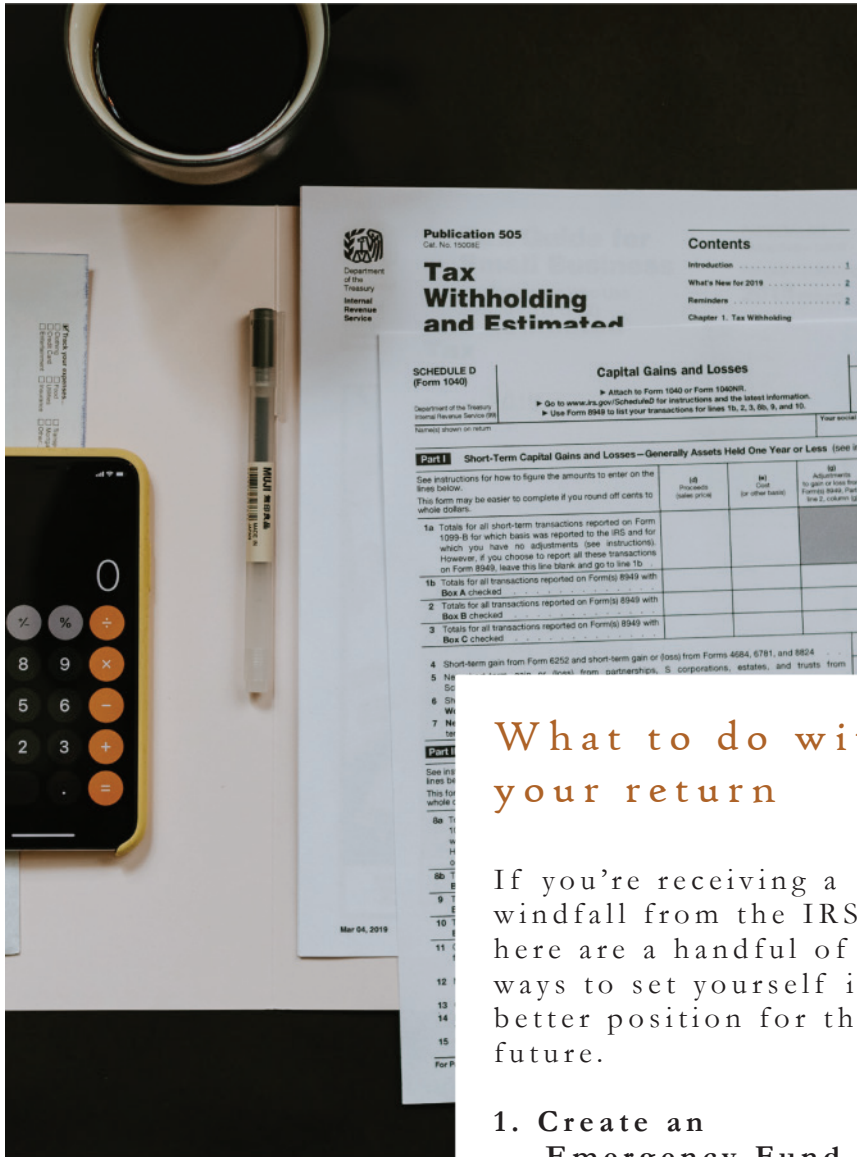


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ripples



Haven't received your stimulus check?

The IRS Economic Impact Payment phone number is **800-919-9835**. You can call to speak with a live representative.

What to do with your return

If you're receiving a windfall from the IRS, here are a handful of ways to set yourself in a better position for the future.

1. Create an Emergency Fund

A lack of savings can leave you vulnerable when you may need some extra funds to keep you afloat. Using your refund to start or add to an emergency fund can take a weight off your chest. We recommend working towards keeping 6 months of expenses in your emergency fund.

2. Pay Off Debt

Think of it this way, would you rather have \$2500 in a fund yielding 1% interest, or maintain \$2500 on a 18% APR credit card?

Paying off debt now can secure more money in your pocket once those minimum payments are relieved from your budget.

3. Retirement Funding

Using funds that aren't a part of your paycheck to fund retirement sounds like a life-hack on paper, but this is a great option for funding your IRA (roth or traditional), and for advancing the funding you'll have when you're off the job.

4. Invest in Stocks

You don't need to catch "Gamestop fever" to make the most of the stock market. If you don't have an immediate financial need, consider investing with a strategy that fits your risk profile.

5. Project Ahead

Your kids and grandkids could benefit from your return as well. Consider seeding a 529 plan to get ahead of costs on rising education. In some states, you may get a deduction for doing so.

Spring is an ideal time to clean up your finances, clear out the clutter, and get a fresh start.

Maybe you have more money left over at the end of the month and could use a budget tweak. Perhaps you have too many expenses in automatic, or



CLEAN

your finances

it's time to apply the brakes to your credit card spending.

Whatever the reason may be, consider the following suggestions to get a better handle on your finances this spring season.

1. Clean Up Your Spending

Take a look in the rearview mirror for the past few months and write down your repeating bills and expenses. When you inventory those expenses, assign a priority number from one to three, with one being expenses you must meet to avoid being evicted from your home and three being rather nice to have, but you could live without. Clear out or reduce drastically your level three expenses. For example, that \$70 cable bill is a great candidate for your first cut. Try less expensive streaming services.

2. Put Your Savings on Autopilot

That 50 bucks a month you recouped by disconnecting your cable service can now be redirected automatically to your emergency fund. If you don't have an emergency fund to cover at least six months' expenses, you could literally be one or two paychecks away from disaster.

3. Inventory Material Wealth

Dedicate an hour or two to photographing and cataloging your household possessions. Concentrate on the big-ticket items like your furniture and expensive electronics. Write out the approximate amount you paid and when you purchased the piece.

4. Plug Into Technology

Take some time to go through your eMoney profile to update the connections, and make sure everything is properly reflected. This powerful tool can even forecast different situations for you, so take some time to play with some graphs! Of course, your advisor is here to help you play with this tool as well.

Upcoming Key Financial Dates



Medicare Enrollment
31 - Parts A and B application deadline



15 - Tax Deadline*
*moved to May 17
16 - Tax Freedom Day



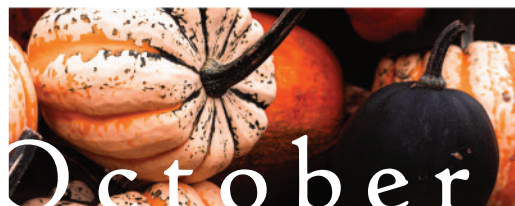
Self-Employment
15 - 2nd quarter estimated tax payments
30 - FAFSA Deadline



Midyear is a great time to review your budget



15 - Self-Employment
3rd quarter estimated tax payments
Enrollment period for employer benefits typically starts in the fall and lasts 4-6 weeks.



01 - FAFSA applications open (close in June)



01 - Federal health insurance marketplace enrollment begins



15 - Federal health coverage deadline
31 - Required Minimum Distribution Deadline (Resumed in 2021)



Find the whole method at konmari.com, all credit to Marie Kondo and Takumi Kawahara

“Marie Kondo” your paper files

You may recognize Marie Kondo from the infamous KonMari™ method, or her book/show, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*. The KonMari™ method outlines how to systematically remove clutter, and bring joy through organization back to your home.

While Marie would be remiss that we are skipping the first 2 steps of her process for now (clothes and books), tidying your papers as a part of a financial spring clean is a sure-fire way to relieve some mental clutter as well.

Step 1: All in One Place
Take the time to bring all your paper files (and paper clutter) and put it in one place.

Step 2: Sort and find Joy
Sort your documents into three categories:

- Currently in use (bills to pay, paperwork, etc.)
- Limited time papers (warranties, policies, tax forms, etc)
- Papers to keep indefinitely (social security cards, birth certificates, passports, etc)

Step 3: Finding Places
Any papers that do not fit into the above categories can be discarded or shredded, while sentimental items should be set aside for sorting.

Consider a multi-slot tabletop organizer for your currently in use and limited time papers, and a fireproof safe for your indefinite papers.

The 6 Basic Rules of Tidying by KonMari™

Rule 1
Commit to tidying

Rule 2
Imagine your ideal lifestyle to prevent relapse

Rule 3
Finish discarding first

Rule 4
Tidy by category, not location

Rule 5
Follow the right order

Rule 6
Ask yourself if it sparks joy



One Last Tip: Save the Date!

Join us for an outdoor event at our Rochester and Eden Prairie offices. Bring your friends, family, and papers to get a head start on your pre-Summer organization projects!

More information will be emailed out soon.

Rochester: May 13, 11am-7pm Eden Prairie: May 6, 3pm-7pm

Each decision you make will have a ripple effect
on your life and the lives of those you love



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