

# UNDER THE Arch

Gateway Metro Federal  
CREDIT UNION  
Since 1935



## Spring Cleaning for Your Finances

The freshness of spring motivates a lot of people to throw open the windows and doors, and do a thorough spring cleaning. It's a great way to take stock of what you have, organize it so everything's more accessible, and ditch the clutter that's keeping you from enjoying your space. While you're at it, why not dive into a bit of spring cleaning for your finances, too?

### Check Your Tax Withholding

You just filed your income taxes. If you got a big tax refund, that's the good news and the bad news: good that you didn't have to write a check to the IRS, and bad because a big refund means you overpaid. Basically, you've been shorting your take home pay to give the government an interest-free loan. So, examine the personal allowances you claimed on the W-4 form you completed for your employer. If you're consistently getting big tax refunds, it's likely you're claiming too many allowances and, thus, having more money than necessary withheld from your paycheck.

### Review Insurance Policies

You want to make sure that you have the right types and amounts of coverage. For example, you may have purchased a home or gained other assets since you first took out your auto policy. If so, it may be wise to increase your liability coverage. It may cost you more in the short-term, but you'll be glad you had proper coverage if you need to make a claim. On the flip side, if you have auto and home policies with different companies, you may be paying too much. Oftentimes, you can save by bundling both auto and home insurance policies with the same company.

### Evaluate Your Credit Cards

If you're carrying credit card balances, you're throwing away money, so make a strategy to pay off that debt. Lots of credit card issuers want your business, and periodically run balance transfer promotions that let you consolidate your balances onto one card that carries a super-low rate for a fixed period of time – sometimes as low as 0%, with no balance transfer fee. If you're able to do this, be sure to pay off the debt before the interest rate goes back up to the regular rate. And remember, don't close those old credit card accounts, because that could ding your credit score. Instead, once you're free of credit card debt, use all of your cards periodically to keep them active, and discipline yourself to pay off all your balances each month.

### Consolidate Retirement Accounts

If you've been fortunate to work for companies that offer 401(k) retirement plans, you may have accumulated several accounts that are sprinkled among various employer-sponsored plans. While diversifying your investments is always a good idea, it's easier to manage them if they're consolidated in one place. You have a couple of options. Your current employer may allow you to rollover other accounts into your current 401(k), but only do that if your current plan offers low fees and solid investment choices. You can also roll over those old 401(k) accounts into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), where you have a broad range of low-cost investment options. Just be sure you do a direct rollover, so you don't incur any tax penalties.

Article credit to Balance:  
<https://gmcu.balancepro.org/resources/articles/spring-cleaning-for-your-finances>



## ATTENTION GATEWAY MEMBERS!

CHANGES WILL BE COMING TO ONLINE BANKING IN 2020.  
STAY TUNED TO UNDER THE ARCH NEWSLETTERS FOR MORE  
INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

# THE MAJOR RETIREMENT PLANNING MISTAKES

Much is out there about the classic financial mistakes that plague start-ups, family businesses, corporations, and charities. Aside from these blunders, some classic financial missteps plague retirees.

Calling them “mistakes” may be a bit harsh, as not all of them represent errors in judgment. Yet whether they result from ignorance or fate, we need to be aware of them as we plan for and enter retirement.

**Leaving work too early.** As Social Security benefits rise about 8% for every year you delay receiving them, waiting a few years to apply for benefits can position you for higher retirement income. Filing for your monthly benefits before you reach Social Security’s Full Retirement Age (FRA) can mean comparatively smaller monthly payments. Meanwhile, if you can delay claiming Social Security, that positions you for more significant monthly benefits.

## Underestimating medical bills.

In its latest estimate of retiree health care costs, the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College says that the average retiree will need at least \$4,300 per year to pay for future health care costs. Medicare will not pay for everything. That \$4,300 represents out-of-pocket costs, which includes dental, vision, and long-term care.

**Taking the potential for longevity too lightly.** Actuaries at the Social Security Administration project that around a third of today’s 65-year-olds will live to age 90, with about one in seven living 95 years or longer. The prospect of a 20- or 30-year retirement is not unreasonable, yet there is still a lingering cultural assumption that our retirements might duplicate the relatively brief ones of our parents.

**Withdrawing too much each year.** You may have heard of the “4% rule,” a guideline stating that you should take out only about 4% of your retirement savings annually. Many cautious retirees try to abide by it.

So, why do others withdraw 7% or 8% a year? In the first phase of retirement, people tend to live it up; more free time naturally promotes new ventures and adventures and an inclination to live a bit more lavishly.

**Ignoring tax efficiency & fees.** It can be a good idea to have both taxable and tax-advantaged accounts in retirement. Assuming your retirement will be long, you may want to assign this or that investment to its “preferred domain.” What does that mean? It means the taxable or tax-advantaged account that may be most appropriate for it as you pursue a better after-tax return for the whole portfolio.

Many younger investors chase the return. Some retirees, however, find a shortfall when they try to live on portfolio income. In response, they move money into stocks offering significant dividends or high-yield bonds – something you might regret in the long run. Taking retirement income off both the principal and interest of a portfolio may give you a way to reduce ordinary income and income taxes.

**Avoiding market risk.** Equity investment does invite risk, but the reward may be worth it. In contrast, many fixed-rate investments offer comparatively small yields these days.

**Retiring with heavier debts.** It is hard to preserve (or accumulate) wealth when you are handing portions of it to creditors.

**Putting college costs before retirement costs.** There is no “financial aid” program for retirement. There are no “retirement loans.” Your children have their whole financial lives ahead of them. Try to refrain from touching your home equity or your IRA to pay for their education expenses.

**Retiring with no plan or investment strategy.** An unplanned retirement may bring terrible financial surprises; the absence of a strategy can leave people prone to market timing and day trading.

**These are some of the classic retirement planning mistakes.** Why not plan to avoid them? Take a little time to review and refine your retirement strategy in the company of the financial professional you know and trust.

Would you like to discuss investments or your retirement goals? Reach out to Bill Anderson at 636-222-7585. Content provided by a third party not affiliated with the credit union.

## 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 through Strategic Wealth Advisors.

## 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 hours a day

**DEBIT CARD** - (314) 621-4575 or (800) 621-4828 during business hours or (800) 472-3272, 24 hours a day.

## LOAN RATES

Effective March 15th, 2020

Gateway Metro rewards our members with low rates.

### VEHICLE LOANS AS LOW AS

Approx. Payback Term	Rate
up to 36 months	2.99% APR*
37 to 63 months	3.45% APR*

### OTHER LOANS AS LOW AS

Mortgage	Visit <a href="http://GoGMFCU.org">GoGMFCU.org</a> for current rates.
Savings Secured	2.10% 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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PAWS IN THE PARK:

April 18th, 2020 | 8AM

Tower Grove Park, Sons of Rest Pavilion

### ANNUAL MEETING:

April 21st, 2020 | 1001 Pine St, St. Louis, MO 63101

Refreshments 5PM | Meeting 5:30PM

### TRIVIA NIGHT:

April 25th, 2020 | 6PM | Whitecliff Recreation Center

## Planning on Traveling?

MAKE SURE TO INFORM GMFCU OF YOUR TRAVEL PLANS AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO ASSIST US IN KEEPING YOUR ACCOUNTS SAFE AND HELP MONITOR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY. PLEASE CALL US AT (314)621-4575 OR (800)621-4828, OR CONTACT US THROUGH YOUR ONLINE BANKING. GMFCU WISHES YOU SAFE TRAVELS!

# IRA CONTRIBUTIONS

Would you like to be financially fit when it is time to retire? Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union is able to help you achieve those goals. We have several IRA options available. Don't forget you can still make contributions to your IRA for 2019 until April 15, 2020.



Stop by a location, or call with any questions. For your convenience, you also now have the ability to schedule an appointment with a Financial Service Representative online through our website.

## YOUTH MONTH



April is Youth Month! Let Gateway Metro show your kids how magical their money is! Stop by any location with your kids during the month of April so they can be entered into a drawing for a chance to win 1 of 2 awesome prizes! Have your kids visit one of our locations to make a deposit into their Gateway Metro account and receive an entry into the drawing! Do your kids have a trick up their sleeve? They can show us a magic trick along with making a deposit and we will put 2 entries in the hat for them. They can visit the branch daily to make a deposit and receive another entry. At the end of the month, we will choose and notify the winner. Anyone up to the age of 17 is eligible.



## SAVE TO WIN!

GMFCU wants to reward you for saving money! For each deposit of \$25 or more made to your Save to Win account, you gain an entry for monthly and quarterly cash prize drawing and are eligible to win \$25 to \$5,000! See a member service representative for details today!

## REWARDS 365 CHECKING

### USE:

- Direct Deposit<sup>1</sup>
- Online Banking<sup>2</sup>
- Cyberstatements<sup>3</sup>
- Visa debit card<sup>4</sup>

### GET:

- Cash Back<sup>5</sup>
- Debit card assurance refund<sup>6</sup>
- Free bill pay
- No monthly fees

Open a Rewards 365 account today and get a Bluetooth speaker. Membership eligibility and share account required. 1)Direct deposit must be a payroll or benefit payment such as Social Security posting at least once every 31 days in the amount of \$200 or more. 2) Must access your GMFCU online banking at least once per month. 3)Must be enrolled in estatements. 4)Must complete 25 non-ATM transactions of \$5 or more each for the month which are counted by calendar month when the transaction posts to your account. 5) 3.650% APY on up to \$2,500. 6)Debit Card Assurance will be charged to your account then refunded once you have qualified for reward. 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.

# Mortgages at **GATEWAY METRO**



Kick off your spring with a new mortgage at Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union. With rates at historic lows, now is a perfect time to purchase that new home or refinance your existing mortgage to a lower rate and term. You could even take cash out to consolidate those high interest rate credit cards or do those springtime home projects!

Visit our Mortgage Center to apply today:  
[GoGMFCU.org/Mortgage](http://GoGMFCU.org/Mortgage)

## WEBINAR FOR THE WIN



### Entering is easy:

1) Register for a BALANCE webinar in March or April:

MARCH - "REPAYING STUDENT LOANS"  
REGISTER: [BIT.LY/33W2LKX](http://BIT.LY/33W2LKX)

APRIL - "IDENTITY THEFT SOLUTIONS"  
REGISTER: [BIT.LY/36ITAKV](http://BIT.LY/36ITAKV)

2) Stay for the whole session

3) Earn additional entries with each webinar you attend

At the end of the contest, the winner will be selected at random.

"Webinar for the Win" runs from January 28 – April 23, 2020. Make sure you sign up now and reserve your virtual seat.

## TRIVIA NIGHT

3rd Annual Trivia Night

APRIL 25TH, 2020

DOORS OPEN 6PM | TRIVIA BEGINS 6:30PM

\$175 | TABLE OF 8-10 PEOPLE

RSVP TO: [BUTTERFLYCOMMITTEE@GMCU.ORG](mailto:BUTTERFLYCOMMITTEE@GMCU.ORG)

## PAWS IN THE PARK

PAWS IN THE PARK 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN

APRIL 18TH, 2020

TOWER GROVE PARK, SONS OF REST PAVILLION

CHECK IN: 8AM | RACE BEGINS: 9AM

GATEWAY METRO IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF NEEDY PAW'S 5K: PAWS IN THE PARK. RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT ON YOUR RACE REGISTRATION BY USING CODE: GATEWAY20 (CODE IS VALID FOR FIRST 500 PARTICIPANTS). REGISTER ONLINE AT

[NEEDYPAWS.ORG](http://NEEDYPAWS.ORG)