



NEWSLETTER

Fiduciary Financial Planners and Investment Managers

Registered Investment Advisor - Member FINRA and SIPC

2022-2023 FAFSA

Filings Start

Do you have a college student in your family? As of Oct. 1, current and prospective college students and their families can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid "FAFSA" form, for federal student aid for the 2022-2023 school year.

Interest Rates move up in late September

Yields on U.S. Treasuries and interest rates jumped in late-Sept. as the Federal Reserve prepares to end monetary support put in place during the Covid pandemic. The average rate on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage topped 3% for the first time since June.

Passport Renewals Are Taking Months!

Have you checked your passport expiration recently? Turnaround times for both a standard passport and for expedited applications are reported to be much longer than pre-pandemic.



Art Everly and Janice Hebert in Newport at the WMR Summer outing in August 2021

Stay Healthy and Happy this Fall

We always take a moment in our Newsletters to say "Thank You" to each and every one of our clients for their trust and confidence in allowing us to help you with your financial planning and investments. WMR is soon entering its 28th year in business and we continue to grow and strengthen our client services! Take a moment to visit our new website if you haven't already at www.wealthmanagers.com, and we look forward to seeing you at our new offices in Smithfield, R.I. soon.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Fall season!

-Arthur, Janice, Kevin, Scott, Alex, Patrick, Betsy, Jeremy and Marissa

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10th Annual SHRED-IT Event a BIG success!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by for our 10th annual Shred-It event on October 2nd. With your help, we were able to raise over \$600 for the Rhode Island Food Bank.

Student Loan Forbearance Extended

Student loan borrowers received additional payment forbearance this Summer. The Biden administration announced in early August that it extended federal student loan forbearance thru January 2022. It will be the "final" extension for the program.

Medical Open Enrollment Starts Soon!

Nov. 1st starts the annual open enrollment period for those with employer-provided benefits or Affordable Care Act health plans, so start evaluating your options! Open enrollment usually runs from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15.



Bud is this month's office mascot (belonging to Janice Hebert)

Healthy Life Habits Help Save You Money

We often talk to clients about saving for retirement, but also staying active in and throughout retirement – which is important for both long-term physical and mental health, but also for saving you money and helping you achieve your financial goals. The cost of healthy living habits, such as eating better, quitting smoking, exercising, and staying engaged with nature and a community are far outweighed by the costs associated with poor health, including medication costs, doctor visits, and medical procedures, as well as lost earning power due to illness and/or forced early retirement.

What are "Buy Now...Pay Later" Apps?

Buy Now and Pay Later (also known as BNPL) are apps and offers run by credit card companies, financial companies, and finance-related tech companies and have become popular recently, especially with younger shoppers. When making a purchase using BNPL, the consumer selects that option at check out online or in an app. No credit check is required, and if approved (usually within minutes), the

consumer is sent the purchased items and a payment schedule is established, typically four fixed payments made bi-weekly or monthly until the balance is paid in full. Most BNPL companies do not charge interest or finance charges, but many do charge late fees and some will report a missed payment to a credit bureau, which can impact your credit score. But beware and do your due diligence, because in addition to over-extending one's finances, BNPL credit currently lacks the consumer protections that apply to credit cards such as dispute protections for faulty purchases or scams. BNPL programs are offered by Klarna Inc., Afterpay Ltd., Affirm Holdings Inc., PayPal, American Express, and Capital One among others, and retailers pay a fee to the providers per transaction by shoppers.

Young Adults Unprepared for Dealing with Parents' Estates

The Wall Street Journal, in an article from May 2021, highlighted the increasing issue of young adults dealing with the loss of a parent or family member from Covid-19, and being unprepared to deal with their parent's estates due to lack of communication and planning. Situations where not only was there no last will, but also no inventory of assets (e.g., bank accounts, credit cards, and retirement accounts). Children were left starting from scratch sorting through the papers in a parent's home to find important documents, requesting forbearance on a mortgage, and eventually selling a childhood home, among other items – all while trying to grieve at the same time. Getting started now on estate planning is a lot easier than most people think, and a necessity for you and your beneficiaries.

Planning for Health Care Costs in Retirement

Academics and industry experts have placed a spotlight on health care costs that U.S. households can expect to incur during retirement. Most Americans understand that annual health care costs have been growing faster than inflation for some time; many of us have experienced rising premiums and out-of-pocket costs within current employer health plans. Pre-retirees and retirees are concerned about how health care costs will affect their retirement and how they will pay for them. Thirty-eight percent of baby boomers surveyed by consulting firm PwC in its annual Employee Financial Wellness Survey listed health care costs as a top fear about retirement; this was higher than fears of running out of money.

Retiree health care costs vary from person to person and your planning should factor in your personal characteristics. Factors that can significantly affect costs include:

- Health status and risk
- Medicare coverage choice

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- Retirement age
- Employer subsidies
- Geography
- Medicare surcharges

Long-term care costs represent a separate planning challenge. Individuals need to understand that there is a low but real probability they will experience a high-cost long-term care event during retirement.

Other Fall Financial Items to Consider:

- Take your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA before year-end (if you haven't)
- Log into Schwab Alliance (or setup your access) and check how you receive tax documents
- Update beneficiary information to reflect any changes
- Check your emergency/cash fund levels



Bud the Beagle

