



Great Lakes Benefits  
& Wealth Management

1325 Hull Road, Sandusky, OH 44870

**TODAY'S RETIREES  
NEWSLETTER**

**December 2023**

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## Recipe of the Month

### Sweet Potato Praline Bites

Get the taste of homemade sweet potato casserole in bite sized slices with a pecan praline topping. The perfect holiday appetizer or dessert!

- 2 sweet potatoes (long and skinny are best)
- 1/2 cup salted butter (Kerrygold or your favorite)
- 1 cup pecans chopped
- 1/2 cup cane sugar (or regular sugar if preferred)
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- Coconut oil cooking spray

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Peel sweet potatoes and slice each one into round slices, approx 1/2 inch thick. Lay flat on a parchment lined baking sheet. Make sure they have space in between each one. Spray with coconut oil spray before adding praline topping.

Melt butter in microwave safe bowl. Add pecans, sugar and vanilla and stir well. Top praline mixture evenly among sweet potato slices. Bake for 30 min, or until sweet potatoes are soft when pressed with a fork, but not over cooked. Serve warm or cold and enjoy!



**What's in season?** Beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, citrus fruit, kale, parsnips, pomegranate, potatoes, radishes, sweet potatoes, turnips, winter squash

*Thank you*  
**for your referrals!**

Refer us to a friend or family member  
and receive a gift card!

**December recipient:**  
**Mrs. Rachel Daniel**



*Warmest wishes for a very happy holiday season  
and a peaceful and prosperous new year!*

From all of us at Great Lakes Benefits & Wealth Management

To learn more about how Great Lakes Benefits & Wealth Management can partner with you to develop a cohesive, prudent strategy to confidently pursue your lifestyle and financial goals, schedule a complimentary meeting with Wayne over the phone, through video-conference, or in our office.

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### Key Components of Estate Planning and Preserving Your Legacy

Estate planning is not just about managing your assets or distributing wealth; it's about leaving a legacy that lasts for generations. It's a way to ensure that your hard-earned assets – and values – are preserved and passed down to your loved ones efficiently and effectively.

No two estate plans will look exactly alike. However, most will share these common components:

**Will and Trusts:**  
Blueprint of Your Legacy

**Power of Attorney and Health Directives:**  
Decision-making Authority

**Beneficiary Designations:**  
Directing Your Assets

**Guardianship Designations:**  
Protecting Your Loved Ones

**Letter of Intent:**  
Your Voice Beyond the Grave

Estate planning can be complex and overwhelming, given the legal and financial intricacies involved. It's prudent to seek the assistance of an experienced estate planning attorney and financial advisor to guide you through the process. Their expertise can help ensure that your estate plan is well-structured, legally sound, and aligned with your unique circumstances.

If you'd like to discuss estate planning or preserving your legacy, schedule a meeting with Wayne over the phone, through video-conference, or in our office.



www.todaysretirees.com

## Monthly Message from Wayne



Great Lakes Benefits  
& Wealth Management

When is the right time to retire?

This is a question many of you deal with or have dealt with. One of my duties as a Certified Financial Planner Professional™ is to walk through this stage or stages with clients. This is what I've found out over the years. It depends! It depends on many variables in the person's life and in their spouses life if married. If there is a spouse, then the timing of retirement should make sense for both people. Some times it makes sense to retire together. Others stagger retirement between the two, taking advantage of company benefits, built up sick and vacation pay, years of service credits, or just plain scheduling. Maybe some "alone" time is needed or desired too?

I caution people to really look at this subject in depth before actually pulling the retirement trigger. Many have it engraved in their thought patterns over the years that they "should retire" at a preconceived age, or years of service. And when they reach that age, they retire. No thought, no money projections, no lifestyle or travel goals, no nothing, other than "I am retiring, I put my time in!". Sometimes they do this when electing their Social Security benefits too. "I paid in, I am taking mine as soon as I can!". These two approaches can be a big mistake. It can be a mistake for them, and it could have negative results for their spouse also.

The "numbers" are key. The numbers should always be run. Accurately, and in detail, before retiring. All overhead needs to be accounted for. All household items, lifestyle costs, automobiles, hobbies/toys, tithing, giving to family (helping them out), and of course your debt. The "numbers" then need to be paired up with the income

streams coming in, the retirement dollars already saved, the cash in reserves, and if any, the debt still pending. Numbers don't lie. They must make sense, before ever pulling the trigger on retirement!

Switching gears, I'd like to address a different aspect of when to retire, working too long. Over the years have you ever worked with, or have done business with people that just are not the same? The doctor that just doesn't seem to have their heart in it anymore? Maybe you don't feel as important to them as you once did? A co-worker that was once an effective, happy, get things done person, but now just goes through the motions to do the bare minimum. A restaurant owner that ran a tight, clean, high-quality shop, that has since gone downhill? You get the point. We all know people like this. Many can and should retire, but they don't. If you are one of these people (most know what's going on) you should explore it, its time, or just explore a different avenue of working or running your business. You can shift gears, change things up, bring in different folks with different ideas, and potentially re-ignite the spark you once had.

Other folks can't retire. Financially they can, but they need to work and stay busy. Feel relevant, worthwhile, effective, constructive, helpful, appreciated. These emotions are important to many people. You can achieve this in many ways, not just the job or profession you always have done. It takes exploring one's mind and one's values to work through this. If figured out, it can make a wonderful new era of your life, or a real enjoyable semi-retirement if you'd like to just slow down a bit.

Like I opened up with in this message, this is one of my duties to my clients. To help them through everything I just

wrote about. It's complicated. It's fun, especially for me. People's happiness, both financially, and emotionally are at stake. For most, it would be hard to work through this process on your own. You need a professional to give you ideas, suggestion's, examples of what others in your situation have done. With this information you and your family can discuss it, add new ideas, maybe even come up with something new and unique yourself.

In closing, I suggest that nobody just retires! Plan for it and through it. Tweak it, make changes, take chances in new ventures. Don't be that person that says to themselves, I should have, or could have, or why didn't I? For most, it's never too late. One last thing... If you did retire, and it's not all it was what you thought it would be, go find something to do that you will enjoy, and maybe even get paid for doing it!

I'm here if you need me.

Until next month,

*Wayne*

P.S. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you and your families too! We appreciate you!



**Wayne Maslyk Jr.,  
President & CEO**

A financial professional since 1995, Wayne Maslyk started his own firm in 2001 intent upon providing the personalized services retirees and pre-retirees need to pursue their financial goals. "My mission," Wayne says, "is to be the 'go to' resource for retirement, tax, and financial planning." His services include helping folks learn what mistakes NOT to make and also what SHOULD be done when getting their financial house in order.

In addition to over 25 years of experience, Wayne brings to clients his status as a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®) practitioner, which is considered the "Gold Standard" in the financial services industry. Earning that certification required advanced coursework in taxes, retirement planning, estate planning, investments, risk management, and other financial issues.

Away from work, Wayne enjoys boating, camping, and vacationing with his wife, Laura, and their three sons. Nathan, Jacob, and Jack.



**TODAY'S RETIREES**  
WITH WAYNE MASLYK JR., CFP™

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