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SPRING 2024

SC PARKER LLC



A MESSAGE FROM JEFF HAHN



Jeffrey Hahn
President

As spring arrives and the seasons change, we hope that you are well.

The basic function of our firm is to provide you and your families with help, financial investments, service and advice for your benefit. Our goal is to provide these benefits at the highest possible level of quality, professionalism, friendliness and efficiency. Working together, we strive to develop financial plans, investment portfolios and solutions to life's issues that will help you achieve success.

All of us are involved in economic activity on a daily basis. Each of us—every individual, family, business and group—is unique and different, each with its own economy. Helping you to improve *your* economy in this fast-changing world is a very obvious objective and responsibility. It is also my professional calling and life's work. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the work I do is speaking and meeting with all of you.

Change is a constant that we see and experience every day. This is especially true in the investment markets. How we manage it to create benefit is a constant challenge. The ever-increasing volume and speed of information and the technology that provides it compounds this challenge. Separating accurate, meaningful and useful information from the endless avalanche of “data” further compounds the challenge. There’s an awful lot of false information floating around, often from people trying to get you to buy something. Staying on top of it to a reasonable degree is another one of our basic functions and part of our daily research & activity.

The economic change created by technology continues and is rapidly accelerating. It has been going on for decades, and the changes that accompany it are extraordinary. Currently, according to the US Census Bureau, the Federal Reserve Bank, et al, there are over 158 million jobs in America. It is estimated that 92% of those jobs require “Digital Information Skills.” We are living in the midst of the greatest economic revolution in human history.

Our recommended approach to benefiting from all this change begins with managing *your* economy as well as possible. Focus on *your* economic fundamentals: Your income, budgeting, understanding your investments, being organized, developing systems to invest and grow your portfolio while concentrating on diversification, managing risk and staying consistently involved over time.

We consider ourselves part of *your* team. We are here to help you in any feasible way based on your circumstances and needs. We do our very best to stay in touch and keep you informed. We hope you feel free to contact us at any time.

Make Bite-Size Money Goals
Studies show that the farther away a goal seems, and the less sure we are about when it will happen, the more likely we are to give up. So in addition to focusing on big goals (say, buying a home), aim to also set smaller, short-term goals along the way that will reap quicker results—like saving some money each week in order to take a trip in six months.

ON OUR WEBSITE YOU CAN:

- ◆ Log into your Cadaret Grant/Pershing accounts.
- ◆ Access our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube & LinkedIn Accounts.
- ◆ View Markets at a glance in day, month & year format under our Market Watch feature.
- ◆ Look up investments based on a symbol or keyword.
- ◆ Use our Tax Library on our Resources page for IRS forms and publications, estimate your federal tax liabilities etc.
- ◆ Access articles, newsletters, calculators, glossary of terms & online videos.
- ◆ Visit our Media tab for archived TV & Radio shows, read our latest Blog posts.

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THE SC PARKER TEAM

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SPRING CLEANING YOUR FINANCES

The arrival of Spring brings a sense of enthusiasm along with longer daylight hours. New growth, rebirth and hope for better days inspire plants and animals. With investing, the end of tax season provides an opportunity for reevaluation and repositioning for improving outcomes.

Just as we clean up the yard from Winter's devastation and prune back dead growth, a reexamination of our investments can expose areas for trimming back, repositioning or replacement. Sometimes a minor adjustment is all that is needed to improve performance. Other times a major overhaul might be warranted.

If you have an existing investment strategy, most likely minor adjustments are all you need. Just like your garden, tossing everything out and starting fresh would be overkill. Choosing options that complement each other and serve different purposes can also be true for your investments. Overlapping and concentrated positions may need to be evaluated and repositioned. Deciding which investments serve which purpose and allotting resources accordingly should allow them to be ready for their optimal usage.

Before the weather becomes too enticing for indoor activities, make some time to revisit your financial plan and assure it is well positioned for the coming year. We are more than happy to assist you. Your success becomes ours.



David Ivancic

INTRODUCING

Julia Routhier

A WELCOMED ADDITION TO OUR FIRM



Julia Routhier

Prior to being an Administrative Assistant at SC Parker, Julia was an experienced Pastry Chef with a degree in Culinary Arts from Johnson & Wales University. As such, Julia was able to live and work in a number of cities including Charlotte, The Florida Keys, Miami and San Diego.

Now, she is happy to be home in Buffalo, undergoing a career change and pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. In addition to Julia's environmental science studies, she is also gaining financial experience here at SC Parker.

You may be receiving a call from her, as Julia has been very instrumental in updating our client information.

PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

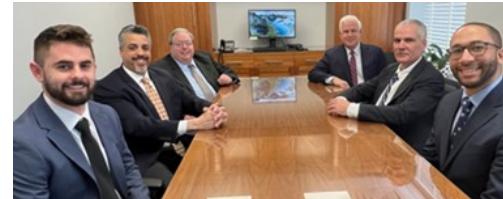
Matthew Siva

Matthew Siva joins the ranks of registered representatives in the securities industry, marking a significant milestone in his career. With a passion for finance and a commitment to serving clients, he brings knowledge and dedication to his new role. His registration underscores his experience in navigating financial landscapes, offering clients guidance and personalized solutions. As a newly registered representative, he is poised to make a meaningful impact, leveraging his skills to help individuals achieve their financial goals.



Matthew Siva

FROM OUR RESEARCH COMMITTEE



MARKET UPDATE

The end of the first quarter shows a strong stock market, up around 9% so far and a continuing weak bond market, down around 1.5%. These are consistent trends for both markets. The stock market has recovered from the bear market lows of 2022 and reached new highs. The bond market on the other hand is still substantially down from its 2021 levels and slowly losing value to inflation. This makes the money markets even more desirable with interest rates over 5%.

The U.S. Economy is doing well. The Federal Reserve (Fed) Chairman, Jerome Powell, has stated that interest rate cut considerations would be put on hold for the time being as more data is being considered. The good news - the economy is growing at approximately 3.30% (based on the 4th Quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Report). Going into the 2024-year, real wages paid to U.S. workers have grown between 3% to 4%, year over year. Inflation is down from a high of 9.1% in June 2022 to 3.8% this past January 2024. However, The Fed is still focusing on driving inflation down to the 2% level. The Fed wants and the markets enjoy price stability and certainty for the U.S. economy.

The headwinds facing the U.S. Economy continue to be rising consumer debt, higher than normal interest rates, and slow global growth. Consumer spending accounts for about 70% of the U.S. economic activity. Unfortunately, the average U.S. consumer has been using more debt to pay bills and maintain their standard of living. In fact, Consumer Credit Card Debt hit its highest amount, 1.13 trillion dollars, this past January 2024. The debt increase was largely caused by higher food and energy prices, the onset of student loan repayment and the end of COVID Era stimulus benefits. Higher than normal interest rates cause higher monthly loan payments and draws down on consumer safety nets. Additionally, global economic growth is down 3 years in a row and is expected to be slow for the next 5 years.

The good news is that there are a number of meaningful and emerging positive changes that can help boost U.S. and global economic activity. Examples include expanding "Green" Environmental Technology, higher productivity growth with Artificial Intelligence and comprehensive tax reform. We'll keep our fingers crossed!

Lastly, to make sure that your goals and portfolio are current, please contact us if you haven't been in for a while. We would love to see you and continue serving you!



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CLEAR 1

This client portal is your centralized platform to view all your account information — simple to navigate, comprehensive and easy to use with a modern display of information. Please contact our office to receive your individual login credentials.



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