



HIGHTOWER
White Pine Wealth Management

August 2021



As the last out of state license plate whizzes through the tolls at York, headed out of our great state and back to the regular pace of life, school, and obligations, we look ahead to Labor Day and the bustle that always follows a relaxing Maine summer.

Happy Labor Day!

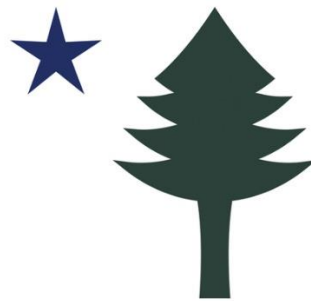


We tend to mark our summers not by the [astronomical seasons](#), but by the time period between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Our [office hours](#) return to 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday on Tuesday, September 7th. The Monday we get off from work feels like a gentle re-entry into what is typically our

busiest season at White Pine Wealth Management. It's a day to get ready for back to school, change out wreaths on our front doors, and pull out some warmer clothing. But do you know the [story behind Labor Day in the United States?](#)

Labor in New England has a long history. Many school children in the area have taken tours of the Boott Cotton Mills in Lowell, Massachusetts where they learned about the [history of the "Mill Girls"](#) . The [lobster industry here in Maine](#) has an interesting past, and schools in Aroostook County actually [break for the potato harvest](#) to this day. White Pine Wealth Management even chose its name in part for its nod to the [logging industry in Maine](#).

The Future of White Pine Wealth Management



At White Pine Wealth Management, we are actively planning for not just our clients' futures, but the generations that follow them. Our relationship with the [University of Maine System internship program](#) has resulted in the attraction of new talent and given us an opportunity to support students who not only study in Maine, but who stay in Maine. We believe that this investment in our clients' futures is also an investment in Maine's economy and its community. As we bring the next generation of young financial professionals on board, we are learning about the needs of our clients, their children, and what will matter to your family now, and in the future.

The Future of the American Workforce

If you're an employer, [a recent study by Forbes](#) should have you thinking about the talent you currently have, the talent you hope to retain, and the talent you hope to attract. The working world has changed a lot since the beginning of the pandemic and some things may never be the same again. Record numbers of people quit the commute and began working from home. Employers found new ways of connecting and engaging employees. While the stress of a world-wide pandemic weighed heavy on and burdened specific sectors of the workforce, many employees lucky enough to continue working remotely felt less burned out by the time-consuming act of just getting to work in the morning. [There are mixed reports](#) about productivity in a work from home world, but it seems like a hybrid version may become the new norm of many careers in the American workforce.

Work/Life Balance



While reports of a mass flight from urban areas may have been exaggerated and exclusive to just a few areas, [the ability to move from major cities to the less expensive satellite areas around those cities began to take shape](#) as some employees realized that they could earn big city salaries while living in less expensive areas. The best of both worlds seemed possible for the first time for many people who had been trudging through early alarm clocks to make hour+ commutes to park in expensive parking lots in their sky-scraper offices only to spend another hour or more to get home to family demands, household chores, and more. During Covid, instead of taking a break at the water cooler, people found they could throw a load of laundry in between Zoom meetings, take the dog for a walk, [complete a quick yoga workout](#), or any number of other things that had previously been impossible in an office environment. And employers are now able to pull job candidates from a national pool instead of a local one, making the job market more competitive and taking work from home flexibility from just a perk to an actual employment benefit. Test pilot programs are even [underway in Europe](#) to see what a 4-day work week might look like in the future.

When You're Done Working: Social Security



White Pine Wealth Management is working hard so you can... stop working hard. The majority of the work we do is retirement planning. Our commitment to your financial future typically begins when

you're still working, but it doesn't end when you make your last IRA contribution. In some ways, the most important work begins a few years before you retire, as we begin planning for income, retirement dreams, bucket list checkmarks, grandchildren, legacy planning, and some of the best years of your life. We work hard to make sure your plan is robust, complete, and comprehensive. In non-pandemic times, we have typically offered two in-person seminars each year: one on Social Security and one about Medicare. On September 23rd at 6pm, we will be hosting a live webinar featuring Robert Clark, a 38-year veteran of the Social Security Administration. If you are a few years from retirement, this class is for you! An invitation will be forthcoming for our clients to sign up for this webinar and stay tuned for more information about our Medicare seminar that we usually hold in the spring.

Much like Labor Day, [social security in America](#) has an interesting story.

[See you in September](#)

We are excited to be reengaging with our clients in the office again and are hopeful that we will be able to host in-person client events very soon. We hope you enjoy the last few weeks of summer and we will be back in September with some ideas for autumnal fun and more. Happy Labor Day and remember – whatever you're working towards, White Pine Wealth Management is honored to help you get there.