



Great Lakes Benefits
& Wealth Management

1325 Hull Road, Sandusky, OH 44870

TODAY'S RETIREES NEWSLETTER

April 2025

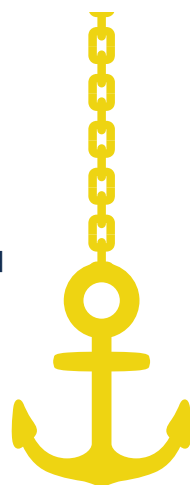
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Anchored in family values

Wayne's mission is to be the 'go to' resource for retirement, tax, and financial planning. 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.

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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www.todaysretirees.com

Recipe of the Month



www.cookieandkate.com/veggie-stir-fry-recipe

Spring Veggie Stir-Fry

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1/4 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce or tamari | 1 small red onion, root and tip ends removed and cut into 1/4-inch thick wedges |
| 2 tablespoons honey or maple syrup | 3 medium carrots, peeled and cut into very thin rounds |
| 2 teaspoons arrowroot starch or 1 teaspoon corn starch | Pinch of salt |
| 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger | 1/2 bunch (1/2 pound) thin asparagus, tough ends removed and cut into 2-inch long pieces |
| 1 large clove garlic, minced | |
| 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper | |
| 1 tablespoon coconut oil or cooking oil of choice | |

In a liquid measuring cup, combine the soy sauce, honey, starch, ginger, garlic and red pepper flakes. Whisk until blended and set aside.

Warm the oil over medium heat until shimmering. Add the onion and carrots and a pinch of salt. Raise the heat to medium-high and cook, stirring every 30 seconds or so, until the onions have softened, about 4 to 5 minutes.

Add the asparagus and cook, stirring every 30 seconds, until the carrots are starting to caramelize on the edges and are easily pierced by a fork, about 3 to 4 minutes.

Pour in the prepared sauce and cook, while stirring constantly, until the sauce has thickened to your liking, about 20 to 60 seconds. Remove from heat and serve as a side dish as-is, or turn it into a main dish by serving it with brown rice or protein of your choice.

What's in season?

Asparagus, avocado, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, citrus fruits, greens, mushrooms, peas, radishes, sweet potatoes

Portfolio Risk Management Strategies that Support Your Needs and Goals

Investing always involves some level of risk, but understanding and managing it can help investors align their portfolios with their financial goals and comfort levels. Risk comes in many forms, from market fluctuations to inflation and economic downturns. Taking a thoughtful approach to diversification, asset allocation, and ongoing portfolio adjustments can help you navigate uncertainty.

Diversification

Investing across multiple asset classes, industries, and geographic regions can help reduce the impact of a downturn in any single area. A diversified portfolio may include stocks, bonds, real estate, and other asset types to balance risk. Within equities, diversification across sectors such as technology, healthcare, and consumer goods can provide additional portfolio risk management.

Asset Allocation

Determining the right mix of assets based on investment goals, time horizon, and risk tolerance is an important part of portfolio risk management. Younger investors may be more willing to take on higher-risk investments with long-term growth potential, while those approaching retirement may prioritize stability and capital preservation. Adjusting asset allocation over time as financial situations change can help align investments with evolving needs.

Periodic Portfolio Reviews

Regularly reviewing a portfolio allows investors to assess whether their asset allocation still aligns with their financial objectives. Market conditions and personal circumstances change over time, making adjustments necessary. This review process can include rebalancing to maintain the desired level of risk exposure.

Hedging Strategies

Some investors use hedging techniques, such as options, commodities, or inverse exchange-traded funds (ETFs), to offset potential losses in their portfolios. While hedging can provide downside protection, it often comes with added complexity and costs, making it important to evaluate whether these strategies align with an overall investment plan.

Managing Emotional Responses

Market fluctuations are a natural part of investing, and emotional reactions can lead to impulsive decisions. Selling during a market downturn or making reactive changes based on short-term news can disrupt long-term investment strategies. Developing a disciplined approach and focusing on long-term objectives can help you navigate periods of volatility more effectively.

THANK YOU

for your referrals!

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

April recipient:
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Humphrey



Great Lakes Benefits
& Wealth Management

Monthly Message from Wayne

Tax Season has come and gone for most of us. Those of us who have businesses, it's really never gone, it's an ongoing thing. Whoever extended, we have until October to get things in order, just in time to run our year-end numbers, so we are not shocked or surprised come next April.

One thing you should ALL be doing before they get too dusty is going through your tax returns. You should know what each number on each line means. You should compare last year's return to this year's return. See how the higher interest rates affected you. Look at the IRA distribution you took and see what that did to your taxes, and if applicable what it did to your Social Security being taxed? Look at how close you are to the next bracket, or to having your SS income be taxed, or be maxed out. If you're contemplating ROTH IRA conversions, see how much leeway you have before triggering any of the above that I just mentioned.

Speaking of Roth's, those of you that are still working, should be weighing the pros and cons of Traditional IRA's and 401k's vs Roths of the same. Compare the current AND future tax benefits of both. As I've noted before, you don't want just one big retirement sum of monies that have never been taxed to retire on. You will need flexibility if you are concerned with being efficient with your future tax planning.

The stock market is showing some major volatility. Mainly due to a long-awaited market correction, that's been needed for a while! This brings many overpriced stocks down to their normal and proper valuations. It also gets the folks out of the market who really should not be in it. The volatility is being ramped up a bit, like charcoal lighter being squirted on a fire, due to Trumps current tariff negotiations. Try not to get caught up in all the news and scare tactics. Live your life and let's see what transpires and is actually put in place when the final deals are done. Anything that happens between now and then really means nothing. So don't fall for the bait, and don't get all worked up about the Markets, for now. A correction is welcomed in my eyes (I've been writing to you about it for around a year now), it is long overdue. What I'm looking for is an S&P 500 down below 5000 points, and then that bottom being tested by multiple short-term rebounds back up into the mid to high 5000's, then back down testing those lows down into the 4000's. Once that bottom is tested and holds (doesn't keep going lower), then we will be on our way to a market recovery and on the next level of highs. This process can take months. The key (before you ever invest in the market) is to know your limits and how much volatility you can take. This is normal stuff! The market does not go up and up and up! You ALL know this. It goes up.... beats you back down...then up...then beats us up again... then up

again. Overtime giving nice long term average rates of returns. FOR THE PAST 100 YEARS! This is what it does.

Until next month,
Wayne

P.S. Most of you know that I offer \$90 discounted tax preparation for clients that have money in the market with me. I also do this for first time potential clients (prospects) for one year, with the hope they become clients and then the tax deal continues. It's a very inexpensive and convenient program. My clients love this. You should take advantage of it if you're not already doing so.



Traveler of the month...



Mrs. Tanhan Hicks

Mrs. Hicks was enjoying time with family while hiking on vacation at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon.

If you are one of Wayne's "managed money" clients, don't forget to take an interesting picture of you on vacation holding up our GLB "I am a Today's Retiree" handkerchief for the chance to win a \$100 gift card!



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



WATCH on WGGN 52
Saturday @ 9:30 AM / Sunday @ 4:00 PM / Monday @ 9:30 AM
WATCH on WCLF 22 Monday @ 5:00 PM
LISTEN on WLRD FM 96.9 Saturday @ 8:30 AM
LISTEN on WGGN FM 97.7 Sunday @ 10:00 AM