

UNDER THE ARCH:

Celebrating 90 Years of Gateway Metro



February 2025

Five Steps to Smart Tax Management

What is “smart tax management?” It’s a combination of timely filing and taking advantage of everything that can reduce the amount of money you pay in taxes. While tax management does take a bit of planning, organization, and know-how, the overall financial benefit is strong.

Maximize retirement savings plans

If you have an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan (such as a 401(k), 403(b), or 457) available to you, it makes sense to use it. Since you make contributions with pre-tax dollars, your taxable income and possibly your tax rate will be lowered. Investments grow on a tax-deferred basis, so when you retire and take the money out, the earnings will be taxed on your new, and usually lower, tax rate.

IRAs are part of good tax management too. Contributions to a traditional IRA are tax-deductible, and account earnings aren’t taxed until you withdraw that money at age 59.5. There are income restrictions, though, and if you’re an active participant in an employer-sponsored retirement savings plan you can’t deduct your contributions. While contributions to a Roth IRA are always non-deductible, the earnings are tax-free.

Use your employee benefits

If you’re an employee, your company may offer benefits that can reduce your taxable income and therefore your tax liability (the amount you owe):

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs). Medical FSAs allow you to set aside money for common health-related costs, and dependent care accounts let you save for work-related child or dependent care expenses. For both, the money is taken out through payroll deductions on a pre-tax basis.

Transportation plans. These plans allow you to use pre-tax dollars (and reduce your taxable income) to pay for public transit, vanpooling, or parking.

Pay the right amount

You know you’re paying the correct amount of taxes if you

neither owe taxes nor receive a large tax refund. While a refund may seem positive, it’s really not making the most of your income during the year.

For example, a \$2,000 tax refund translates into \$166 that you don’t have in your pocket every month. On the other hand, if you owe and can’t pay the entire sum, you’ll have to pay interest and possibly penalties, which will only add to your tax debt.

Make the most of your adjustments, deductions and credits. Tax adjustments and deduction are expenses you can subtract from your income, resulting in a lower taxable income. Common examples of these are:

- An exemption amount for you, your spouse, each child, and any other qualified dependents, and certain disabilities
- Mortgage interest paid on your primary residence
- Equity loan or line of credit interest
- Charitable contributions to eligible organizations
- Certain business expenses
- Union and professional dues
- Some medical expenses
- The cost of tax advice, software, and books
- Depreciation of business assets
- Some work uniforms and clothing
- Moving expenses, in some cases
- Some educational expenses

A tax credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in what you would owe for taxes. For example, if you qualify for a tax credit of \$1,000, you would be able to subtract that amount from your total tax liability. Common examples of tax credits are:

- Earned income credit. This credit reduces the tax burden for lower-income taxpayers.
- Education-related credits. The American Opportunity credit can be used for the expenses you incur in the first four years of higher education.

[Continues on Page 3](#)

Women and Financial Strategies

Nearly 60% of women take the lead in managing their household finances, yet only 19% of women feel very confident in their ability to fully retire with a comfortable lifestyle.

These figures suggest that most women don't shy away from the day-to-day financial decisions needed to run a household, but when it comes to projecting and strategizing for retirement, some women may be leaving their future to chance.

Women and College

The reason behind this disparity doesn't seem to be a lack of education or independence. Today, women are more likely to go to college than men. So what keeps them from taking charge of their long-term financial picture?

One reason may be a lack of confidence. One study found that only 48% of women feel confident about their finances. Women may shy away from discussing money because they don't want to appear uneducated or naive and hesitate to ask questions as a result.

Insider Language

Since Wall Street traditionally has been a male-dominated field, women whose expertise lies in other areas may feel uneasy amidst complex calculations and long-term financial projections. Just the jargon of personal finance can be intimidating: 401(k), 403(b), fixed, variable. To someone inexperienced in the field of personal finance, it may seem like an entirely different language.

But women need to keep one eye looking toward retirement since they may live longer and could potentially face higher healthcare expenses than men.

If you have left your long-term financial strategy to chance, now is the time to pick up the reins and retake control. Consider talking with a financial professional about your goals and ambitions for retirement. Don't be afraid to ask for clarification if the conversation turns to something unfamiliar. No one was born knowing the ins and outs of compound interest, but it's important to understand in order to make informed decisions.

Compound Interest: What's the Hype?

Compound interest may be one of the greatest secrets of smart investing. And time is the key to making the most of it. If you invested \$250,000 in an account earning 6%, at the end of 20 years, your account would be worth \$801,784. However, if you waited 10 years, and then started your investment program, you would end up with only \$447,712.

This is a hypothetical example used for illustrative purposes only. It does not represent any specific investment or combination of investments.

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Would you like to discuss investments or your financial goals?

Reach out to Bill Anderson at 636-222-7585 or email banderson@hntlgh.com

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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

Feb 17	Presidents Day - CLOSED
Feb 28	Plinko Pop-Up @ Shiloh 10am-2pm
Mar 17	Plinko Pop-Up @ North 10am-2pm
Mar 27	Opening Day Rally More info soon!

PLINKO POP-UP... What's That?

We will be rotating our Plinko Financial Literacy game through our branches. Members will enjoy trivia, 90th anniversary treats and swag and info about special offers and drawings!

LOAN RATES

EFFECTIVE February 15th, 2025

VEHICLE LOANS

The following are approx. payback terms.	AS LOW AS
Up to 36 months	5.25% APR*
37 to 48 months	5.25% APR*
49 to 63 months	5.25% APR*

OTHER LOANS

	AS LOW AS
Mortgage	Click for current rates
Share Secured	2.01% APR*
Stock Secured	9.25% APR*
Personal Loans	7.99% APR*
Personal Line of Credit	9.00% APR Special*

*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

*View [Page 3](#) for 9.00% special offer details.

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

Cont'd from Page 1: "Five Steps..."

- Child-related credits. These include credit for child and dependent care expenses, the child tax credit, and the adoption credit.

File on time – whether you have the money or not

Filing your tax return by April 15 (or later if you file an extension) is important. The drawbacks of not filing include:

- Your tax bill could increase by 25%, due to penalties, or interest charges on balances owed.
- Additional penalties and/or criminal prosecution if you continue to not file (considered tax evasion).
- Losing the refund, if there's one due (typically after 3 years).

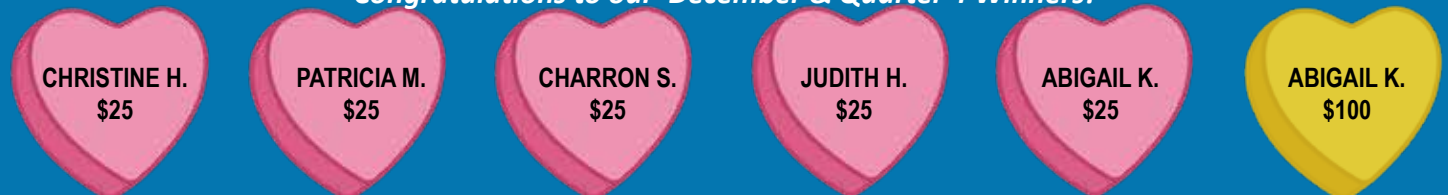
Even if you don't have the money to pay, file anyway. Programs are available to help you avoid many of the harsher penalties. Properly managing your taxes can greatly reduce the amount of money you pay in taxes and put more money into your pocket. After all, why pay more if you don't have to?

Save to Win Loves to Reward You!

Love to win money? This is a safe and fun way to save money at your own pace with the perk of being entered into a FREE drawing to earn more money! Every \$25 you save each month qualifies you for one entry. You could win \$25 - \$1,000 as a monthly winner or even up to \$5,000 if you are a Quarterly winner, wow! Learn more about Save to Win online at goGMFCU.org

Open a Save to Win with some of your tax refund to help boost your savings! It is a great way to save while earning opportunities to win more money! What's not to love?!

Congratulations to our December & Quarter 4 Winners!



*Limited to 100 entries per month.

Refer Friends and Family in 2025, Get \$50 \$90 per Referral!*



Take advantage of our \$90 Referral Bonus in 2025! When you refer a friend, coworker, or family member to become a member, you'll earn \$90 for each successful referral. You can earn up to \$900 throughout the year, making this a great opportunity to share the benefits of membership with others.

It's easy to get started—just refer someone, and once they join, you'll receive your reward. This gives you an opportunity to earn double the money compared to our normal referral program! The rest of the referral program stays the same, so you can continue to benefit from it as usual.

This is a limited-time offer, available through 2025, so start referring today! Visit gogmfcu.org/promos to learn more and maximize your referral rewards.

*New member must qualify for membership. Referral cannot be an existing GMFCU member, joint member or previous member. Current member will receive incentive within 60 days of their referral opening any GMFCU account. New member will receive incentive(s) for completing the following actions: 1) open a new qualifying checking account with direct deposit, of at least \$200 per month. Direct deposit must post to new account within 90 days to qualify. (A qualifying direct deposit is a recurring electronic direct deposit of a paycheck, pension, Social Security or other regular monthly income by an employer or outside agency; does not include financial institution to financial institution transfers, person to person transfers or credit card cash advance transfers) 2) open a Save to Win certificate with a minimum of \$25 and set up a monthly automatic deposit of \$5 or more 3) open any loan with a minimum balance of \$1,000 (Personal loan, auto loan, Home Equity Loan, Home Loan, etc.) GMFCU may modify or discontinue this offer without notice. Current member name must be provided when new member opens an account for referrer to qualify for \$90 referral incentive. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. 1099 will be issued to members who receive total bonus over \$600 within 2025. Offer ends December 31, 2025.

LoveU2Pieces and The Butterfly Project

In 2024 GMFCU's Butterfly Project with the help of our employees, members, vendors and community were able to raise \$10,721.08 in cash along with art supply donations to support the mission of LoveU2Pieces!

We were able to present the donation to Leigh Rolnicki, Executive Director, at our South County branch on Lin Ferry Road in January. They were so thankful for the donation and staff was very grateful for the opportunity to make a difference for our community again in 2024! Thank you to all who participated in these efforts and to Leigh and her partners for a great year!



South County Receives Award for "Commerical Renovation"

Our South County branch won an award from the Affton-Lemay Chamber of Commerce! Our new branch received the award for new commerical renovations in the Affton-Lemay area. We are thrilled to have our hard work and effort recognized by the Chamber!

On January 25th our president, Jay Lewis, attended the Affton-Lemay Chamber of Commerce 32nd Annual Awards & Dinner Gala. He was presented the award for Commerical Renovation at the Gala on behalf of Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union.

We are happy we can serve the South County community with our new branch that opened in 2024. This branch gives us room to provide the community with on-site events, ATM and ITM machines and ample parking to fit everyone's needs. Thank you to everyone who helped make this location grow from a dream to a reality!



Gala Photo Credit: Cindy's Photo

Meet The Community: Champion Jor'Dasha

Written by Jeri Peterson

Have you ever thought about the first voice you hear when you call Gateway Metro? Is it friendly? Is it engaging? Does the person on the other end of the line take a genuine interest in your needs, offer help, insights and gets you to where you need to go? Often times you are speaking with Solutions Center Representative, Jor'Dasha, and the newest Champion of 2025. She has been on staff at Gateway Metro for three years. Her colleague, Jess Ringling, Automated Services Rep nominated her.



Jor'Dasha - Solution Center Rep

Every day Jor'Dasha diligently demonstrates our core value: *"We will invest our time and resources to mastering our products and services, which enhance our Member's lives."* Jor'Dasha's work ethic impressed Jess who shared, *"Jor'Dasha regularly does everything she can and would rather ask a question to learn things she doesn't know than send the members to someone else. She does everything to know the ins and outs about all of our products."*

When describing how this Champion demonstrates the mission of Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union: Helping People Realize Their Financial Potential, Jess states, *"She looks at members' accounts as a whole, she doesn't just look at the current problem. She tries to be proactive."* This testimonial reveals Jor'Dasha to be a genuine resource for great information and customer service. She is a natural Champion.

Congratulations, Jor'Dasha! You are a wonderful example for everyone to emulate!

A Special Offer You'll Love: 9.00% APR on a Line of Credit!

Enjoy a limited-time 9.00% APR* for 2025 as part of our 90th Anniversary celebration! If you have checking and direct deposit with the credit union, this is your chance to benefit from a Line of Credit that consistently outshines store charge cards. If you already have a line of credit with us, simply make a \$500 advance by March 31st to qualify for this rate!

Once approved, you'll enjoy easy access to your credit line anytime you need it, whether it's through our mobile app, by calling, or even in person. This puts the power in your hands to manage your money on your own terms. You can borrow when it suits you and take control of your spending with complete flexibility. Plus, with up to 48 months to pay back your balance, you can create a repayment plan that fits your financial situation with ease. It's a straightforward, hassle-free way to take care of your needs while staying in control of your budget.

Explore this limited time offer by visiting gogmfcu.org/loans today!



APR=Annual Percentage Rate

*Must be eligible for membership with GMFCU. Must qualify for loan based on credit worthiness. Rates and offers current as of January 1, 2025 and are subject to change. Special rate of 9.00% APR is only eligible for new lines of credit or current lines of credit that make a \$500 advance by March 31, 2025. Advances can be made in person, online or through other electronic means to qualify for this offer. Offer is for a limited time and may be discontinued at any time. Online advances from existing LC loans qualify for the promo rate and will be adjusted the business day after the advance of \$500 minimum has been completed. Minimum advance of \$500 must be made by March 31, 2025 to qualify. Special rate of 9.00% will only last until December 31, 2025 then your rate will revert back to your original rate on January 1st, 2026.

What You Have to Say

Written by Jeri Peterson & Gateway Metro Members

The Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union team is committed to serving our members and our community. We choose to stand out from other financial institutions by being member-focused, relationship-focused and fiscally responsible advocates. We build authentic relationships, adhere to rigorous professional training and are mindful that this is your credit union we take care of every day. To share some of the memorable testimonials and meaningful acknowledgments we receive from members of the Gateway Metro family is an honor.

How Do You Affect The Gateway Metro Experience?

Whenever Mr. G.'s name comes up, our staff always mentions his vibrant outfits, the way he greets the staff and his willingness to have fun and play.

I - Jeri Peterson - met Mr. G. over a year and a half ago. I was setting up some youth literacy displays and shred event equipment. I asked him if he had any young people in his life who could benefit from learning about financial literacy. From there we were off to the races. I had not laughed so much with a member before. His quick wit and authentic nature reminded me why I do what I do and how I wanted our members to feel when they came to any one of our six branches. He saw himself as a member-mentor for our newer staff members and a friend to our seasoned staffers. He is truly invested in Gateway Metro.

He enjoyed our conversation and learning about the products and services, I shared with him. He asked me a question that has stuck with me. Mr. G said, *"I really enjoyed talking with you. Now will I have this same experience the next time I come in and you are not here or is this just the "Jeri Effect"."* Since I am someone who can take things literally, I was stumped. I knew my colleagues engaged with our members authentically but I was not sure if they knew how to utilize that trait I have naturally to engage with and educate our members with ease and humor and listen mindfully to connect the dots to their dreams. Not that everyone has to be me, but are they bringing their true passion to their day at work and sharing it to everyone's advantage. This "effect" makes my day go faster, inspires me to keep going. It allows me to share from a real place and guides me as I live my purpose to help people build generational wealth and financial literacy and responsibility. I like to think everyone has a chance to create some magical moments several times a day at work, at home and all the places in between. The next time you visit Gateway Metro, you be the judge and think about your effect and the effect of those you meet.

I just wanted to share this moment of reflection and say, *"Thank you Mr. G. You make Gateway Metro better by being yourself during every visit."*

Mr. G., proud Gateway Metro member since 1997 and JP, proud Gateway Metro member since 1993.

The What You Have to Say series is here to let you know how much your words and deeds of kindness add to the growth of the Gateway Metro culture and community. If you would like to be considered to share your Gateway Metro Experience, please contact us at marketing@gmfcu.org

We Love Our Members! You Could Win \$90

As a member, you can enter our quarterly Member Appreciation Drawing every time you come in to one of our branches! We'll pick one lucky winner to receive **\$90 each quarter**.* The more you visit, the more chances you have to win!

Head to your nearest branch to get started. We can't wait to see you and thank you for being a part of our community!



*Must be a member of GMFCU to enter. Must be 18 years or older. Each quarter will pick another winner, totaling four winners. GMFCU staff, board members, committee members, their immediate family and vendors are not eligible to win. Entries will reset at the end of each quarter. Drawings end on December 31, 2025.

The Butterfly Project 2025 Charity: Annie's Hope

Every year our staff provides their input on which local organization Gateway Metro should focus on for the year. In the past we have focused our efforts on raising money and supplies for LoveU2Pieces, St. Louis Crisis Nursery and Needy Paws to name a few.

This year one of our employees nominated Annie's Hope: A Center for Grieving Kids. Our staff voted on all the provided organizations and Annie's Hope was chosen as Gateway Metro's charity for 2025. Throughout the year, we will be accepting donations at our shred events and branches along with raising money and awareness through candy sales and trivia night. We will be collecting cash donations as well as rolling and cutting tools for Play Doh, bright acrylic paint (2 oz. bottles), brushes for acrylic paint (1-3") and gifts cards to the following stores: Amazon, Michael's and Sam's Club.



Annie's Hope has the mission to be the "first choice" bereavement center focused solely on the needs of grieving children, adolescents, and their families in the St. Louis region. To lead transformational change in the way our region views, acknowledges, and responds to grief, death, and dying.

To learn more about Annie's Hope and their service provided to the community, please visit their website annieshope.org

Save the Date for Trivia Night!

We have confirmed that our annual Trivia Night will be **Saturday, August 2nd!**

This event is not only full of trivia fun, but we also hold an auction and raise awareness and money for Annie's Hope all in the same night!

Start brainstorming how to create your perfect trivia team so you will be ready to sign up once registration begins!

More details to come soon.



Mobile Banking Keeps You Moving

We love to provide you convenience with your banking needs! With our Gateway Metro app, you can easily deposit checks on-the-go which frees up more time for you to do whatever it is you need to do... even if it's taking a nap!

Simply take a photo of the front and back of your check, then direct us where to deposit the funds. It really is that easy!

Don't need to deposit a check? No worries! With the mobile app, you can also check balances, transfer funds, view your credit score and control your debit card. There are a lot of great features in the app to help you keep moving forward with your financial journey wherever you are!



Would you like to open a 12 month certificate that pays 9.00% APY?

When you open a new money, share certificate with us, you automatically get entered into a drawing for the option to open a 9.00% APY* 12 month-certificate! If you win, you get the 9.00% APY on a 12 month certificate up to a maximum of \$2,025!

We will award one winner in each of the last 3 quarters of 2025 for certificates opened in each of the respective first, second and third quarters! Winners will be drawn and notified in April, July and October!*



APY = Annual Percentage Yield

*Must qualify for membership. Entries will be earned for certificates opened in the prior quarter and will be available exclusively for that drawing. An entry will be earned for each new money traditional, IRA, HSA or Save to Win certificate opened. GMFCU staff, board members, committee members, their immediate family and vendors are not eligible to win. Winner has the option of opening an entire new 12 month certificate up to \$2,025.00 for the 9.0% APY or to surrender the qualifying certificate with no penalty up to the \$2,025.00 limit. Promotional certificate must be opened within 30 days of being selected as the winner.

Plinko Pop-Up is Coming to Shiloh!



Get ready for a fun-filled Carnival Extravaganza at our Plinko Pop-Up Event on February 28th! Join us from 10 AM to 2 PM at our Shiloh branch, located at 848 N Green Mount Rd, Shiloh, IL 62221, for a chance to win exciting prizes!

It's a celebration you won't want to miss—play Plinko and take home great rewards. While you're there, indulge in a delicious treat to make your visit even sweeter. This event is perfect for the whole family, so bring your loved ones and enjoy the fun!

Mark your calendars for February 28th and come down to our Shiloh branch for a memorable day of prizes, treats, and carnival excitement!

REFRESHMENTS | TRIVIA | SPECIAL SWAG
SPECIAL OFFERS

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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