

December 2021



Here at White Pine Wealth Management, we're looking forward to a holiday season filled with family, friends, food, and festivities. In the month that kicks off the official winter season and sees the shortest days of the year, we're planning to get outside and make the most out of the snow, ice, and chilly air. We've shared some ideas for gifts, treats, activities, and even a little year-end housekeeping for good measure.

Winter is coming...

We set the clocks back a few weeks ago on November 7th. Some of us are **still feeling it**. The **debate over its future** is perhaps one of the only things both sides of the aisle can agree on in Washington. If you're struggling to stay awake at night and are waking up much earlier than usual, increasingly shorter days may just be the icing on your circadian cake. The **winter solstice is on December 21st** at 10:59am EST this year. To everyone driving home in the dark it marks the official point at which the days are getting longer. But it has **meant many things** to different cultures over the centuries.

For the 8 year-old who has everything...



With shipping delays, employee shortages, and low inventory issues affecting almost every commercial business out there, getting a jump on your holiday shopping this year is a must. If you're lucky, you might be able to score at least a few of **this year's hottest holiday toys**. And for the minimalist in your life, skip the gift card and **give an experience** they'll remember forever.

WWGD? (What would Grandma do?)



From neighborhood parties and dinner with family and friends to office gift swaps and events at school, the holiday season brings with it increased social activity. If you've been sitting behind a computer screen for the past 20+ months, a [refresher course on appropriate public interactions](#) may be in order. And things have certainly changed since March of 2019. Lizzie Post, great-great-granddaughter of Emily Post, offers some [guidance on post-pandemic etiquette](#) to help you navigate the now uncertain boundaries of social interaction after Covid. If most of your socializing happens from a keyboard, consider these good manner [guidelines for social media platforms](#), and remember - if Grandma would raise her eyebrows, you probably shouldn't post it. And if you're wondering why you're competing with a cell phone for your dinner mate's attention, it's because they haven't read [this article about cell phone etiquette](#).

I want an Oompa Loompa Now!



Has your 12-year-old been begging for a cell phone since they were 8? Perhaps this is the year they'll be unwrapping their first smartphone. It's a big responsibility that their frontal lobes can't quite comprehend just yet, so keeping them safe and well-monitored is key. [Knowing the various apps](#) that they are likely to use will help you understand what's appropriate and what isn't. [CyberWise.org](#) is a great resource for parents to help you understand everything there is to know about kids, technology, social media, and more.

2021 and Beyond...



RMD: If you turned 70 ½ before December 31, 2019 or 72 after December 31, 2019, you may need to take what is called an RMD – **Required Minimum Distribution**. This is the amount of money - calculated using the prior year-end balance and your age – that you are required to take from your retirement accounts and pay income tax on before December 31st of each year. If you turned 72 on July 1st or later this year, you must take yours by April 1st of 2022. Penalties and taxes will be owed on distributions that are not taken in a timely manner, so it's important to know what accounts have this requirement. If you have not completed the RMD for any retirement accounts that we manage for you, you will be hearing from us soon to make sure you're compliant. If you have accounts outside our management, you should contact the financial institution where they're held. If you are interested in learning about how you can **use your RMD to make a qualified charitable donation** and not pay taxes on the income, let us know.

Taxes Documents: 2021 tax documents will begin to come out after January 15th of 2022. Most documents are distributed by the end of March, but if there are reporting delays at the fund company, it can sometimes be later than that or require an amended tax document. If you are on Fidelity.com, you can **find and check the status of your tax documents here**.

Charitable Donations & Gifts: For folks who wish to make charitable contributions and gifts that will be applied to their 2021 taxes, all gifts must be made (and checks cashed) by December 31st of 2021. Because some transfers can take longer than others, we ask

that you please contact us immediately to make sure there will be enough time to complete any gifts you wish to make.

Baby it's cold out there...



The holiday greetings may be warm, but the weather outside can be frightful. We wanted to share some information about how to stay safe (and a little sweet) in the wintry wonderland this year.

- A few simple [tips for driving in the snow](#) could save your life.
- Do you know [what to do if you're in an accident](#) in the winter?
- Because children are more likely to get frost bite than adults, you should [know the signs and what to do in an emergency](#).
- Keep everyone warm with [some hot cocoa recipes](#)

See you in 2022...



We want to wish you a warm and wonderful holiday season this year. Whether you're headed over the river and through the woods, or wearing pajama bottoms to your virtual office party, White Pine Wealth Management is pleased to help you get there. Happy Holidays!

White Pine Wealth Management
5 Fundy Rd 2D, Falmouth, ME 04105
(207) 781-5800

info@whitepinewm.com
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