

# FINANCE WITH THE FRIDAYS TREASURER

A Financial Literacy Newsletter

Issue 16, July 2, 2026

[NC Cash](#) | [NC ABLE](#)

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## Finance Fridays

is a publication of the N.C. Department of State Treasurer. Treasurer Brad Briner is focused on preserving, protecting and sustaining the state's pension and health care plans. Briner was most recently the Co-Chief Investment Officer for Willett Advisors and has held positions at Morgan Creek Capital, the UNC Management Company, ArcLight Capital and Goldman Sachs.



*Bottom Line  
With Brad*

**FREE MONEY**

TANSTAAFL.

Have you seen that acronym before? I hadn't when I walked into my fifth-grade science class. Little did I know it would not only teach me about Newton's Third Law of Motion (for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction) but also an important but simple premise of financial literacy:

There Ain't No Such Thing As a Free Lunch. TANSTAAFL.

While it is true that there is nothing completely free – there are some things in your financial life that are close enough to free that you should pay attention and take advantage when possible. Sure, there may be some paperwork to do for any of these suggestions below, but it will certainly be worth it. After a couple of months of heavy material, we wanted to keep it light and straightforward this month!

## 1. 401(k) MATCHES.

For those of you with access to a 401(k), a 403(b) or a 457-style retirement plan through your work, which is a majority of the workers in the state, you may have a “free” match on your contributions into that plan. That means if you can make an equal level of contribution to what the employer is willing to match, you maximize this free money and you will be well on your way to a secure retirement.

## 2. TRUMP ACCOUNTS

These accounts were created under the HR1, or the “One Big Beautiful Bill”, to allow young people to start saving and investing, with some government help, from a very early age. They are also known as 530(A) accounts. For those under 2 years old, there could be an initial contribution of \$1,000, and for those between 2-10 it could be \$250. Claim this “free” money today by setting up an account for the young people in your family today ([www.trumpaccounts.gov](http://www.trumpaccounts.gov)) – they go live on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and the sooner you sign up, the earlier that money starts working for your kids.

## 3. UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Each state has an unclaimed property office – also called Escheats. In North Carolina, we estimate that about one out of every seven people in the state have money sitting with our unclaimed property office, waiting for you to claim it! Make sure you go to [NCCash.gov](http://NCCash.gov) and check to see if we have something that is yours... and then check the records for other states you have lived in previously.

## 4. PELL GRANTS

For those of you who are looking to attend an undergraduate degree program sometime soon, there is a great deal of federal assistance available, perhaps none better than the Pell Grant. If you qualify for the grant based on filling out the FAFSA, the Federal Government will pay about \$7,400 of your tuition as a grant.

## 5. OTHER BENEFITS FROM YOUR EMPLOYER

Check your benefits book carefully. Many employers offer tuition assistance, health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts and other benefits to help their employees defray costs. Be sure you are familiar with all that your employer offers and make the most of it... it's (kind of) free money!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Fourth of July and America 250 celebration! We are all so blessed to live in this country. Even if there is no such thing as a truly free lunch.

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# Demystifying: Found Money



## Finding Dollars You Already Have



**By: Dr. Jimmie Lenz**  
Lafitte Director of the Master of Engineering  
in Financial Technology  
Pratt School of Engineering  
Duke University

When people hear the term "found money," they often think of discovering unexpected cash. More often than not, however, found money is simply money that was already yours but had quietly slipped through the cracks of everyday life. Let's demystifying how we "find" free money.

Creating and maintaining a budget is one of the best ways to identify these opportunities. A budget isn't about restricting spending, it's about understanding where your money is going and making informed decisions about where you want it to go. It provides a roadmap for the future, encourages financial accountability, and helps distinguish between needs and wants. Just as importantly, it allows individuals and families to prepare for the unexpected, reducing financial stress before emergencies arise.

Today's financial environment makes this more challenging than ever. Years ago, balancing a checkbook provided a constant reminder of how much money was available. Today, automatic payments, subscriptions, digital wallets, and nearly unlimited access to credit make it easy for expenses to accumulate unnoticed. In many ways, budgeting has become more important than ever because the natural guardrails that once existed have largely disappeared.



Modern financial technology can also help uncover "found money." There is little risk involved, although you do have to securely connect the apps to your personal financial institutions using open banking technology. This is what allow them to review transaction histories. You know the apps we are talking about: Rocket Money, Monarch Money, Trim, Bobby- and the list goes on. These machine learning tools can identify spending patterns that might otherwise go unnoticed, including duplicate

subscriptions, forgotten free trials that have converted to paid services, recurring charges that have gradually increased over time or insurance premiums that may warrant a review. Some services even help consumers cancel subscriptions they no longer use. While these tools are often marketed as helping people find "free money," they are really helping consumers recover money they were already spending unintentionally.

The most effective budget, however, is the one you understand. Whether you use a spreadsheet, a notebook or a budgeting app, the process of reviewing every transaction forces you to think carefully about your financial decisions. Recovering money from unnecessary spending is valuable, but putting those recovered dollars toward future financial security is what ultimately turns "found money" into lasting wealth.

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## How does a 401(k) match work?

It's practically free money waiting for you to grab it.



By: **Mike Shamrell**  
Vice President of Thought Leadership

An employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k), can help build your retirement savings in 2 ways: Not only can you put money aside, from your own paycheck, but you could also get extra money from your employer through a match. Here's how a 401(k) match works along with the average 401(k) match, according to Fidelity data.<sup>1</sup>

### Key takeaways

A 401(k) match is when an employer puts money in an employee's retirement account based on what the employee contributes.

Match formulas vary, but a common setup is for employers to contribute \$1 for every \$1 an employee contributes up to 3% of their salary, then 50 cents on the dollar for the next 2% of an employee's salary.

Ideally, workers should aim to save 15% of their pre-tax income each year, including any match.

### What is a 401(k) match?

More than 85%<sup>2</sup> of [401\(k\) plans](#) for which Fidelity is the service provider offer some

type of employer contribution, according to Mike Shamrell, vice president of Thought Leadership at Fidelity. "As the largest service provider in the country with 26,800 plans as of March 2026, our numbers are viewed as a good indicator of what's going on across the retirement landscape," he says.



## How does a 401(k) match work?

Your employer determines how your 401(k) match will work, but they usually follow a formula of putting in a dollar or a portion of one for each dollar you contribute.

For example, a 401(k) plan might use the following setup: Your employer matches dollar-for-dollar until you've contributed 3% of your salary. Then they match 50 cents of every dollar up to another 2% of your salary. Any contributions you make above 5% of your salary will not be matched.

## What is the average 401(k) match?

The most common 401(k) match formula on plans at Fidelity is a dollar-for-dollar match on the first 3% and then 50 cents on the dollar on the next 2%, according to Shamrell. So if an employee contributes 5% of their salary, they effectively get another 4% from their employer (3% + 1%, or half of 2% = 4%).

## How to make the most of your 401(k) match

If your employer offers a 401(k) match, it's a good idea to try to make the most of this free money.

Consider these tips:

**Try to get the full match.** Do your best to [budget](#) and get as much of the match as possible, given your other financial needs.

**Watch out for vesting schedules.** Employers offer 401(k) matches to hang onto employees because of a process called [vesting](#), which requires you to stay at your job for a certain amount of time in order to keep the full match.

**Understand your company matching schedule.** Shamrell suggests checking when your employer makes matching contributions. It can have a bigger impact than you might think. "Some will do it twice a year," he explains. "Others, every 2 weeks for every paycheck." If you don't make a 401(k) contribution according to the schedule, you could lose out on matching funds.

## The most common 401(k) match formula on plans at Fidelity:



**Dollar-for-dollar match on the first 3%**



**50¢ on the dollar on the next 2%**

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**If an employee contributes 5% of their salary, They effectively get another 4% from their employer**

**Consider saving beyond the match.** Once you're contributing enough to get your employer match, consider saving even more. [Fidelity suggests saving 15%](#) of your pre-tax income for retirement, which includes the match. If your employer gives you 6%, ideally you would put aside 9% of your salary to hit the target (6% from your employer + your 9% = 15%).

## What to do if you don't have access to a 401(k) match

If you don't have access to a 401(k) match, Shamrell says to still try saving 15% of your pre-tax income. Because you're reaching for the target without the extra cash infusion from your employer, "you're going to need to save a bit more aggressively if you can," he says. These [tips](#) might help you find ways to hit the 15% number yourself.

## What to do if you don't have access to a 401(k) at all

If you don't have access to an employer 401(k) plan, one option is to consider an [IRA](#), which could offer more and/or different investment options than an employer plan. [If you're self-employed](#), you can consider additional tax-advantaged accounts. Find out which [small business retirement plan](#) could be right for you.

### Footnotes

1,2 [Building Financial Futures, Fidelity\\_Q1 2026](#).

*Past performance is no guarantee of future results.*

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**NC  
CASH**

THE MONEY YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW YOU HAD



By: Allen Martin  
Deputy Treasurer of the  
Unclaimed Property Division

Have you ever put on a jacket or pair of pants that you haven't worn in a while, reached into your pocket and found a \$10 bill? That feels like 'free money'.

Now imagine that \$10 is actually \$100 or \$1000. You may be able to find your own ‘free money’ by searching [NCCash.gov](https://nccash.gov), a website managed by the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer’s Unclaimed Property Division (UPD). While some users discover unknown property- perhaps that they are beneficiaries of a life insurance policy, most find money, stocks or safe deposit box contents that belong to them and were simply forgotten. These unclaimed properties can include everything from utility deposits, to checking or savings accounts, to refunds or rebates, to funds from former employers to brokerage accounts and more.

Just how much money is forgotten about? From July 2025 to May 2026, UPD reunited almost \$95 million to 135,000 individuals and businesses that had unclaimed property.

It’s actually very simple to see if you are one of the people with “free money” waiting for them. To search, visit [NCCash.gov](https://nccash.gov) and enter your name along with the city where you currently live. You can also search using previous names or residences. The system will identify properties that closely match the information you provide. If you see a property with a reported name and address that matches you (you lived at that reported address), select “Claim” and follow the step-by-step process to begin the process.

By providing current and accurate information when filing a claim, some claimants can be automatically authenticated by the system, allowing their claim to be approved and a ‘free money’ check mailed within a few days. For claims that cannot be electronically approved, claimants will receive an email from Treasurer Briner containing a claim form and instructions for completing the process.

Depending on the type of property, the number of owners listed and your relationship with the property, the required documentation to process a claim may vary. While we strive to request all necessary documents upfront, additional information may sometimes be needed.

The most efficient way to submit required documents is through the [Claim Document Upload](#) tile on [NCCash.gov](https://nccash.gov). You can also monitor the progress of your claim using the [Claim Status](#) tile. Once all required documents have been received, normal processing time is approximately 90 days for a claim to be approved or denied.

The screenshot shows the NCCash.gov website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: About NC Cash, Claiming Your Property, Holder Information and Reporting, FAQs, and a language selector. Below the navigation bar is a large banner with the text: "Are you owed any of the almost \$1.7 billion in the unclaimed property fund?" and a "Click here to search" button. Below the banner are two sections: "NCCash Claims" and "NCCash Match". The "NCCash Claims" section explains the claim process and provides a "Click here for details" button. The "NCCash Match" section explains the NCCash Match program and provides a "Click here for details" button. Below these sections is a large green box displaying "\$101,577,558 Money Returned to People Like You from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025". Below the green box is a grid of six tiles: "Search For Property", "Claim Document Upload", "Claim Status", "Holder Reporting", "Holder Document Upload", and "Holder Payment". Below the grid are three images with captions: "State Treasurer Briner", "Contact Us", and "Holder Reporting Updates". At the bottom of the page is a footer with links: NC.gov, Website Feedback, Accessibility, Disclaimer & Terms of Use, Privacy Policy, Open Budget, and a note: "Hosted on Digital Commons".

Recently, there have been increased efforts to reunite even more North Carolinians with their ‘free money’. This

**Recently, there have been increased efforts to reunite even more North Carolinians with their 'free money'. This is through the expanded NCCash Match Program.**

is through the expanded NCCash Match Program. Through this initiative, some property owners do not need to take any action to receive their funds. Properties that meet certain criteria are matched against external databases to verify ownership and obtain a current mailing address. If a match is confirmed and the property value is \$5,000 or less, a notification letter is mailed to the verified owner, followed by a check within approximately six to eight weeks.

Hopefully, you have all clicked on [NCCash.gov](https://nccash.gov) by now while reading this article. And even if you have checked before, check again! Most businesses submit their annual unclaimed property reports in November; many new properties are added to the database at that time. However, new properties are reported throughout the year. You are welcome to search as often as you like, but we encourage you to check at least once a year to see whether NCCash is holding your 'free money' or property!

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**MONEY FOR YOUR FUTURE**

**530A**

**"TRUMP ACCOUNTS"**



By: Alex Greer  
Associate Wealth Advisory  
Pathfinder Consulting

Last year, the government announced a new investment vehicle for children, section 530A accounts, commonly referred to as "Trump Accounts." At its core, a Trump Account is a tax-advantaged investment account, similar in structure to a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), but specifically for children. The program's primary goal is to leverage the power of compounding interest from a child's birth, providing a nest egg for their future.

The most notable feature of the plan is the government's initial contribution. Every eligible child born between 2025-2028 will receive a one-time, \$1,000 "seed" deposit.

This is intended to be a foundational investment that can grow over decades. Children under 18 not born in this time range can have a Trump account opened, but they are not eligible for the seed deposit, but may be eligible for a smaller \$250 deposit if they sign up early.

Additional guidance released in 2026 clarifies how eligible parents can officially opt in and establish an account for their child. This is an important detail because parents are required to opt in; the contribution will not automatically be deposited for eligible newborns.

Parents can claim the contribution in one of two ways:

1. File Form 4547 with their tax return
2. Visit the official Trump Accounts website and complete the required online information, which automatically prepares and files Form 4547

Some families may find the online option faster and easier to complete.

A key aspect of the Trump Accounts is the investment mandate. Funds must be invested in low-cost mutual funds or exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that track a broad U.S. stock index, such as the S&P 500. This mandate ensures that the accounts benefit from broad market growth while keeping management fees to a minimum, a detail that can have a significant impact on returns over many years. For instance, an initial \$1,000 investment with an average annual return of 8% could grow to over \$40,000 in 50 years.

The government's initial \$1,000 is just the beginning. The program is designed to encourage further private contributions from a variety of sources.

- **Family and Friends:** Parents, relatives, and friends can contribute up to \$5,000 per year to the account. These contributions are made with after-tax dollars and are not tax-deductible.
- **Employers:** The legislation also allows employers to contribute to their employees' children's accounts, with a limit of \$2,500 per year. This contribution counts toward the overall \$5,000 annual cap.



**Form 4547**  
December 2025  
Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Trump Account Election(s)**  
Go to [www.irs.gov/Form4547](https://www.irs.gov/Form4547) for instructions and the latest information.  
OMB No. 1545-2336

If you have a child that is eligible for a Trump account, and you want to open a Trump account for that child, complete Form 4547.  
• For each child that is eligible and for whom you want to open a Trump account, complete Parts I, II, and IV.  
• For each child that is eligible to receive a \$1,000 Pilot Program Contribution, check the box in Part III, line 7, in order to receive the contribution.

**Part I Parent/Guardian or Other Authorized Individual Information**  
Note: The parent/guardian or other authorized individual listed in Part I will be the responsible party for the Trump account.

First name Middle name Last name Social security number  
Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions. Apartment number Date of birth  
City, town, or post office. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below. County State ZIP code Phone no.  
Foreign country name Foreign province/state/country Foreign postal code Email address

**Part II Child's Information**  
If more than two children, see instructions.

|                                                                                                                                                 | (i) Child 1              | (ii) Child 2             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1a First name                                                                                                                                   |                          |                          |
| b Middle name                                                                                                                                   |                          |                          |
| c Last name                                                                                                                                     |                          |                          |
| 2 Social security number                                                                                                                        |                          |                          |
| 3 Date of birth                                                                                                                                 |                          |                          |
| 4 Relationship                                                                                                                                  |                          |                          |
| 5 Home Address                                                                                                                                  |                          |                          |
| Check here if address is same as Part I. Otherwise, complete lines 5a through 5f. If you have a foreign address, complete lines 5g, 5h, and 5i. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a Number and street                                                                                                                             |                          |                          |
| b Apartment number                                                                                                                              |                          |                          |
| c City, town, or post office                                                                                                                    |                          |                          |
| d County                                                                                                                                        |                          |                          |
| e State                                                                                                                                         |                          |                          |
| f ZIP code                                                                                                                                      |                          |                          |
| g Foreign country name                                                                                                                          |                          |                          |
| h Foreign province/state/country                                                                                                                |                          |                          |
| i Foreign postal code                                                                                                                           |                          |                          |
| 6 Check box if you are authorized to open the Trump account for the child. See instructions.                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Part III Pilot Program Contribution Election**  
For a child to qualify to receive the \$1,000 Pilot Program Contribution to their Trump account, the child must have been born in 2025–2028, must be a qualifying child of the individual opening the Trump account, must be a U.S. citizen, and must have a valid social security number. See instructions.

|                                                                                                     | (i) Child 1              | (ii) Child 2             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7 Check box if child qualifies for, and you want the child to receive, a Pilot Program Contribution | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Part IV Consent to Disclose Information**  
By completing this form, you authorize the IRS, Treasury, and their agents to create and maintain a Trump account with respect to the eligible children listed on this form. You also authorize the IRS, Treasury, and their agents to disclose the fact that a Trump account has been established for the eligible children listed above to any parent, guardian, or authorized individual of the eligible child who is permitted to make an election to request creation of the Trump account.  
I, under penalty of perjury, declare that I have examined this form, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

**Sign Here**  
Your signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Print/Type preparer's name \_\_\_\_\_ Preparer's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check ☐ if self-employed  
**Preparer Use Only** Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Print EIN \_\_\_\_\_  
Print address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions. Cat. No. 998270 Form 4547 (12-2025) Created 12/30/25

One of the most important features of the Trump Account is its long-term, restricted access. The funds are locked in until the beneficiary reaches age 18. This is a deliberate measure to ensure the money has a chance to grow substantially without being spent prematurely.

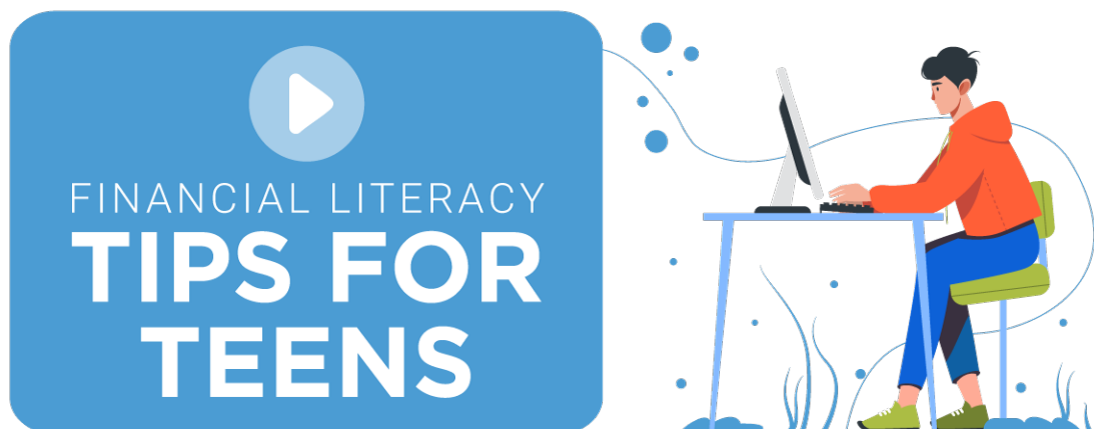
Upon turning 18, the beneficiary gains access to the funds for a range of “qualified expenses” without facing an early withdrawal penalty. These include:

- Higher education expenses.
- A down payment on a first-time home purchase (up to \$10,000).
- Start-up capital for a small business.

After age 59½, the account functions much like a traditional IRA, with funds available for any purpose. It is important to note that once a child turns 18, they are in control of the money. If an individual decides to pull money out of the account for a non-qualified expense before age 59 ½, they will face a 10% penalty on top of income taxes.

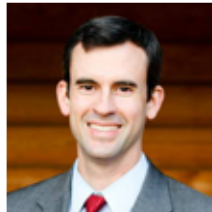
While the initial \$1,000 contribution may provide a helpful starting point, families should also consider how Trump Accounts compare with other long-term savings and investment vehicles. For children born between 2025-2028, the \$1,000 seed contribution provides a great start in saving for the child’s future.

Advisory Services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, a Registered Investment Adviser.





## Hidden Benefits A Senior's Guide to Cost-Saving



By: Timothy C. Atkins,  
White Oak Financial Specialists, Inc.

Reaching your senior years comes with a wealth of experience—but it also comes with a literal wealth of perks designed to stretch your retirement budget. While many older adults are aware of standard retirement benefits, a staggering number of discounts, free community programs and even forgotten financial assets go completely unnoticed.

Whether you are looking to save on daily expenses, learn a new skill, or track down money from your past, here is a comprehensive guide to maximizing the benefits you've earned.

### ***1. Everyday Savings: Dining, Shopping and Entertainment***

One of the easiest ways to keep more money in your wallet is simply asking, *"Do you offer a senior discount?"* Many establishments have these perks in place but don't actively advertise them. Age requirements generally vary between 55, 60 and 65.

#### **Restaurants and Grocery Stores**

From fast-casual favorites to sit-down dining, dozens of national restaurant



chains offer discounts ranging from 10% to 15% off, or free perks like a complimentary beverage. On the grocery front, select regional and national supermarkets dedicate specific days of the week (often Tuesdays or Wednesdays) to senior savings, offering 5% to 10% off your total bill.

### **Retail and Apparel**

Major department stores and thrift retailers frequently host "Senior Days." Shopping on these designated days can net you significant savings on clothing, home goods and essentials.

### **Museums and Entertainment**

Never pay full price for culture and entertainment. Museums, theaters, aquariums and zoos nearly always offer a reduced senior admission rate. For outdoor enthusiasts, the National Park Service offers a lifetime Senior Pass for citizens age 62 or older, granting entry to hundreds of national parks and recreational sites for a fraction of the standard cost.

## ***2. Slashing Fixed Expenses: Transportation and Utilities***

Fixed monthly costs can heavily impact a retirement budget, but older adults have unique leverage to bring those numbers down.

### **Reduced Transit Fares**

If you live in or near a city, public transportation is a goldmine for savings. Subways, buses and commuter rails offer heavily discounted senior fares—often 50% off the standard price—via specialized transit cards. Additionally, national rail services like Amtrak provide a 10% discount on most itineraries for travelers over the age of 65.

### **Utility Assistance Programs**

Many senior citizens are unaware that utility companies offer discounted rates based on age or income.

- **Electric and Gas:** Many providers offer a fixed-percentage discount or a capped rate for older adults.
- **Water and Trash:** Local municipalities frequently slash sewage, water, and trash collection fees for senior homeowners.
- **Telecom:** Major wireless carriers offer specialized 55+ talk and data plans that cut standard monthly cell phone bills in half.



### ***3. Community Goldmines: Libraries and Senior Centers***

Your local library and community center are no longer just places to borrow books or play bingo; they have evolved into vibrant hubs for lifelong learning and essential services—all for free.

#### **Technology Assistance**

Bridging the digital divide can be frustrating. Many libraries offer free, hands-on workshops or one-on-one coaching to help seniors navigate smartphones, laptops, online banking and cybersecurity to keep them safe from digital scams.

#### **Free Tax Preparation**

During tax season, community centers and libraries frequently partner with organizations like the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program or VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). These programs provide free, IRS-certified tax preparation for low-to-moderate-income seniors, ensuring you claim all eligible deductions without paying high tax-prep fees.

#### **Classes and Social Activities**

From fitness classes like Chair Yoga and SilverSneakers to pottery, creative writing and foreign language groups, community centers provide endless opportunities to stay physically and mentally active. They also serve as a vital social lifeline, offering organized group trips, book clubs and holiday luncheons.

### ***4. Reclaiming Unclaimed Wealth: The Pension and***



## Retirement Search

Did you change employers multiple times over your career? If so, you might be leaving thousands of dollars on the table. It is incredibly common for workers to leave a job and completely forget about a pension plan or a 401(k) they contributed to decades prior.

If you suspect you have "lost" retirement money, here is how to track it down:

- The National Registry of Unclaimed Retirement Benefits: This free, searchable database helps workers find former employers who have kept retirement funds in their name.
- The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC): If a company you worked for went bankrupt or closed a defined-benefit pension plan, the PBGC often steps in to guarantee and pay those benefits. They maintain a robust online database of unclaimed pensions.
- State Unclaimed Property Funds (*see article above*): When accounts sit dormant for years, financial institutions turn the money over to state treasuries. Websites like MissingMoney.com allow you to search multiple state databases at once for forgotten utility deposits, old bank accounts, or uncashed paychecks.

## Final Thoughts: The Power of Advocacy

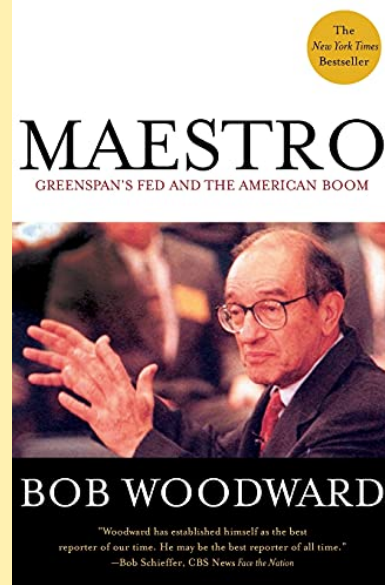
The most important rule of navigating senior benefits is to be your own advocate. Never assume a discount or a program doesn't exist just because it isn't posted on a sign. By asking questions, exploring local community resources, and digging into your financial history, you can significantly boost your financial security and enjoy a much richer, more affordable retirement.

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## Recommended Reading: Maestro

This month, Brad's recommended reading is "Maestro" by Bob Woodward, in honor of the passing of 100-year-old, former Fed Chair Alan Greenspan. This book takes you inside the Federal Reserve, how decisions were made and just how powerful the fed is. This book examines Greenspan's role in the modern economy during the years he led the board. You can purchase a copy of

the book [here](#).



### For Teens:

What is the main lesson behind the acronym TANSTAAFL?

- A. Free things usually have hidden costs or requirements.
- B. Nothing in life is free.
- C. Pack your own lunch instead of buying it.

What is a Trump Account?

- A. Free money Trump puts in a savings account for kids
- B. A tax-advantaged investment account for children
- C. A new way for U.S. taxpayers to save money

**Marcus earns \$60,000 per year. Under the common matching formula, Marcus contributes 5% of his salary. How much does Marcus contribute?**

- A. \$1,800
- B. \$3,200
- C. \$3,000

### **For Adults:**

**Which children automatically qualify for the government's \$1,000 seed deposit?**

- A. Every child under the age of 18
- B. Every child born in 2025 or after
- C. Eligible children born between 2025 and 2028 whose parents opt in

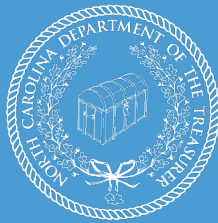
**Victoria's employer matches retirement contributions up to 6% of her salary. She contributes only 3% because she wants to keep more in her paycheck each month. Which is the most likely consequence?**

- A. Her retirement account earns a lower interest rate.
- B. She misses out on part of the employer's matching contribution.
- C. She becomes ineligible for future retirement benefits with her employer.

**True or False: Every senior discount begins at age 65.**

- A. True
- B. False

[Click here for the answers.](#)



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