6 ways to get your finances organized halfway through the year

For many people, summertime offers some downtime and the opportunity to enjoy activities with friends and family. This halfway point in the year is a great time to check your financial well-being and prepare for the next half of the year. Keep reading for six tips to help you get your money matters in order this summer.

Check on your financial goals
Set short-term goals to more effectively track saving for a new vehicle, increasing retirement savings or simply building an emergency fund.

Make a budget and cut back on excessive spending
Often times, the summer months end up being when consumers overspend. Fortunately, making an effort to periodically review your budget could help you keep track of your spending. If you haven’t already created a budget for the year, it’s not too late to get started.

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Did you know you can finance?
Bring the beach to your backyard this summer. Finance a swimming pool with a TFCU HELOC, home equity loan, credit card or through our retail lending department. To apply for a loan, visit TinkerFCU.org.
How Different Types of Investment Income Are Taxed

The federal tax system has a myriad of different categories to help us define our income for tax purposes. One of these areas is investment income. The subcategories of this income are taxed differently. Here’s a quick breakdown.

**Interest income** – This is income from share certificates, savings accounts and bonds. Interest income, reported on a 1099-INT form, becomes part of your regular income and is generally taxed at your marginal rate during the year in which you receive it, even if it’s reinvested.

**Capital gains** – When you sell a security, any positive difference between what you paid and what you earned is called a capital gain. For most people, securities held over a year (long-term capital gains) will either incur a 0%, 15% or 20% tax. Short-term capital gains are taxed at your ordinary income tax rate.

**Dividends** – Dividend income is derived from equities that pay shareholders dividends on a regular basis. Non-qualified dividends are treated to the same preferred rates as long-term capital gains.

These examples are merely guidelines. Your personal tax advisor can help you determine your exact tax liability, and the professionals at TFCU Financial Advisors can help you select appropriate investments based on your tax situation.

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Shred Day, Yukon > July 11, 2020
TFCU will host our next shred day on Saturday, July 11, at our Yukon Branch located at 11209 W Reno, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please limit the number of boxes you bring to no more than three (approximately 18x12x12 inches).

Amusement Park Tickets > Now On Sale
Amusement park tickets are available for TFCU members to purchase. Tickets for Six Flags Over Texas (Arlington) and Frontier City/Hurricane Harbor can be purchased at participating TFCU branches. Tickets for Six Flags Fiesta Texas (San Antonio) are available through our website. Members with Home Branch access can also purchase tickets for Silver Dollar City. To view ticket details and see a list of participating branches, visit TinkerFCU.org and search “park tickets.” For updates on park operating schedules, please check with the parks for more details.

TFCU will be closed on Saturday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.
Five fun summer activities for you and your family

**Backyard ball games**
Grab the little ones and set up a game of dodgeball or kickball in the backyard. This keeps the fun in the family, while lowering the risk of exposure to germs and viruses found in more populated places for families during this time.

**Visit a vacation house with family**
Take a few days off from the hustle and bussle of your daily life and treat yourself and your loved ones to a staycation at a cabin or vacation home this summer. As long as everyone in the home has followed and continues to practice safe social distancing measures throughout the pandemic, the risk of exposure is low.

**Go camping**
Camping may be the least risky of all summer activities as long as you and your family are camping in an isolated outdoor location. Risks increase if you opt for a crowded campground with shared public spaces like restrooms and picnic areas.

**Go shopping**
The current state of the world has changed what shopping looks like for many. While you don’t have to completely give up shopping until you drop, you may opt for visiting your favorite boutique or shopping mall during off-peak hours to avoid large crowds. Additionally, outdoor malls are preferable to indoor. While you’re out, remember to shop with purpose, not leisure. Know what you’re going for and get out.

**A small outdoor celebration**
Gather the gang and set up a picnic in a spacious outdoor area. To minimize the risk of picking up any germs, avoid sharing food, drinks and utensils.

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Many financial experts recommend the 50/30/20 rule for budgeting because it allows you to scale back on your spending. With the 50/30/20 method, you should be spending 50 percent on essentials, 30 percent on discretionary and 20 percent toward your savings goals. Feel free to adjust the percentages as you see fit for your budget and choose some discretionary items you’re willing to eliminate.

Plan next year’s vacation
Sure, it’s a little too late to plan a getaway for this summer, but that doesn’t mean you can’t get a head start on making arrangements for next year’s adventure. Plus, if you plan ahead, you may be able to find great deals on airfare and hotels. Additionally, you may even consider applying for TSA Precheck to expedite the airport security process for you and your friends or family.

Get products on deep discount
If you track prices year-round, you know July is the best month to buy many expensive products at a discounted cost. Grab your summer necessities such as gas grills and household appliances while they’re on sale. Amazon Prime Day also takes place in July, if you prefer to shop online.

Test drive a car
If you’re thinking of buying a new car, you should start doing some research now as end-of-season sales tend to take place in late summer. In addition to price shopping, you’ll want to rate shop for the best auto loan. Compare quotes and focus on the total price rather than the monthly payment.