gateway Metro and set your exploration plans in motion. Need AWD? Going hybrid? Sunroof mandatory? We can help you get an auto loan for that perfect vehicle.

Already have the perfect car but want a lower monthly payment? Check with us to see how we can help you refinance your current auto loan from another lender.

Rates start at 5.95%*. Learn more and apply online today at [goGMFCU.org](https://www.gomfcu.org)



*Must be eligible for membership with GMFCU. Must qualify for loan based on credit worthiness. Rates current as of July 1, 2023 and are subject to change. Actual APR will be determined at the time of loan approval based on your credit, loan amount and term. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate.

50 Easy Summer Recipes (with Photo Gallery)



- #1: Classic cheeseburger
- #2: Chickpea salad
- #3: Grilled flank steak
- #4: Strawberry lemonade
- #5: Grilled BBQ ribs
- #6: Southwestern pasta salad
- #7: Grilled shrimp skewers

- #8: Strawberry icebox cake
- #9: Red potato salad
- #10: Campari spritz

View the whole summer recipe gallery by visiting the full article. [Click here to read the full article now.](#)

Article written by Evie Carrick

Follow us on social media to stay in the Gateway Metro loop!

Informative articles, branch closures, upcoming events, contests and more!



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