

When was the last time you logged in to your employer-sponsored retirement plan? If you struggle to remember, it's time. We can't tell you how many potential clients we meet with who can't recall the last time they logged in or simply don't know how to access their account. This isn't to overanalyze your investments, although you should track how your retirement investments are performing. There are other, really important reasons to log in.

First, it's important to stay informed of any changes, such as updates to investment options, contribution limits, or plan rules.

Second, if your employer offers a matching contribution to your retirement plan, logging in frequently can help you ensure that you're contributing enough to maximize the matching benefit

Lastly, this helps you take advantage of additional plan features like Roth 401(k) contributions, catch-up contributions, or loan provisions.

Your retirement plan is more than just savings and investments. Staying informed and making adjustments is crucial, and that starts with logging in. So, take a moment today to log into your account. If it's been a while, consider this a gentle reminder.

We're so happy you're here, Edgewater Wealth Management

Frank's Pesk



Welcome to the Dog Days of Summer. I'm sure that you have heard of this before, but did you know that it was an actual calendar event? July 3rd thru August 11th. These are usually the hottest days of the season and Dog Days refer to Sirius the Dog Star and its conjunction with the Sun. The star is so bright that the Romans believed it gave off heat and added to the Sun's warmth; just what we need, more heat.

So what does this have to do with the market? Nothing, just thought I'd drop some knowledge on you.

Although, the market has been on fire as of late, so that's kind of something in common. But our market performance has nothing to do with the stars unless you consider the FAATMAN a shooting star. You know the FAATMAN don't you? Facebook, Google (Alphabet), Apple, Teala, Microsoft, Amazon, and Nvidia. These y names are responsible for over 80% of the gain in the S&P 500 for 2023. Semiconductors are making up around 4.5% while the balance of the market combined is bringing up the rear. That's pretty amazing!

So why don't we sit at the FAATMAN's table and load up our plates on these names? You may recall that earlier this year financials were making attractive gains. Can you say Silicon Valley Bank? It's a risky proposition to chase a falling knife, and besides, I'm willing to bet that most of you own some or all of these names in some fashion.

So what should you do? I'd suggest that you make sure that you have a well-diversified portfolio, and that your allocation of Equities and Fixed Income are in line with your risk tolerance. If you are a risk taker, perhaps you want 70% Stocks and 30% Fixed Income. More moderate, you might be better off with a 60/40 allocation. Retired and cautious, how about 30/70%

But above all, just like our portfolios, take care of yourself. Get good exercise for both your body and your brain. The beach is beautiful this time of year; go out and enjoy nature. But don't sit around distressing over your portfolio. We have enough grey hairs to last and there's no need to add to the already thinning population. Besides, worrying about the market is my job.

Any opinions are those of Frank Houston and not necessarily those of Raymond James. The information has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete. Any information is not a complete summary or statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision and does not constitute a recommendation.

Spotlight









All Aboard!

Last month we had the privilege of going on a Sunset Charter with Windward Sailing, a local business in Fernandina Beach. After working in Fernandina for over 6 years, I am always excited when I discover new and wonderful experiences on the Island! Our captain Tony and his wife Cindy were the ultimate hosts as we set sail across the beautiful waterways of Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island and Cumberland Island. It was the most fun I have ever had in Jacksonville-area waterways to date (Shhh - don't tell Kendall!).

While we enjoyed a quiet sail with the wind pushing our catamaran through the intracoastal water ways, we got to see all kinds of wildlife including porpoise and wild horses. This was a great way to spend an afternoon and would be ideal to do for clients, a family trip, or just to get away from the noise of everyday life. As I type this, I am getting ready to book another charter to take our entire team out after work one day. Windward Sailing has been up on the island since 1997 and is not only a wonderful company to call when you would like to charter a sailboat with your friends, but also has a sailing school that is ranked in the top five sailing schools across the nation.

You can learn more about this wonderful company at www.windwardsailing.com

And remember, ask for Captain Tony. Sincerely, Carmen

Articles



Do you know what it takes to work toward a secure retirement?

Retirement Calculator



A million dollars may seem like a daunting figure, especially if you haven't been diligent about saving. There's good news though: You don't have to make \$1 Million to save \$1 million.

Five Habits of 401(K) Millionaires



Although saving money takes some effort, it may be easier than you think - and there may even be "free" money available that can help. We've got 7 tips for you!

7 Ways to Boost Your Savings



The SECURE Act 2.0 legislation builds on retirement savings changes passed in 2019 and contains new provisions that further raise the required minimum distribution (RMD) age, shift to automatic plan enrollment and provide for new matching/emergency withdrawal opportunities. Most of the key provisions are effective in the 2024-2025 timeframe, but smaller adjustments (such as an increase in the RMD age to 73) will be effective in 2023.

More Details on Key Provisions and Timelines

From Us to You

Hi this is Sarah! Fourth of July is a time to celebrate our country's independence, but it can be a frightening time for our fur babies.





My Cavapoo, Buddy, is scared when the fireworks all around the neighborhood are going off. He likes to curl up on the couch next to me. If we are not at home, he will find somewhere in the house to hide. Help your dogs and/or cats stay safe and calm this year with these suggestions:

Keep your fur baby inside. If your pet is outside, they could get scared and run off.
 Comfort them either by being with them or you can use a thunder shirt that is like swaddling a baby.



- 3. Calming medicines. Either something prescribed by your vet or CBD oils made specifically for pets. I use Hemp Fusion, CBD Hemp oil by Panoramic. I only use one-half milliliter for Buddy, he's 14 pounds. Just add a little on a treat hours before the fireworks start.
- 4. Keep their diet consistent so as not to upset their stomach. Table scraps can be hard on your pet's digestive system. With the added anxiety, it could lead to a messy situation.
- 5. Try using white noise to help block out the sounds.
- 6. Keep windows shut with the blinds closed.
- $_{7}.$ Before all the festivities, take your dog on a long walk or play fetch to help tire them out.
- 8. ID tags. Make sure your pet's tags are up to date.



Some additional tactics that I use at home is that I will turn on the TV for Buddy to the Animal Planet channel or a Dineay cartoon movie to distract and drown out some of the loud sounds. He also has a favorite stuffed animal that he keeps close to him.

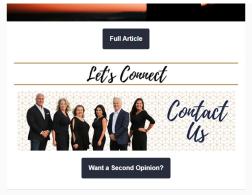
Want more pets? Check them out below





It's important to remember that during festivities veterans can be triggered by the crowds, smells, and sounds of celebrations as they can bring up traumatic memories from the past. Here is an article to help develop a better understanding of what they go through and how to help them, or yourself, cope.





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