

RIDGETOWN INVESTMENTS

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Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through ICA Group Wealth Management LLC, a registered investment advisor. ICA Group Wealth Management LLC and Ridgetown Investments are separate entities from LPL Financial.

Back by popular request: 2024 peel & stick calendars!

They are mini in size but mighty to place in your vehicle, office, or other smaller places. Stop by our office to grab yours while supplies last.



WELCOME TORI!



We are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Tori Sorn. She will be joining our team that includes Financial Advisors Randy Schmidt and James Tabb along with Elizabeth, Kathy & Helen. Tori's role at

Ridgetown will be to work closely with the team in preparing client reviews and financial plans, account opening, account maintenance, and assisting clients. She comes to us from a local bank with several years of experience.

Tori loves to hunt (you should see the big buck she tagged) and enjoys spending time with family and friends. She is engaged to be married next October and is currently living in Ravenna.

WELCOME TO FALL 2023

It feels like summer was too short this year, but fall is starting out with some pretty nice weather. It's turning out to be another good year. I am blessed to have such great clients and a first-class team to work with. The stock and bond markets are a bit challenging lately. Fortunately, this year is still performing much better than 2022. As the Federal Reserve winds down their quantitative tightening phase (i.e. Raising interest rates) there appear to be better investment options on the horizon. Since the beginning of 2022 the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates by 5%. This has created returns on CD's, bond and fixed annuity investments that have not been seen in a very long time. We will be diligently looking at these and other opportunities to see how they can benefit our clients. There are also the constant changes that affect taxes, estate planning and other things that affect our client's financial well-being. If at any time you have any questions, please contact our office. We are always happy to answer any questions you may have. Like you, we are also very active with our families. Fortunately, our team and our families are all doing well. We look forward to closing out 2023 with good health and a prosperous end to the year. We wish all the same to our many friends and clients.

Randy Schmidt

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www.ridgetowninvestments.com

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Holiday HaPPenings Open House!

Come to Sparta for the “Shop Sparta” night on Friday, November 17th. Shop downtown Sparta between 5-8PM, watch the LIGHT PARADE at 6PM followed by fireworks! Many other Downtown Sparta events will be happening, including the tree lighting. **But first join us anytime between 4-5:30PM for a cup of hot soup at Ridgetown Investments** before heading downtown Sparta for a night of fun.

We will also be hosting a BAKING SUPPLIES FOOD DRIVE for a local food pantry. Please drop off your non perishable baking items to donate before December 8th at our office located at 33 Applewood Drive.



COMING IN 2024: NEW 529 PLAN-TO-ROTH IRA ROLLOVER OPTION (SUMMARY)

In December 2022, Congress passed the SECURE 2.0 Act. It introduced two new rules relating to 529 plans and student debt that will take effect in 2024.

The first provision allows for tax-and penalty-free rollovers from a 529 plan to a Roth IRA. The second provision allows student loan payments made by employees to qualify for employer retirement matching contributions.

529 plans are tax-advantaged savings accounts specifically geared to saving for college. In an effort to broaden their flexibility in situations where families have extra funds in an account, Congress created a new rollover option.

Starting in 2024, 529 plan beneficiaries can roll over up to \$35,000 to a Roth IRA over their lifetime.

Employees with student debt often have to prioritize repaying their loans over contributing to their workplace retirement plan; which can mean missing out on any potential employer retirement matching contributions. Starting in 2024, the SECURE 2.0 Act gives employers the option to treat an employee's student loan payments as payments made to a qualified retirement plan, which would make those contributions eligible for an employer retirement match (if an employer offers this benefit).

For personalized insights and to make the most of these opportunities, schedule a phone appointment today with Financial Advisor Randy Schmidt or James Tabb.



TRENDS IN CHARITABLE GIVING

According to the most recent report by Giving USA, Americans gave \$499 billion to charity in 2022.¹

Americans usually give to charity for two main reasons: to support a cause or organization they care about or to leave a legacy through their support.

When giving to charitable organizations, some people elect to support through cash donations. Others, however, understand that supporting an organization may generate tax benefits. They may opt to follow techniques that can maximize both the gift and the potential tax benefit.

Here's a quick review of a few charitable choices:

Direct gifts are just that: contributions made directly to charitable organizations. Direct gifts may be deductible from income taxes, depending on your individual situation.

Charitable gift annuities are not related to annuities offered by insurance companies. Under this arrangement, the donor gives money, securities, or real estate, and in return, the charitable organization agrees to pay the donor a fixed income. Upon the death of the donor, the assets pass to the charitable organization. Charitable gift annuities enable donors to receive consistent income and potentially manage their taxes.

Pooled-income funds pool contributions from various donors into a fund, which is invested by the charitable organization. Income from the fund is distributed to the donors according to their share of the fund. Pooled-income funds can enable donors to receive income, manage their tax burden, and make a future gift to charity.

Gifts in trust enable donors to contribute to a charity and leave assets to beneficiaries. Generally, these irrevocable trusts take one of two forms. With a charitable remainder trust, the donor or chosen beneficiaries can receive lifetime income from the assets in the trust, which is then passed to the charity when the donor dies; in the case of a charitable lead trust, the charity receives the

income from the assets in the trust, which passes to the donor's beneficiaries when the donor dies.

Using a trust involves a complex set of tax rules and regulations. Before moving forward with a trust, consider working with a professional who is familiar with these rules and regulations.

Donor-advised funds are funds administered by a charity to which a donor can make irrevocable contributions. This gift may have tax considerations, which is another benefit. The donor also can recommend that the fund make distributions to qualified charitable organizations.

Please consider the charges, risks, expenses, and investment objectives carefully before investing. A prospectus containing this and other information about the donor-advised fund can be obtained from your financial professional. Read it carefully before you invest or send money.

Some people are comfortable with their current gifting strategies. Others may want a more advanced strategy, however, which can maximize their gift and generate potential tax benefits. A financial professional can help you assess which approach may work best for you.

Remember, the information in this article is not intended as tax or legal advice. And it may not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation.

1. GivingUSA.org, 2023

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Get Organized with our **Wealth Design** Personal Financial Website, offered exclusively for clients of Ridgetown Investments. Contact our office to sign up for free today:

- Connect all your accounts for a consolidated view of your ENTIRE financial picture
- Interactive charts and detailed views to monitor your INVESTMENT accounts
- Safely store your most important financial documents accessible 24/7 in the online VAULT
- Available to access on your smart MOBILE phone
- TRACK spending and set BUDGETS

We also have **Account View** available as a convenient service that enables you to view your account information anytime, anywhere via our website, www.ridgetowninvestments.com

