

UNDER THE Arch

Gateway Metro Federal
Since 1985

New Year's

RESOLUTIONS TO SAVE MORE ?
PLAN TO MAKE A BIG PURCHASE?

SAVE TO WIN[®]

Did you make a resolution in the new year to build an emergency fund, make a large purchase or maybe just save more in general? Gateway Metro offers the Save To Win Certificate to help you reach your goals.

Save To Win is a prize-linked savings program that allows you to earn entries into monthly and quarterly drawings just for saving money! You can open the certificate with as little as \$25.00 and for every \$25.00 in net deposits made in a month you earn an entry into the monthly and the quarterly drawing. You can earn up to 10 monthly entries and 30 quarterly entries to win up to \$5000.00.

In 2018 Gateway Metro members earned entries for prizes and won over \$5,750.00! The prize pool for 2019 is over \$160,000. We would love to see our member's share of the winnings get even higher but even more we would like to see your savings grow to the goal you have set!

Click [here](#) or speak to a Member Services Representative for more information.



Judith A. Lowe Scholarship

THE JUDITH A. LOWE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2019 IS OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY!

The deadline to apply for this \$1,000 scholarship granted to a young Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union member is March 16th, 2019. If you are a high school senior looking for some extra cash to apply to your higher education, check out this fun program [here](#). This year's applicants will need to complete the application packet, submit two letters of recommendation, and upload a 3-6 minute video on "How Can a Lack of Financial Literacy Impact Your Generation and How Do Credit Unions Help" to a public YouTube page. See our website for all the details!

For those who are about to become seniors or if you have children or grandchildren nearing that time in their school career, make sure they have an account at Gateway Metro now so they will qualify to apply in their senior year! This program is just another way Gateway Metro is able to give back to our members and our community.

OUR HOURS ARE CHANGING!

Our Wednesday branch business hours will be changing at all branch locations except for the South County branch. The change goes into effect on January 30th, 2019. New Wednesday branch hours will be

10:00 am – 5:00 pm.





*Boost your
Credit Score
Quickly!*

First thing's first: there is no magic solution to raising your credit score overnight. If you have a low score due to, say, bankruptcy (which can affect your credit for up to seven years), boosting it requires a long-term plan of consistent on-time payments, and other responsible credit practices. However, a low score due to a lack of credit can jump much more quickly. Check it out:

FIX ERRORS ON YOUR CREDIT REPORTS

According to the Federal Trade Commission, one in four credit reports contains small errors, which can affect your score. Errors might include false information attributed to you because of identity theft or just a simple mix up, accounts that don't belong to you, and more. If the mistake negatively affected your score, you can expect it to improve in approximately 60 days after correction, reportedly

PAY OFF CREDIT CARDS EVERY MONTH

If you pay off your debts, you'll see your score go up. That doesn't mean you should run out and buy things you don't need, however. Instead, charge expenses like bills and gas (things you already pay for in cash) on your credit cards, and pay them off every month. If you're struggling to cover your existing debt, create a debt management plan to free up extra cash.

STAY AWAY FROM YOUR CREDIT LIMITS

Paying down the debt will improve your creditworthiness, and help your "credit utilization" (the amount of debt you have relative to your credit card limits). When you get closer to your limits, you reduce your available credit, which is bad for your score. So bring down your debt to an acceptable amount as defined by the credit bureaus, and your score will improve.

SET UP AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

Your credit score takes a hit with every late payment. That's because payment history comprises 35% of your score. If you struggle to remember when money is due, set up automatic payments with your credit cards. It's an easy way to stay punctual and—barring other major marks against your credit—turn your score around in a relatively short amount of time.

**Information provided by Balance, GMFCU's partner in Financial Education
<https://gmcu.balancepro.org>*

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for the annual Membership Meeting which will be held **April 16th at 1001 Pine Street, St Louis, MO 63101.** Light refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. Stay tuned to social media and GoGMFCU.org for more details.

LOST CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS

If your GMFCU credit or debit card is lost, stolen or 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 January 15, 2019

Gateway Metro rewards our members with low rates.

VEHICLE LOANS

Approx. Payback Term	AS LOW AS Rate
up to 36 months	3.65% APR*
49 to 63 months	3.95% APR*

OTHER LOANS

	AS LOW AS
Mortgage	Visit GoGMFCU.org for current rates.
Savings Secured	2.149% 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*



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Our offices will close to observe the following holidays:

Presidents Day Monday, Feb 18

Remember, even when our offices are closed, you still have 24/7 account access through our online and mobile banking services!



SHILOH BRANCH UPDATE

Our new Shiloh branch is coming along and we expect to open in early Spring 2019. Visit GoGMFCU.org/Shiloh to keep up on the most recent information. The new location will be at **848 North Green Mount Road** and will replace our existing Swansea location. Staff is excited to see you at the new location where we will have drive-up service available using new Interactive Teller Machine technology as well as other services to expand our current offerings. Follow us on social media and make sure we have your current email address to keep up on Grand Opening festivities which will include refreshments, prizes and more!

Win \$1K for Attending a Free Webinar

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF YOU COULD WIN \$1,000 WHILE GETTING A LITTLE FREE FINANCIAL GUIDANCE?

It's possible with the new "Webinar for the Win" contest! Presented by our partner in financial education, BALANCE, "Webinar for the Win" will reward one lucky attendee of their online webinars with the grand prize.

BALANCE webinars are live, online sessions that let you learn from and interact with an expert on today's most popular financial topics—at no cost to you.

Entering is easy:

- Register for a BALANCE webinar in February, March or April: (Enter Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union in the 'Who is your BALANCE provider?' Box.)
- Stay for the whole session.
- Earn additional entries with each webinar you attend.

FEBRUARY - "YOUR CREDIT SCORE"

REGISTER: BIT.LY/2ZKQYOB

MARCH - "REBUILDING AFTER A FINANCIAL CRISIS"

REGISTER: BIT.LY/2DNR8TN

APRIL - "UNDERSTANDING CREDIT"

REGISTER: BIT.LY/2PXOUZY

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

"Webinar for the Win" runs from January 21 – April 19, 2019. Make sure you sign up now and reserve your virtual seat. You just might get paid to learn! Good luck!

BUTTERFLY PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise \$6,672 in 2018 to donate to The Faith Foundation Children's Home! Donations were collected by selling Butterflies and Stockings through the holiday season, offering Butterfly Project T-Shirts for sale, holding 50/50 raffles, holding a trivia night and using the new 'Make a Change' feature available at the branches.

The Butterfly Project is a year-round community service project run by a group of employee volunteers. The name pays homage to the Butterfly Effect Theory, which states something as small as a butterfly has the power to create something much larger than itself. To learn more about the Butterfly Project and to see updates on which charity we will be working for next, visit the About Us section of our website at GoGMFCU.org. You can also follow us on social media to see upcoming events and ways to help!



ASKED TO PAY BY GIFT CARD? DON'T.

Has someone asked you to go get a gift card to pay for something? Lots of people have told us they've been asked to pay with gift cards – by a caller claiming to be with the IRS, or tech support, or a so-called family member in need. If you've gotten a call like this, you know that the caller will then demand the gift card numbers and PIN. And, poof, your money is gone.

Scammers are good at convincing people there really is an emergency, so lots of people have made the trip to the Walmart or Target or CVS to buy gift cards to send these callers. And scammers love gift cards – it's one of their favorite ways to get your money. These cards are like giving cash – and nearly untraceable, unless you act almost immediately.

So here's the most important thing for you to know: anyone who demands payment by gift card is always, always, always a scammer. Try this gift card buying exercise out at home – especially when anyone asks you to pay with a gift card:

Q: Should I buy an iTunes, Google Play, Steam, Kroger, Walgreens, BestBuy, Amazon, CVS, Rite Aid or ANY OTHER gift card for someone who demands payment? For any reason?

A: NO.

Gift cards are for gifts, not payments. If you've bought a gift card and lost money to someone who might be a scammer, tell the company who issued the card. (The contact info might be on the card, but might require some research) Call or email iTunes or Amazon or whoever it was. Tell them their card was used in a scam. If you act quickly enough, they might be able to get your money back. But – either way – it's important that they know what happened to you. And then please tell the FTC about your loss. Your report helps us try to shut the scammers down.

Source: consumer.ftc.gov



THANK YOU!

Thank you Tammy Hampton, Vice President of Operations, for 30 years of dedication at the credit union!



*If We've Heard It
Once, We've Heard It
a Thousand Times...*

**'WHAT??? I DIDN'T KNOW THE
CREDIT UNION DID HOME LOANS!?!?'**

We sure do! Gateway Metro Federal has been offering first mortgages, fixed home equities, home equity lines of credit (HELOC) and home improvement loans for decades. We have full time staff dedicated to helping our members with all of their home loan needs. Your loan approval process will remain local with someone available to speak with you over the phone or at the GMFCU location most convenient for you. Your servicing needs will also be handled locally by credit union staff.

So, whether you are thinking about buying a home for the first time, refinancing an existing loan, or taking advantage of the equity you have in your home, think of your credit union first. Click to visit our online [Mortgage Center](#) to begin an application, research questions, and check on rates. Still have questions? You can reach a dedicated mortgage representative by calling 314-621-4575 or 800-621-4828.

Follow us on social media for upcoming events where you can learn about the home buying and lending process!

Limited Time Share Certificate

*1.75% APY, 6 Months. \$500 minimum and new money only. Membership eligibility required. Limited time offer. Rate effective as of January 15, 2019. Must be opened with funds not previously deposited with Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union. Other restrictions may apply. Penalty for early withdrawal. Rates subject to change without notice. See a representative for details. Purchase of certificate must be made within 48-hours of deposit into a Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union account. Youth share certificate has a \$100 minimum.