

## February 2026

### *10 Tips for Financial Security After You Retire*

Not that long ago, people looked forward to retirement as a time of relaxation and leisure when one might travel the world or take up a new hobby. Increasingly, however, people preparing to retire are doing the math and realizing that the future doesn't look so bright financially. The following 10 guidelines will help you enjoy a more comfortable retirement even in an uncertain economy.

#### **1. Have a plan but stay flexible**

Retiring successfully takes planning. Take an honest inventory of your assets, savings, investments, and set some goals for your retirement. Consider what you'd like to be doing, where you'd like to live, who you want to be near, and what kind of lifestyle you prefer.

While you need a plan you also need to be flexible and open to unexpected changes. Keep yourself informed about the latest developments in areas such as the cost of living, tax laws, investments, real estate trends, and other areas that are likely to have an impact on your life.

#### **2. Watch your spending**

Overspending is a common mistake for many retirees. The paradox about not working is that you have less money coming in but more time to spend your money. It's natural to want to fill up all your free time with eating out, shopping, traveling, and other leisurely pursuits. It's important to set a budget and stick to it. You don't have to cut out all entertainment and treats. However, make sure you don't spend beyond your means.

#### **3. Find new sources of income**

It's an unfortunate fact that people in the United States and many other countries are postponing retirement because they can't afford to stop working. Some employees, meanwhile, are forced into retirement. There are, however, alternatives besides working full-time and complete retirement. Here are a few possibilities.

Get a part-time job. This can actually be good to keep you

active as well earning money.

Start a business. There are many businesses you can start from home, from selling items on Amazon or eBay to providing freelance services.

Make money from your property. If you have extra space, you might rent out a room or set up an Airbnb.

#### **4. Get out of debt**

Reducing or eliminating debt is one of the best ways to improve your financial situation. Debts are especially draining after you retire. Do whatever you can to cut down on what you owe, especially high-interest debts such as credit cards.

Paying off debt provides two main benefits. On the one hand, it reduces the burden of making high payments when your income may be decreasing. Additionally, you have a chance to improve your credit score which is useful if you want to apply for a mortgage, business loan, or another type of loan in the future.

#### **5. Don't touch your retirement account early**

Withdrawing money from your retirement account early may be tempting but it's seldom a financially wise decision. You also incur tax penalties if you take money out of an IRA or 401K before retirement age (currently 59.5). If you're thinking about raiding your retirement account, make this an absolute last resort. You'll be glad you held out a few years from now.



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## Big News for Your 2026 Retirement Plans!

The IRS announced new contribution limits for 2026, and there's a lot to look forward to! Here's a quick breakdown:

- 401(k), 403(b), 457 Plans & TSP: Contribution limit increased to \$24,500 (up from \$23,500 in 2025). If you're 50 or older, you can contribute up to \$32,500 annually!
- IRA Contributions: Limit increased to \$7,500. Catch-up contributions for those 50 and older are now \$1,100.
- Roth IRA & Saver's Credit: Income phase-out ranges have increased, making it easier to qualify and maximize your savings.
- SIMPLE Accounts: Contribution limit up to \$17,000, with higher limits for certain accounts.
- Medicare Part B: Monthly premiums will rise to \$202.90, impacting how much of your Social Security COLA you'll see.

Stay up-to-date with details about your retirement savings! For full details, check out Notice 2025-67 on the IRS website. With most retirement accounts, once you reach age 73, you must begin taking required minimum distributions. Roth accounts are the exception.

Withdrawal penalties may apply if you take the money before age 59½. Roth IRA distributions must meet a 5-year holding requirement and occur after the account holder reaches age 59½.



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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](mailto:banderson@hntlgh.com)*

*Content provided by a third party not affiliated with the credit union.*  
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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 16	Presidents Day - CLOSED
May 2	Paper Shred @ St. Peters 9am-11:30am
May 16	Paper Shred @ South 9am-11:30am

## HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY: Black History Month

What began as a week of learning and recognition in 1926 has grown into an overall cultural observance of Black History throughout the month of February.



## LOAN RATES

EFFECTIVE February 15th, 2026

### VEHICLE LOANS

The following are approx. payback terms.	AS LOW AS
Up to 36 months	4.49% APR*
37 to 48 months	4.89% APR*
49 to 60 months	5.14% APR*

### OTHER LOANS

	AS LOW AS
Mortgage	<a href="#">Click for current rates</a>
Share Secured	2.01% APR*
Stock Secured	9.25% APR*
Personal Loans	7.99% APR*
<b>Personal Line of Credit SPECIAL</b>	<b>8.99% APR*</b>

\*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

# Save Big with a 8.99%\* Line of Credit!

Fall in Love with Your Finances This February!

Holiday spending can add up fast, but you don't have to carry that burden into 2026. Our Line of Credit Promotion makes it easy to consolidate and save.

From January 15 to March 30, enjoy a special 8.99% APR on advances of \$500 or more. Lock in this sweet rate until August 31, 2026, and take control of your financial future today.

Don't wait, make your advance and start fresh! [www.goGMFCU.org/promos](http://www.goGMFCU.org/promos)



\*Must be eligible for membership with GMFCU. Must qualify for loan based on credit worthiness. Rates and offers current as of January 15, 2026 and are subject to change. 8.99% APR is only eligible for new lines of credit or current lines of credit that make an advance of \$500 or more by March 30, 2026. Special 8.99% APR will revert back to your original 12.9%-13.9% rate starting September 1, 2026. 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.

## Love Money? Save to Win is Perfect for You!

Turn your savings into a chance to win! With our Save to Win Certificate, every \$25 deposit earns you an entry into monthly and quarterly prize drawings, all while your money grows.

It's the perfect way to kick off your financial goals in February. Save more, stress less, and maybe win big! Start with just \$25 and keep adding for more chances to win.

Learn more about Save to Win at [gogmfcu.org](http://gogmfcu.org)

### Congratulations to our December & Quarter 4 Winners!



\*Limited to 100 entries per month. Must be eligible for membership with GMFCU. Must be a current member of GMFCU and open a qualifying Save to Win account to participate.

## **6. Downsize your lifestyle**

For most people, mortgage, rent, utilities, and other home-related costs are their costliest expenses. Consider how much space you need and whether it might be practical to downsize. If you have your own home, you could sell it and buy a smaller one or relocate to an area with a lower cost of living. Renting or moving to a condo helps you cut down on home maintenance costs. An extreme way to reduce your cost of living is to retire to a country with very cheap living expenses such as Ecuador or Panama.

There are other ways to downsize and simplify your lifestyle aside from housing. Consider moving to a location where you don't need a car. With ride-sharing services and short-term rental options, more people are finding that owning a vehicle is an unnecessary expense.

## **7. Take care of your health**

Medical expenses are one of the biggest reasons people fall into financial difficulties later in life. Aside from getting regular checkups, pay attention to your habits and lifestyle. If you smoke, drink heavily, use drugs, or don't exercise, consider transforming your lifestyle.

Bad habits tend to catch up with you when you can least afford it. Eating a healthier diet, exercising regularly, and avoiding harmful substances will cause you to feel better while also saving you money on health care costs. You can also manage health expenses by researching the most advantageous health insurance options.

## **8. Invest wisely**

It's never too late to start investing or to improve your investing strategy. As a general rule, you should invest more conservatively as you approach retirement.

Diversifying your holdings is the best strategy. Spreading investments between small and large-cap stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate trusts increases your chances of reaping steady returns. An annuity can provide you with predictable payouts after you retire. If you need help, consult with a CPA or investment counselor.

The other side of the coin is to be wary of dubious investments. Older people are often targeted by scam artists selling fraudulent "investments." Even legitimate investments that are highly speculative such as futures, Forex, cryptocurrency, and others carry significant risks. Make sure the bulk of your holdings are in more stable assets before you start speculating.

## **9. Don't be overly generous**

Many older adults are victims of their own generosity. As younger people face rising housing and education costs, they sometimes turn to their parents and grandparents for help. While it's great to help your kids buy a home or pay for your grandchildren's college tuition, make sure you don't overextend yourself. Before you give away large sums, look into the future and ask yourself how this will impact you 5 or 10 years from now. Sometimes you just have to say "no" even if it's painful.

## **10. Take advantage of senior discounts**

There are many financial advantages to being a senior (though the exact definition differs depending on the situation; it may be 55, 60, 62, or 65). If you're not a member of AARP, join now and learn about more benefits. Your local public library is also another good place to learn about programs. Before spending money on anything, from healthcare to travel to transportation, find out if you can get a discount based on your age.

These are some ways to help you manage your finances when you retire and even before. It's important to look at your situation and devise a workable strategy. People get into trouble when they live day-to-day and ignore impending problems.



## *Please Update Your Contact Info*

As we move into our merger with West Community Credit Union, please ensure that your contact information is up to date. This will help us keep you informed about merger news, credit union news and most importantly your accounts.

Please update your:

- Home address
- Email address
- Phones numbers

You can verify your contact information by logging into your online banking or reach out to an MSR today at 314-621-4575.



## *Fall in Love with Rewards 365 Checking*



Make your money work harder in 2026! Our Rewards 365 Checking offers up to 3.25% APY on balances up to \$5,000 with no monthly fees.

Just meet simple requirements like direct deposit and debit transactions to unlock rewards. It's the perfect way to start the year with smarter banking and extra cash in your pocket.

Open your account today and start earning!

Visit [gogmfcu.org/rewards365](https://gogmfcu.org/rewards365)

\*Membership eligibility and share account required. Minimum balance of \$0.01 each day of the qualifying month. CU has the option to change eligibility requirements, eliminate the program, or make a rate change at any time with appropriate notice as required by law.

## *Get Ahead of Holiday Savings*

Start the year stress-free by planning ahead! Our Holiday Club Savings Account helps you save gradually for next season's celebrations.

With automatic transfers and annual dividends, you'll avoid the holiday crunch and enjoy peace of mind. Open your account now with as little as \$5 and set up Power Pay deposits to make saving effortless.

Your future self will thank you when next December rolls around! Visit [goGMFCU.org](https://goGMFCU.org) to learn more.



\*Must be eligible for membership with GMFCU and be an active member to participate in a Holiday Club Savings Account. Dividends are paid annually.

# ***The Butterfly Project Donates \$7,500 to Annie's Hope***

In 2025, The Butterfly Project dedicated its outreach efforts to supporting Annie's Hope, an organization committed to helping children navigate the challenges of grief. Throughout the year, branches joined together to collect art supplies, gathering donations both in-office and during community recycling events.

These contributions play a meaningful role in Annie's Hope's mission. Art materials provide children with a creative outlet to express emotions, process loss, and find comfort during difficult times.

On January 20, 2026, The Butterfly Project joined with Annie's Hope to formally present a monetary donation of \$7,500. This contribution reflects a year of collective generosity and dedication from members, staff, and supportive local communities.

Every donation played a part in bringing this effort to life. Thanks to this shared commitment, Annie's Hope can continue providing meaningful support to children and families as they navigate grief and healing.

The mission of Annie's Hope is 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.



## ***STAY TUNED for donating this year!***

In 2026, The Butterfly Project will be focusing on collecting donations for Diamonds in the Ruff based in St. Peters, MO. They have an obligation to save those that humans have hurt, abandoned, and dumped. We have made the commitment to find these neglected animals medical attention and a safe loving home. They help dogs and puppies that have been dumped on the side of the road, surrendered by owners, or left in Animal Control. To learn more about Diamonds in the Ruff, visit [ditrrmo.org](http://ditrrmo.org)



## ***Get Ready to Shred This Spring!***

Plan ahead and get your papers ready for upcoming shred days in 2026! All these events are paper only (no electronics). Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the event dates. Gateway Metro events are hosted by GMFCU staff. West Community events are hosted by WCCU staff. We can't wait to combine event efforts soon!

**May 2nd @ Gateway Metro: St. Peters 9am - 11:30am**  
**May 9th @ West Community: Florrisant 9am - 12pm**

**May 16th @ Gateway Metro: South 9am - 11:30am**  
**May 30th @ West Community: St. Peters 9am - 11:30am**

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

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



[goGMFCU.org](http://goGMFCU.org) | 314-621-4575 | 800-621-4828  
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