



Happy Fall and Happy Friday

I hope that you have enjoyed the past two weeks. I know that for most of us this wonderful weather pattern we are in has allowed us to turn off the AC's and open the windows. I love this time of year because it is the only time the ComEd and Nicor bills are low at the same time.

Roxie's mother went home to be with our Lord on Thursday, September 14th, which is also the 8-year anniversary of Roxie's father's death. Because of technology and a very supportive Trinity family, Roxie was able to work from home and spend some wonderful quality time with her mom during the last two weeks of her life.

I would like to thank you for your patience during the past 3 weeks. I did my best to return all emails and calls within 24 hours, as is my standard, but I know that I did not meet that standard every day.

So, while you keep Roxie in your prayers for strength and comfort, please keep Sandra in your prayers for safe travels and physical endurance. Sandra left this past Wednesday for Germany for year long planned journey to run a marathon and attend Oktoberfest.

I am so looking forward to September 29th when we are all united.

Well, the past two weeks have certainly not been enjoyable to endure, especially when one dissects the reasons for all 3 major indices to be down; DOW approximately down 1 ½%, The S&P is down about 2½%, and the NASDAQ is down about 3%.

The FED did not raise rates but certainly struck the fear into all of the traders that there is a good chance that they could raise the rates two more times in the future. This statement was followed with an indication that they are expecting two rate cuts in 2024. Does this make sense to anybody? So, they purposely want to bring the economy to a standstill or worse only to cut rates in the future in order to jump start the economy? This way of thinking makes no sense to me.

Following is a quote from the Boston Fed Reserve President, Susan Collins: **“There are some promising signs that inflation is moderating and the economy rebalancing,”** she said. **“But progress has not been linear and is not evenly distributed across sectors.”** The facts are staring them in the face, and they want to deny them.

The UAW strike could get very interesting and begin to put pressure on the markets as well. I understand what and why the union is so demanding; They have watched corporate execs' pay increase substantially, and they want their members to be treated the same. Seems fair enough. I have read many articles that the UAW feels the EV industry is a threat to their industry. I can also understand that line of thinking because the EV industry is heavily subsidized by our government which does not provide for a level playing field. I am hopeful that both sides will come to a common-sense agreement very soon. Ford is close to reaching an agreement, so hopefully that will provide the framework for the other companies to follow.

Then we have the possible government shutdown. I am very concerned that there could be some heels dug in on this, and a possible shut down is a reality. I believe that a shutdown benefits nobody, but our nation must get the government spending under control.

The strategies are pretty much the same as they have been all year. Stay the course with the current investment portion of the portfolio. Take advantage of the higher interest rates when possible as well as possible reallocations from the money market when there are sell-off days with the markets.

We are beginning a campaign to call people before their next scheduled review if we feel that they should be capitalizing on some of these current market conditions.

As always, know that you can call me anytime or send me an email if you have questions or concerns.

Take care and enjoy this wonderful weather.

Brett