

Happy Friday

I trust that you and your family enjoyed a wonderful Easter and are now enjoying the IL roller coaster weather. I will enjoy my first mowing later today, of which I am very excited. I enjoy mowing and working in the yard, but fully admit that I welcome the fall season when it all comes to an end.

Trinity welcomed a new team member this week. Her name is Mercy Norman. She is in the apprentice stage, trying to learn the basics of all of our processes before she takes over Roxie's desk and Roxie will move to one of the back offices so that she can be more focused on client service. Though Mercy's picture will not be on the website for another week or two, you can read about Cari, Roxie, and Sandy, and soon Mercy on the about us tab at www.trinityifs.com.

During the past two weeks the major indices have experienced some minor volatility, but all 3 are up since April 7th. The DOW is up about 1%, the S&P about .5% and the NASDAQ is up about 4%. This despite many analysts beating the recession drum, just as they have been doing for the past 18 months. I truly believe that many of them keep repeating the same message using different data in hopes that they will be right at some point. But I believe the data is indicating a different outcome.

This past week there were many companies reporting their earnings and many were better than expected. If companies are profitable that is a good sign for the economy.

Unemployment claims have increased a bit as of the April 20th labor dept report. The housing numbers that were released today indicated a slowdown in the number of homes sold as well as a decrease in the home values. The latter is determined by supply and demand, and I believe that the higher mortgage rates are starting to have the impact that one would expect them to have.

The Fed will meet on May 2nd & 3rd. They are expected to implement another .25% rate hike. I do not believe that this is necessary, but so far Chairman Powell has not called me for my opinion. This is expected to be the last rate increase for some time which I hope will allow the economy to fully heal and normalize. I also believe that this will provide a buffer for later this summer for the Feds to lower rates in order to restart the economy if it stalls too much.

I believe that the economy is slowing down and there is really nothing indicating that we are going to see an immediate recovery to the pre-covid era booming economy, but I also do not believe that we will experience a deep recession. I believe that any recession will be short lived because there is still a strong economic foundation that so far has not been eroded away.

As to strategies? The US Government money market inside the American Funds portfolio declared a monthly dividend which is equal to a 4.2% annual rate of return. This type of return is cause for consideration, especially for those of you who are receiving income from your portfolio. But if assets are allocated to the MMKT, the current value is secured and will not participate in any type of recovery if the markets continue to experience a moderate recovery like they have been doing lately. With the higher rates, there are other income options which have provided many of you the opportunity to secure a portion of your portfolio and provide a life time income as well.

There is no doubt that these times that we are experiencing are very interesting, and if navigated correctly we can take advantage of the opportunities for which they offer. I can assure you that there is not a one-size-fits-all. Even if we have met in the past 4-6 months, there has been some significant

changes since then, so please call or email if you would like an update before we meet again in the next 3-5 months.

May you have a wonderful weekend. Enjoy the weather, enjoy the beginning of the mowing season, and enjoy life.

Be well!

Take care,

Brett