



Team Time

Your **Shakespeare Traction Team** is wondering if these masks can count for our Halloween picture this year. *Photo taken at the Ingleside, where our team spent a (masked) day working to make our business the very best it could be for our clients.*

Recent Blogs | View From The Lake



[Wisconsin Announces Phase 2 of the “We’re All In” Initiative to Help Small Businesses](#)

October 16, 2020

Earlier this year, the state of Wisconsin announced \$75 million in assistance for small businesses as part of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation’s (WEDC) “We’re All In” initiative. Because of its popularity, coupled with the fact that Wisconsin businesses continue to struggle through the pandemic, Wisconsin has made an additional \$50 million available to businesses [...] [Read More](#)



[FAFSA for 2021-2022 Academic Year opened 10/01/2020](#)

October 12, 2020

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2021-2022 year opened October 1, 2020. The FAFSA is a prerequisite for federal student loans, grants, and work-study. In addition, colleges typically require the FAFSA before distributing their own need-based aid and, in some cases, merit-based aid. Students must submit the FAFSA every year to [...] [Read More](#)



[Stock Market Performance and Elections](#)

October 5, 2020

[Start Video Blog](#)



**Ryan's Tip of The Month:
2021 Social Security Updates**

The Social Security Administration announced on Tuesday that the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for payments beginning in January 2021 will be 1.3%, which is the lowest since 2017 when the COLA was just 0.3%. For comparative purposes, the past three Social Security COLAs were 1.6% (2020), 2.8% (2019) and 2.0% (2018).

Roughly 70 million Americans are collecting Social Security. The average Social Security benefit for retired workers is approximately \$1,523 per month. With the new COLA in effect, this will increase the new average monthly benefit to about \$1,543.

The maximum annual earnings subject to Social Security taxes for 2021 will be \$142,800. In 2020, the limit was \$137,700, which is an increase of 3.7%.

One other important item to note is the increase in the Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts. If you are under Full Retirement Age (FRA), collecting Social Security Benefits and still working, you are permitted to earn up to \$18,960 (\$1,580/month) in 2021 before benefits start being withheld. The number increases to \$50,520 (\$4,210/month) in the year you reach FRA, and does not apply once you are over FRA (see chart below).

	2020	2021
RETIREMENT EARNINGS TEST EXEMPT AMOUNTS		
Under full retirement age	\$ 18,240/yr. (\$1,520/mo.)	\$ 18,960/yr. (\$1,580/mo.)
<i>NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.</i>		
The year an individual reaches full retirement age	\$ 48,600/yr. (\$4,050/mo.)	\$ 50,520/yr. (\$4,210/mo.)
<i>NOTE: Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit.</i>		
Beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age	None	None

Out and About



After 17 years, **Nick** bowled 300 game number three! Official Report: "Bowlers Headquarters would also like to congratulate Nick Ziarek on his 300 game at Riviera Lanes. Nick was using his Hyroad Pearl." You can catch video evidence on Nick's [Facebook page](#).



Ryan and his fiancée, **Bri**, in front of their **NEW HOUSE!**



Kevin & Brian, presenting a recently retired **Mary** with her retirement rollover check. Smiles all around!



Brian, Brittany & Ryan, emerge from the lake fog on this chilly Fall morning. The seagulls were hanging tight to the pier; and no one was hurt (nor fell into the water) during the taking of this photograph!

Health, Wealth & Happiness

Health, happiness and wealth depend on each other. To reach your goals of a happy retirement, do not overlook the value of a healthy retirement. More than 80% of today's retirees say health is the most important ingredient for a happy retirement (valuing good health even over financial security).

October's Tip for a Happy Retirement - Check out National Senior Health & Fitness Day

National Senior Health & Fitness Day, now in its 27th year, is traditionally held on the last Wednesday of May (this year's coronavirus crisis has pushed the date to **October 28th**). As the nation's largest annual older adult health and wellness event, its goals are to help keep older Americans healthy and fit, and to showcase what local organizations are doing in their communities to promote senior health and wellness.

It's estimated that 100,000 people will participate in the events this year, at more than 1,000 locations across the country. Local organizations will host events at retirement communities, Ys, health clubs, senior centers, parks, hospitals, houses of worship, local aging groups and other community locations. Activities will be non-competitive and may include walking, low-impact exercises, health screenings and workshops. **To learn more about what will happen on this day, click [here](#).**

If you do participate, please report back to us to let us know how you participated, and possibly send us a photo or two!

2020 Event Theme: Life is Better in Motion! We agree!

If you enjoyed our newsletter, please pass it along by sharing below!

Until Next Time!

