

Indiana MoneyWise



WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Investor Insights for Ladies
on Life and Financial Shifts

WIPE AWAY WINTER

Spring Clean Your Home
& Your Wallet

Stress-Free Tax Filing Tips

A Sweet Taste of Spring

ALERT!
UTILITY
IMPOSTER
SCAM

Dear Hoosiers:

Thank you for reading the Indiana Secretary of State's e-magazine. The purpose of this publication is to provide Hoosiers with timely tips and information on smart money management and investment fraud prevention.



March is Women's History Month, so in this edition, we've highlighted some of the financial issues women face in their lifetimes. Our "Women in Transition" article examines the way our relationship with money can change over time. Some changes are planned, but others blindside us. I've tackled a few financial challenges in my own life. From running a business with my husband, Jack, to running for office as your 61st Indiana Secretary of State, to running a household as the mother of two. We women can accomplish great things when we handle money confidently and prepare for the unexpected.

This edition of our e-magazine also offers tips for spring cleaning your home and wallet, and we provide you with important reminders as you file your taxes. It's my hope that the Indiana MoneyWise e-magazine boosts your ability to effectively handle whatever financial issues come your way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Lawson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connie Lawson
Indiana Secretary of State

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the office of Secretary of State Connie Lawson to deliver to the people of Indiana government-as-a-service that focuses on unqualified integrity and accuracy in our elections, consistent and principled regulatory methods, ceaseless protection of Hoosier investors, and the most efficient use of taxpayer resources.

What services make up the Secretary of State's office?



Secretary Lawson with care providers at Rose Senior Living in Carmel, IN.
February 2019

There are four main divisions that comprise the Secretary of State's office:

Business Services
Securities

Elections
Auto Dealer Services

The Office of Secretary of State is one of five constitutional offices originally designated in Indiana's State Constitution of 1816. Sixty-one Hoosiers have served as the third highest-ranking official in state government.

Duties of the office include registering new businesses, regulation of the securities industry, oversight of state elections, commissioning of notaries public, registration of trademarks and licensing of vehicle dealerships throughout Indiana.



Tips and Tricks to Make Your Tax Filing Stress-Free

For some, filing taxes brings as much excitement as going to the dentist. However, it doesn't have to be that way. The Indiana Department of Revenue (DOR) wants your tax season to be hassle- and stress-free.

Below are 10 tax tips to help you get your filing done quickly and correctly.

Tax Tip 1: Check your return to make sure it is complete.

In order for returns filed to be processed in a timely matter, you need to ensure all your tax forms are complete. It may be hard to believe, but DOR receives a lot of incomplete tax forms each year.

Tax Tip 2: Use the correct forms.

Submitting incorrect or outdated forms may cause delays in processing or your return to be sent back. All forms have the year at the top, verify the correct year on the form before completing. You can find all up-to-date individual forms online, along with previous year forms if needed.

Tax Tip 3: Send your forms to the right place.

Be sure to send all of your state returns to DOR and all federal returns to the IRS.

Tax Tip 4: Is your form legible?

How does your tax form look, can you clearly read all the information? Be sure to use blue or black ink and to double check any important information, such as Social Security numbers.

Tax Tip 5: Don't duplicate your filing!

Filing more than one return only causes further delays in the return process. For example, if you electronically filed your taxes, do not send a paper form as well.

Tax Tip 6: Include all documentation.

Did you include everything? If you claimed certain deductions or credits that require further documentation, be sure to have all documents in order and included.

Tax Tip 7: Always file a state return.

Whether you are under the threshold or don't expect a return, the best advice is to always file a state return.

Tax Tip 8: Make sure your e-filing was accepted.

Did you know, you can check your filing status online to ensure your e-filing was accepted? This will avoid any further delays in processing.

Tax Tip 9: Save copies of paperwork.

Be sure to make and save copies of all relevant paperwork submitted. You may need to reference them at a later time.

Tax Tip 10: Check everything one more time!

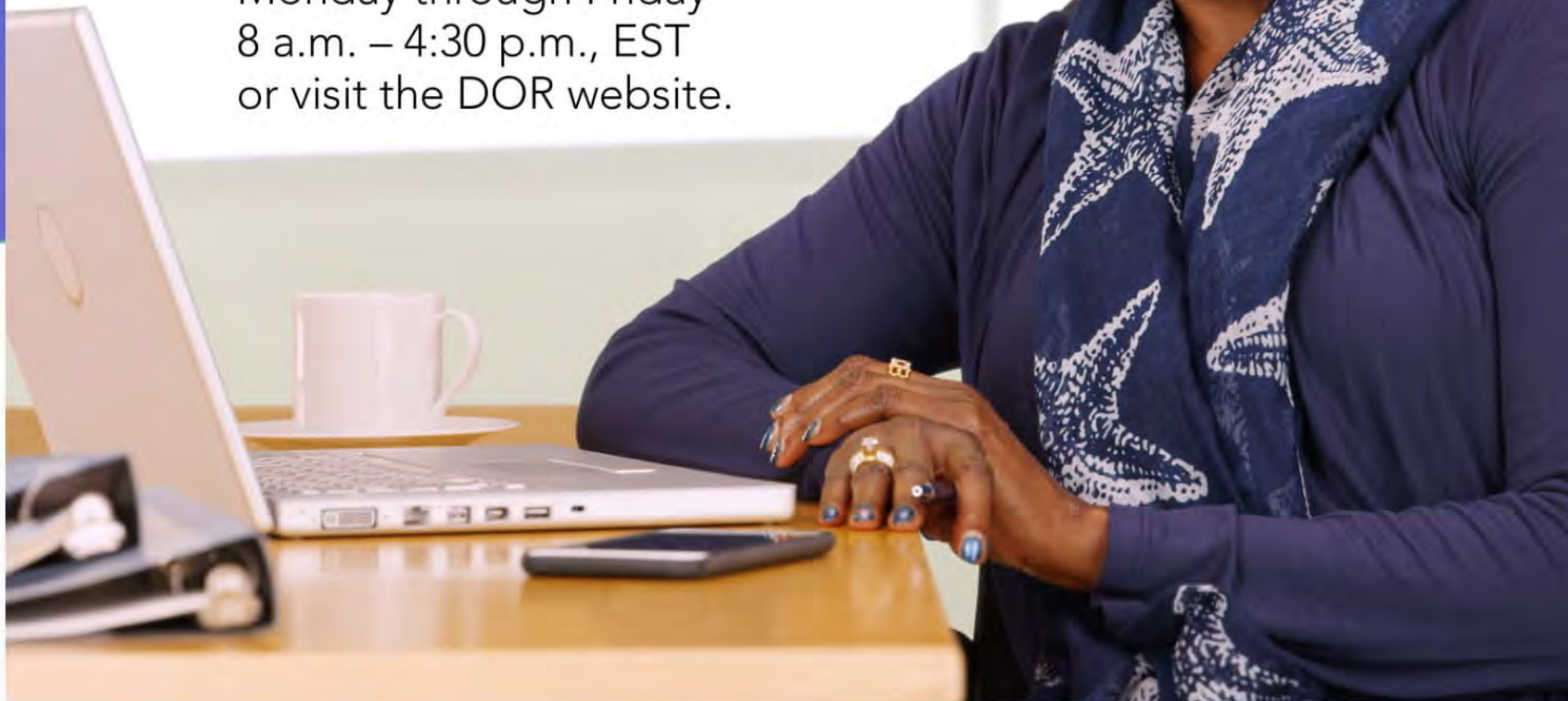
Before officially submitting, it is best to check over all forms and documentation one last time.





**If you need assistance
this season, the
Indiana Department of
Revenue is available to
help.**

You may call us at 317-232-2240,
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., EST
or visit the DOR website.



👉 Bonus Tax Tip : Use your tax refund wisely

If you're expecting a tax refund check this year, it can be tempting to take a lavish vacation or go on a spending spree. Or, let's face it - we can easily waste a good amount of money entertaining our little ones. But before you plan an impromptu trip to a theme park or buy front row tickets to Disney on Ice, consider giving your refund a chance to grow by depositing it into a 529 account. An upfront lump sum contribution is more likely to benefit from potential market gains over the long-term than smaller recurring contributions. But why stop there? We encourage you to deposit your tax refund and continue to keep on saving throughout the year. Many 529 plans offer affordable monthly contribution limits as low as \$25 that can be automatically deposited straight from your checking account.

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WIPE AWAY WINTER

“Spring Cleaning” is a term that originally referred to removing soot and grim build-up in the home. Years ago, the primary source for heating a home all winter long was just the fireplace. Warmer weather provided the opportunity to let in fresh air, and longer days motivated people to be more active. Over time our nature has changed right along with updated home systems. Central heating is far more common now and most don’t hibernate near as severely. The wintertime lifestyles we lead today may not require such extensive cleaning in the spring, but financial refresh and family safety are still fundamental. Indiana MoneyWise collaborated with the Indiana Electric Cooperatives to provide expert tips on Electrical Spring Cleaning around your home and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau gave us four points on how to get your finances in order

POLISH AND REVITALIZE YOUR FINANCES

1. FREE CREDIT REPORT

Checking your credit regularly can protect you from identify theft and help you maintain a good credit score. Report any errors directly to the company the report was obtained from. Try not to over check, but every consumer is entitled a free credit report, every 12 months, from each of the three reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). To request your free credit report visit annualcreditreport.com

2. DEBT

The more debt you have, the less oxygen your soul has – The Minimalists. It may be tempting to ignore and try to wish debt away, but this will only make things worse. Try this bill tracker provided by the (CFPB) to help you stay on top of payment due dates. Also, try contacting your lender to change your payment date or inquire about extended payment options.

3. WHAT ARE YOU SPENDING?

Swipe, swipe, swipe, do you really know what you are purchasing? Review what purchases you have made for the past couple months. If you would like to cut back, revisit your wants versus needs, and consider making a “rule to live by” like use cash for purchases under \$20 to help monitor card spending.

4. AUTOSAVE

If you find your budget presents opportunities to save more, consider setting up a direct deposit or direct transfer. Assign a portion of your pay check, to go directly into your savings. Starting an emergency fund will be beneficial when you have an unexpected expense. \$500 is a good amount to begin with, which should cover the common emergencies, like car repairs, small medical costs or a plane ticket to care for a sick family member.

Tips composed from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau(CFPB)

Did you know you
may qualify for a

NO COST FILING

for state and federal
taxes?

Indiana Department
of Revenue

We're on social media!



The best things in life are

FREE

www.freefile.dor.in.gov



INfreefile

Find out if you qualify at

www.freefile.dor.in.gov





Spring cleaning?

Don't forget about electrical safety!

INDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY

During the winter months, it's easy for cords to get misplaced or collect some dust. Take the time to move extension cords out of high traffic areas of the home to avoid a tripping hazard and decide whether they are still useful to you.

Inspect cords, plugs and outlets to ensure everything is in good working condition. Damaged or worn out cables can turn into a real fire or electrocution hazard.

To help prevent home fires, clean appliances you may have neglected that might have buildup of things like food debris, oil and dust. An example of this buildup is in your stove's exhaust hood. To clean it: remove the hood, clean the filter, use a degreaser on any exposed surfaces and replace the hood.

OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Always call before you dig. Make a plan before beginning any major project in your yard. Start by calling 811. The professionals there will mark any potential dangers on your property, like buried wires, piping or gas and water mains located where you plan to dig.

Whether you are trimming trees or clearing out the gutters, if using a ladder always be sure to look up and out. Ensure your safety and the safety of those around you by staying at least 10 feet away from power lines when working outside.

When working outdoors, keep electrical cords and tools away from water, even wet grass. Remember water and electricity do not mix! Use caution when working with electricity in conditions such as wet grass.

Above all, continue to practice good electrical safety all year round!

CLEAN YOUR DIRTY LIGHT SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

1. To be safe, turn off the power at the electrical panel.
2. Start at the front of the house making your way around to each switch plate.
3. Use an antibacterial wipe or a microfiber cloth lightly dampened with all-purpose cleaner. Don't spray directly onto the plate. It's best to spray onto the cloth.
4. Wipe over the switch plate and surrounding wall, removing all dirt and grime.
5. If the switch is dirty, use a cotton swab to get into the cracks and crevices.
6. Use another microfiber cloth to wipe plate dry.
7. Turn the power back on.

Scam Alert: How to Spot Con Artists Who Impersonate Utilities Representatives

Scammers work year-round to defraud people, but the charades heighten around this time of year. Criminals use tactics, like impersonating utility company representatives, as a way to extract money from victims. Con artists may threaten to take immediate action, shutting off your power - leaving you in the cold, in order to get you to send money, before you realize it's a scam. This kind of scheme is most common in the winter and summer months when heat or air conditioning is needed most. In order to inform readers on these fraudulent actions we partnered with the Better Business Bureau (BBB), who provided us with a real report from their Scam Tracker. The Scam Tracker provides information on trending scams in your area. This specific report was filed in Central Indianapolis, yet reports of these scams have been popping up all across Indiana.

In June 2018, an Indianapolis small business owner received a voice-mail from Samantha Reid. The message said Reid was calling from Indianapolis Power & Light company (IPL) to inform the business that the electricity for the commercial building would be cut off in 45 minutes unless a payment was received. The business owner was out of town on business and did not have a copy on the IPL bill to reference the disconnect date. The business owner returned Reid's call and offered to make an online payment. Reid told the business owner not to pay online because the online payment takes 48 hours to process and the technicians were already on their way to cut off the electricity. The business owner explained to Reid that they were in Boston to attend an important seminar and asked if Reid could give them until tomorrow morning to pay, as they did not have a means of transportation while at the conference. Reid declined and told the business owner to take an Uber to go to CVS,



purchase Green Dot debit cards, and call her before 6:00 pm to pay \$1,500, including the deposit. Fearing a big impact on the business if it lost electricity, the business owner left the seminar, paid for a \$31 Uber ride, and went to CVS. The business owner did not know how Green Dot debit cards function, but Reid instructed the owner to use an ATM to take out cash and load the money onto the prepaid Green Dot debit cards. The business owner had to use three ATM debit cards to get the cash. Due to daily limits on the debit cards, the business owner was not able to get all the cash out. The business owner called Reid back to process what they could get: \$1,450. Reid was disappointed the Green Dot debit card was Visa and not Mastercard, but that was all CVS had. Reid told the business owner that she would have to make special arrangements to accept Visa cards. After Reid processed the Green Dot debit card, Reid told the business owner that she would put a hold on the other commercial account the business owner had. Reid told the business owner they needed to pay an additional \$1,232 to remove the disconnect status. When the business owner returned from the trip, they checked their IPL account and did not see the payment of \$1,450 posted. When the business owner called IPL customer service, they were told no one from IPL had called, and their bill was not due for two more days. The IPL customer service representative told the business owner that many IPL customers were getting these type of scam calls.

Utility Scams

and your small business



Con artists aren't just targeting people over the phone, scammers use a variety of tricks to prey on utility customers. A "representative" may appear at your door in a plausible work uniform claiming that the electric meter is not working properly and must be immediately replaced — at your expense. In a particularly alarming form of this con, the scammer may gain access to your home to perform "repairs" or an "energy audit" with the intent of stealing your valuables. These scams may also involve promises of energy discounts with the aim of taking your money, personal information, or possibly the account details needed to switch you to another utility provider without your consent (an illegal practice known as "slamming"). Be on the lookout! **Check out the Winter 2018 edition of our e-magazine. We walk you through the process of a REAL energy audit and provide you with contact information for reputable contractors statewide.**

Here are the tips to protect yourself from being a victim of a utility scam.

- **Don't assume the name/number on the caller I.D. is legitimate**, this can be spoofed to appear like your utility company is the caller.
- **Never allow anyone into your home unless you have scheduled an appointment or reported a problem.** Also, ask utility employees for proper identification before letting them enter.
- **Do not provide a prepaid card, wire transfer, or any other form of payment over the phone.** These transactions may be difficult for law enforcement officials to trace.
- **Do not fall for the threat to turn off your power if you don't pay immediately.** Even if it might be possible that you do have a past-due balance that needs to be paid, most companies provide past-due notices in writing before shutting off service, not just a single notification one hour before disconnection.
- **If you are concerned there truly might be a problem with your account, contact your provider by calling the number listed on your monthly bill.** If you suspect you have been impacted by a scam, notify your provider of the impostor. Report it to your local police department and to the Better Business Bureau and/or the Federal Trade Commission:
1-877-FTC-HELP.



Women *in transition*

THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

MARRIAGE

CHILDREN

RETIREMENT

AGING PARENTS

THE UNEXPECTED



Women in transition face many financial hurdles, from divorce to selling the family home.

Coryanne Hicks, Staff Writer, U.S. News

Cathy was 60 years old when her husband left her for another woman. It seemed a fate too cruel to be true. She'd dedicated her entire adult life to her family, only working briefly as a teacher once the kids were grown. And now, after 33 years of marriage she was alone. When she came to Sonya Ranker, a certified divorce financial analyst and certified financial planner at Questmont Strategic Wealth Advisors, Cathy broke down crying in the middle of their meeting. Like so many women going through major life transitions, she struggled to come to grips with the new turn her life had taken.

"Women have this idea in their mind of what their life is and what it'll look like in the future, and whether it's divorce or becoming widowed, that vision has been shattered," Ranker says. "Their life is no longer what they thought it was going to be. Now they have to mourn for that life while starting fresh on the new one."

The financial industry has given these women – women whose lives have been upended by events often beyond their control – a name: They call them "women in transition." And mourning the loss of their former life is only the start of the challenges women in transition face.



WHY WOMEN IN TRANSITION?

★ Nearly 75% of women between ages 40 and 79 have experienced a major financial shift.

★ Only 21% of women 65 or older receive income from their own pensions. And those women receive less than half of what men receive in annual benefits.

★ Even when women enter traditionally "male" sectors of the labor market, they earn less than men. In Canada, female managers are estimated to earn 15 to 20% less than their male counterparts.

★ 99% of women will be financially responsible for themselves or their families at some point, but less than half (47%) of working women have a retirement plan.

AARP.ORG

SSA.GOV

ILO.ORG

DOL.GOV

TRANSITIONAL PHASES

➔ Marriage



Begin an open, honest dialogue about your current financial situation and your investment goals with your partner to help establish and sustain equality in your financial partnership. However, should divorce and widowhood happen, it hits women harder than men. A study by the Government Accountability Office found that women's household income fell by 41% after divorce compared to a 23% decline for men. Widows faced similar perils with household income dropping by 15% more than for widowers.

➔ College-Bound Children



It's not easy for parents, especially mothers, to prioritize saving for retirement over their child's education. Establish in advance what you expect your child to contribute to their own college expenses. Jean Chatzky, author of "Women With Money" and founder of HerMoney.com, suggests a compromise. Aim to save 1/3 of your child's tuition before college. Ease off retirement contributions or borrowing to make up the difference while they're in school. This way you can continue to save for retirement during those crucial early years. Also research 529 college savings plans, like Indiana's CollegeChoice 529 and look into other scholarship and loan options.

➔ Aging Parents



Talk to your parents about their finances. They may feel their financial independence is being challenged or that they do not

want to burden you with these matters, so you may wish to enlist the services of a professional to help mediate the discussion. Knowing their financial situation is critical to protecting them from unplanned-for expenses and fraud. The elderly are a favorite target of con artists thanks to their age and accumulated wealth, so learn how to spot the red flags of fraud.



WOMEN

IN TRANSITION

A woman's financial needs can undergo dramatic shifts when she gets married, divorced, or widowed; sends a child off to college; begins caring for elderly or ill parents; or nears retirement herself. Men face these transitions too, but women with their longer life expectancies, are more likely to experience them alone. The Indiana Secretary of State's Office is here to help empower women to approach transitional phases in their financial lives with confidence.

➔ Retirement



Women face an uphill financial battle to and through retirement. The three largest sources of retirement income for US retirees

are social security, pensions, and earnings -- all favor men, whose higher and more consistent earnings during their working years provide for greater retirement benefits and income. "We have to make our money last longer, and we're likely to have less of it because we earn less and are still the ones more likely to take breaks to care for kids and parents," says Jean Chatzky. The solution: Save more and earlier.

➔ Emergency Funds



Set aside emergency funds. Aim to save at least \$1,000 for things that break and 3-6 months of living expenses for things that leave. Conserve your retirement funds if possible.



THE UNEXPECTED

It happens, predictably, when you least expect it.

- Job loss
- Divorce
- Separation from a spouse
- Becoming a widow
- Suffering a health crisis

These unexpected events don't just present emotional challenges. They can lead to financial hardship. But there are things you can do to protect yourself should the unexpected happen:

➔ Know Your Assets



Know your assets. They include your savings, insurance policies, pensions, and retirement plans. Store the documentation for these financial assets somewhere secure and accessible. And don't forget about your employee benefits! Ask for a summary plan description.

The biggest challenge for women in transition can be what to do with the family home, both in retirement or following divorce.

"This house is one of the bigger assets in a property settlement, but it's not money you can use to live on because you're living in it," says Sonya Ranker, certified divorce analyst & financial planner at Questmont. If you give up other marital assets in divorce settlements because you want to keep the house, you "handicap yourself financially."

Parting with a family home is a fraught transition even when there's no divorce prompting it.

Cathy Curtis, a certified financial planner and founder of Curtis Financial Planning in Oakland, California, recently helped an 80-year-old client face the facts of her own home when she broke her leg falling on a steep hill in San Francisco. On crutches, she saw her beloved, hilltop home with its slew of stairs in a new light. *"She could see the point where she wasn't going to be able to climb them,"* Curtis says. *"We did a cost analysis on renovating to make it livable in her older age versus moving."*

Moving won out, but not without both financial and emotional costs. *"I've had many emotional conversations with women in transition about when to (sell) and the challenge of the stuff they've accumulated over the years,"* Curtis says. It can be hard to separate the financial reality from the emotional attachment.



FINANCIAL PLANNING

"My litmus test for a financial advisor is: Do they listen more than they talk?" Jean Chatzky says. "Because if they're not listening to what you say, then they're not learning about your financial life and are just giving you cookie cutter solutions."

For Women in Transition

"Having someone who is removed from the emotional tangle and can help provide sound guidance is so important," Sonya Ranker says.

You can find local financial advisors online using U.S. News & World Report's Financial Advisor Finder, and it never hurts to ask friends and colleagues for recommendations. Either way, you need to make sure advisors are properly registered with the Indiana Secretary of State. You can do a background check by visiting the Indiana Securities Division online portal, or by calling our office: 317-232-6681. It's also helpful to research advisor prospects by visiting BrokerCheck.com.

Finding a New Tomorrow

When Cathy returned to Sonya Ranker's office a year later, "she was smiling, hugging my entire team, thanking us and telling us about the great vacation she just got back from," Ranker says.

Moments like that are what make transitions and the financial perils they bring worth forging through.



Women in Transition was developed by the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA). This investor education program is designed for women facing significant life and financial transitions.

NASAA.org

If you're interested in scheduling a presentation of this information, contact Kelly Griese with the Indiana Securities Division:

KGriese@sos.in.gov or 317-233-3985



Shake off cabin
fever and step
into Spring with
a hippity-hoppity
brunch!

In Bloom

There's always something to do at Newfields. Grab a beverage from the Beer Garden, and stroll among half a million blooms. Thousands of netted iris, crocus, hyacinth, and early daffodils are planted all across The Garden and don't miss the bell-like flowers of the Persian fritillary at the front of Lilly House. The garden opens March 22 through May 26, and access is included with museum admission. Don't forget to check out the museum, which features permanent collections from African, Asian, American, and European artists. Guests can take pictures with Robert Indiana's iconic LOVE sculpture.





Bloom Spring Garden Tour in Madison, Indiana

This spring think Madison, for the Bloom Spring Garden Tour in Madison, Indiana. Sponsored by The Jefferson County Historical Society, this event offers the tour of private, blossoming gardens not normally open to the public and one public house museum garden. Available for just two weekends in May (11, 12, 18 & 19), these gardens present a wide range of styles and sizes-sure to appeal to the novice or experienced gardener. There's no better way to celebrate spring than the aroma of fresh flowers and the beauty of the many magnolias, tulips, dogwoods and red bud.

Gorge on a brunch buffet at Fort Harrison State Park Inn

Not sure if you want to cook on Easter? That's not a problem with The Garrison restaurant, they will offer honey Dijon glazed ham, smoked brisket with horseradish sauce, pork loin with a whiskey peppercorn sauce and southern fried chicken. The buffet will also feature made-to-order omelet and waffle stations, and many sides and salads. Nope, they didn't forget about dessert, made from scratch there will be assorted cakes, pies and cheesecake! But reservations are required, Adults cost \$32.99, Kids \$15.99, and the littlest ones under 3 will not be charged. Many other Indiana State Park Inn restaurants will be offering similar Easter Brunch and Mother's Day buffets.





Easter fun at the Indiana State Museum

Celebrate this Spring holiday with a family egg hunt, hippity-hoppity entertainment, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Check out the museum galleries to see if you can find the 92 eggs the Easter Bunny left behind and create your own unique Easter basket in Cardboard Engineering exhibit. \$5 for non-members, \$4 for museum members, and free for children younger than age 3, price does not include museum admission (\$17/ adults, \$12/youth). You can save money on museum admission by purchasing tickets online or if you are a member of a qualifying organization. There's more sugarcoated affairs!

The Wakarusa Maple Syrup Festival in Elkhart County

Waffles or pancakes? The Wakarusa Maple Syrup Festival of Elkhart County boasts all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage with fresh maple syrup. Free kettle-popped popcorn, entertainment, a parade, animal acts, contests and carnival rides continue to beckon visitors. While you're there, take a tour of the sugar camp and historic museum. Here you can also browse arts and crafts, sample various foods and enjoy free entertainment.





CAN YOU SPOT THE WOLF?

\$CAMMED: Investment Fraud Revealed is a 30-minute documentary featuring the stories of real investment fraud in Indiana. In watching **\$CAMMED**, you will experience these cases through the eyes of the victims who lost their hard-earned savings, and hear from the Indiana Secretary of State securities investigators who worked tirelessly to bring the fraudsters to justice. **\$CAMMED** is designed to be educational. You can watch the documentary on our website. Additionally, we are pleased to offer speakers from our office free of charge if you are interested in hosting a viewing party in your community.

<http://bit.ly/ScammedDocumentary>



Socialize with us!

#IndianaSOS



Facebook: /sosconnielawson

Twitter: @secretarylawsen

Instagram: @secretary_lawson

Indiana MoneyWise in the classroom



Through Indiana MoneyWise, Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson offers financial fitness and fraud prevention programming to audiences of all ages, statewide. Indiana MoneyWise provides interactive learning experiences, tools, and resources to educators, and our outreach coordinators can travel to your classroom to provide programming directly to the youth you serve.

Pet \$ense: Magical Edition - This game teaches children how to budget using magical creatures in place of more traditional pets. Children use an assigned allowance to make purchasing decisions for pet supplies. We throw in an emergency expense at the end to teach the importance of keeping some wiggle room in a budget.

Financial Fitness Reading Program - Children read books with financial messaging and reinforce what they read by completing several activities. Upon completion of the program, children are awarded a Secretary of State piggy bank.

Fraud Fighting Force - Children love escape room games, and we have created a simulation that uses many of the best parts, such as secret codes and invisible ink. Children are told they have a chance to join a superhero team, but they must first prove their worth by discovering a series of investment scams.

How to Avoid Getting \$CAMMED - This is a Prezi presentation developed by our office to teach teenagers and adults about various forms of financial fraud. We cover several popular scams, including the IRS scam, the grandparent scam, the tech support scam, and Ponzi schemes. We discuss methods of persuasion used by con artists and look at real life examples of investment fraud here in Indiana.

Financial Fitness Jeopardy - Just like traditional Jeopardy, but the questions center around money. This game allows for added discussion and in-depth learning. It's ideal for teenagers.

Indiana MoneyWise BINGO - Just like regular BINGO, only instead of simply reading numbers and letters, we provide fraud prevention tips along the way. This is a great game for engaging teenagers and adults.

We encourage you to check out the Educational Resources page of our website. To schedule a visit to your school by one of our outreach coordinators, or to get more information about the programs above, please contact Kelly Griese and/or Kylee Hale.

FRAUD STOPPERS

Real Life Stories of Investment Fraud

Last August, the Indiana Secretary of State office prosecuted investment fraudster Travis Roll. Here is the story of a somewhat classic Ponzi scheme.

Roll was a long-time resident of Scottsburg, Indiana, and had a reputation for successfully investing on his own. He held himself out to others as a trader of agriculture futures. Roll relocated to Las Vegas and Texas but still connected with friends and family in Scottsburg.



He offered investment opportunities to his friends and family in the Scottsburg area. Eventually investors complained to the Indiana Secretary of State's Office when they did not receive payment pursuant to investment contracts. The complaints initiated investigations which revealed Roll had used the investment funds given to him, not to invest on their behalf, but to finance his lifestyle in Austin, Texas and Las Vegas, Nevada. Neither Roll nor the investment contracts were registered with the Indiana Secretary of State's Office, as required by law.

Roll was sentenced on three felony counts of securities fraud in Scott County, and to eight years; four to be served in the Department of Correction and four to be served on probation. He is ordered to pay \$250,000 in restitution to the victims. One of the counts is an elevated level four felony because a victim was over the age of 60 when the fraud occurred. This concluded a joint investigation by the Indiana Secretary of State's office and Scott County Prosecutor Chris Owens. The Secretary of State's office offers assistance to local prosecutors through the prosecution assistance unit.

Protect Yourself Against Investment Fraud
www.IndianaMoneyWise.com

Prosecution Assistance Unit (PAU)

The Basics

The PAU is an arm of the Securities Division. It assists law enforcement agencies in the prosecution of white collar criminals.



The Team

The PAU consists of 2 attorneys and 2 investigators devoted to enforcing securities and financial fraud laws in Indiana.



The Funds

The Securities Division created the prosecution resource fund to provide aide to county prosecutors with expenses common in securities and mortgage crimes.



The Goal

The Securities Division continues lending its expertise along with financial resources towards pursuing criminal convictions of securities and loan broker offenders.



The Delivery

Helping Hoosiers get the justice they deserve.

Indiana MoneyWise



Indiana MoneyWise is an educational program designed to increase financial fitness in Hoosiers while also providing information critical to avoiding investment fraud. Throughout the Indiana MoneyWise website and e-magazine, you will find interactive learning tools and resources to teach you the skills needed to be both financially fit and a wise investor.

Connect with Us

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Indianapolis, IN 46204
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