

## February 27th to March 4th is America Saves Week

Most of us understand that saving regularly is one of the simplest ways to reach our financial goals, but we don't all take advantage of easy ways to automate our savings. As part of America Saves Week, we've devised a list of some automatic savings opportunities that are often overlooked. These go a step beyond mere automatic transfers from checking to savings. They're easy, straight-forward ways to save money automatically that most of us don't take advantage of yet, and they increase your chances of reaching your goals even faster.



### 1. Direct Deposit Your Tax Refund Into Savings

According to the IRS, the average American's tax refund now stands at over \$3,100. Don't let that windfall slip through your fingers. Deposit all or part of it into your savings account, instead, and watch your money grow. Plus, the IRS allows direct deposits into one or more accounts, such as a checking and savings account, which means you can choose to spend a portion and save the rest.

### 2. Don't Forget Bonuses or Commissions

Do you get quarterly or yearly bonuses? Are commissions a part of your earnings? Then don't forget to direct deposit all or part of these funds into your savings. Consult with your employer about direct depositing the funds into your savings account, or set up automatic transfers from your checking to savings accounts when you expect the funds.

Another alternative? Increase the contributions on your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k), during those times you receive extra earnings. It'll help you max out your contributions faster and earn any applicable company match to boost your savings even further. Consult with your HR representative or your company's online retirement plan portal to manage your contributions.

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## Some Recent Anniversaries— Congratulations!

Deb Horne	33 years
Angie Flyte	17 years
Meera Israni	9 years
Brian Regan	3 years



## March Fun Facts

The word March does not have to do with the homonym, which means to walk deliberately. Instead, the name of the month dates back to the Roman calendar. March was named for Mars, the Roman god of war.

An old proverb says, "March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb," which is reference to winter ending and spring beginning.



Not only is March Women's History Month, but it's also American Red Cross Month and Fire Prevention Month. Other popular holidays are Read Across America (March 2, which is Dr. Seuss' birthday), St. Patrick's Day (March 17), Pi Day (March 14), Daylights Saving Day, Purim, and sometimes Easter even happens during the month.

Aquamarine and the bloodstone are the birthstones for March. Both stones stand for courage.



There are different reports about the true "birth flower." Some says it's the daffodil and others say it's violet.

## Get social with us!



## Bite-Sized Business Marketing Seminar Series



Free Lunch and Learn Seminar Series!!

Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:00 pm  
 The Milford Bank  
 9 Depot Street, 3rd Floor  
 Milford, CT

March 2—**Harness the Power of Social Media & Email with Constant Contact**, Jocelyn Murray, Owner, Marketing & Event Resources, Inc.

March 16—**Develop a Marketing Plan that Produces Awesome Results**, Robert C. Kademian, ROI Business Coach

March 30th—**Increasing your Website’s Google Presence**, Steve Hozan, Co-Founder, The Web Studio

April 13—**Tips for Taking Better Head Shot Photographs**, Jesse Thompson, Store Manager, Milford Photo

Register online at [themilfordbank.eventbrite.com](http://themilfordbank.eventbrite.com) or call Rebecca Tudor at 203-783-5789.

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### America Saves, cont.

#### 3. Credit and Debit Card Rewards Can Boost Savings, Too

Many popular credit and debit card rewards programs offer several rewards options, ranging from airline miles or hotel points to cash back. Sadly, many credit card rewards perks often go unused, making them less than rewarding. Here at The Milford Bank, we offer UChoose Rewards every time you use your debit card and sign for the transaction. You can redeem points for merchandise, travel or gift cards. Visit any office or our website for details.

#### 5. Set Your Savings Rate Higher

So, you think you’re a savings pro now that you’ve got regular transfers or direct deposits into your savings account? Well, you can go a step further still by periodically increasing your savings rate, whether to your employer-sponsored retirement plan or your savings account. Many 401(k) plans allow users to opt-in to periodic increases in their savings rates, such as a 1 percent increase in their contributions per year. If you prefer to contribute to a savings account or other savings vehicle, consider increasing your contributions regularly, such as every time you get a raise.

Looking for more ways to maximize savings and make your money work harder for you? Call or stop by Any office of The Milford Bank or visit our online Learning Center at [learningcenter.milfordbank.com](http://learningcenter.milfordbank.com). We’re here to help you with all of your financial needs.

Source: [americasavesweek.org](http://americasavesweek.org)



### A Special Offer for You!!

Get \$5 off your first wash at  
**Give the Dog a Bath**

284 Boston Post Road, Milford  
[givethedogabath.com](http://givethedogabath.com) 203-693-2327

One coupon per customer. Cannot be combined with other offers. No cash value. Offer expires 4-30-17.

