

# JADESPEAK

FALL: Fourth Quarter 2024



## SO, IT BEGINS

I'm sure many of you may know someone – or maybe it's you - that pulls out those timely and witty remarks in a conversation with a movie quote. I am certainly not one of those, but I do know one. It's Laura Easter. She pulls these out often and gets me tickled, and then I can't even tell her what movie it is from.

The title of the article is a movie quote from the movie, *The Lord of the Rings*. Theoden says it when the lead character, Frodo Baggins, volunteers to embark on a dangerous journey to take the ring back to where it was made and throw it in the lava of Mt. Doom to destroy it.

The aftermath of the nearly \$6 Trillion given in stimulus since the onset of the pandemic caused the economy to get "too hot" by all those dollars getting spent. It forced the Federal Reserve to raise interests from zero to 5.25 percent in just 17 months. This hike began in March of 2022 and lasted until July 2023. To date, it is the most aggressive rate increase in the past 40 years.

The following months of incoming data left the Fed in a wait-and-see approach to gauge how well the higher rates would slow our economy down. Then, at some point when they felt comfortable they had a handle on inflation, they would begin to consider lowering rates.

So, it begins. In September, the Fed embarked on a journey of a rate cut cycle. That leads us to ask, "Well, what now?" The Fed will continue to follow incoming monthly data to deter-

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mine how quickly they drop rates. It is common for rate moves to be a quarter-percent at a time. They did drop rates one-half percent in September, but it may be more likely to experience quarter-percent moves going forward... Unless inflation or unemployment data get worse.

It is possible, if played right by the Fed, to put a little more fuel in the tank with equity market momentum going on right now into and through 2025. The market likes it when the Fed cuts rates. Time will tell how fast and how low they pick as the ending rate before holding that rate steady.

Something else that is about to begin: Our country is going to have a new President. This can leave investors cautious and markets nervous due to uncertainty of who will win. The thing the market wants more than anything else is a quick, decisive winner. If it takes days to determine a victor, the markets could react with volatility.

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**We're  
moving!!**

We are getting a new address!

That's right – Jade Investments & Retirement Solutions is going to be moving and taking up residency in uptown Mount Carmel.

For nearly four decades, the office at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Market streets has served as a cornerstone in the financial services industry. When we learned the building was available, we knew we could not let that tradition end.

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**Markets will be  
closed:**

**Thursday, November 28**  
Thanksgiving Day

**Wednesday, December 25**  
Christmas Day

Markets close at noon (Central)  
on Nov. 29 and Dec. 24.

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA / SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Jade Investments & Retirement Solutions and JADESPEED are not registered broker/dealers and are independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.

# We're moving!!

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So, we are making plans to soon move to 602 Market Street. Crews are already painting and doing some flooring work inside, and we are planning to make a seamless transition sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We



do not have a firm date just yet, but we will keep you posted.

I want to assure you that nothing else changes with this transition. There is no paperwork for you to sign, and your accounts will be just as they were before our planned move. The only thing you need to remember is to visit the new office instead of the old one! And, if you happen to see us taking things off the walls or packing up boxes at East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, know we are not going anywhere but a few blocks away.

I have been providing investment advice and financial planning services in the Mount Carmel area since 2005. It is exciting to reaffirm our commitment to our clients and our community by moving to Market Street in Mount Carmel. Having been in this business for 20 years now, my clients reside all over the U.S. But Mount Carmel remains home for Jade Investments.

*-Tim*

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# IT BEGINS

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However, once a winner is named, the markets now have a direction and investors invest as they feel appropriate.

The next thing the market prefers is a divided government. If one party doesn't control all three houses of government then the market's sentiment is good, knowing there are checks and balances to keep the pendulum from swinging too far one way. This also gives the market and investors direction with less worry about extreme changes in laws that could affect companies negatively and cause the price of the stock to drop.

We will all see how all these things play out. Stay tuned.



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