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September Newsletter



I hope your summer has been enjoyable. I recently hiked Burke Mountain in Vermont, where the first touches of fall color were just beginning to show. The photos above feature the Lake Willoughby Gap, a beautiful and dramatic landscape formed more than 12,000 years ago during the last ice age, when continental ice carved out a basin roughly 300 feet deep. Lake Willoughby is the deepest lake located entirely within New England; Lake Champlain is deeper, but it also borders New York and Canada.

The Burke Mountain Fire Tower, also shown above, was originally built in 1912 and was the first fire tower in Vermont used to help spot forest fires. It was a bright, sunny day, but the wind picked up considerably near the top. I made it about two-thirds of the way up before the swaying convinced me that discretion was the better part of valor.

As we head into fall, this month's newsletter takes a closer look at several trends and planning considerations shaping the months ahead. We explore the growing investment opportunity surrounding AI security, where housing markets across more than half of U.S. states are seeing homes sell below asking price, and ways to uncover money or assets you may not realize you have.

We also examine why selectivity may be increasingly important for investors as markets navigate the prospect of higher-for-longer interest rates and greater scrutiny surrounding AI investments, along with our latest perspective on the equity outlook for the remainder of the year.

In Ashley's Client Corner, you'll find a helpful guide to the 2026 federal gift and estate tax exemption, offering important considerations for families thinking about wealth transfer and estate planning. And to close things out on a seasonal note, we've included an apple butter cinnamon roll recipe—perfect for a cozy fall morning. We hope you find this month's insights informative and useful as you plan for the months ahead.

Best,

Blake

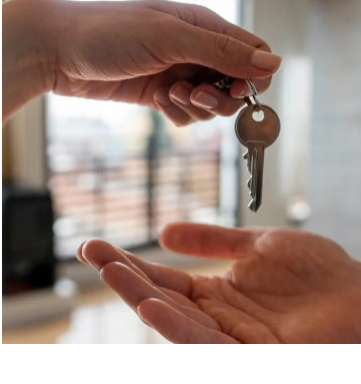
Featured Updates and Resources



The \$33 Billion AI Security Opportunity

As AI agents gain access to sensitive enterprise systems, companies need new ways to control what they can do. Meta Marshall breaks down the emerging market for agentic identity security.

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Homes are selling below asking in 38 of the 50 biggest U.S. cities

Homes sold for less than their asking price in 38 of the 50 largest U.S. housing markets, according to the latest monthly Redfin data. For many buyers, that means more room to negotiate — if they can afford today's record-high home prices.

[Read More](#)



Are you richer than you think?

How to find out—and what experts say to do if you are

[Listen Now](#)



Why Selectivity Matters in Today's Markets

Higher rates and sharper scrutiny of AI investments are raising the bar for companies and rewarding discerning investors.

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Equity Outlook: A Constructive Case for Stocks

Rising earnings expectations support a constructive outlook for equities through the end of 2026, despite ongoing market risks.

[Read More](#)

Ashley's Client Corner

2026 Federal Gift and Estate Tax Exemption

We wanted to share the 2026 Federal Gift and Estate Tax Exemption, which provides an overview of recent developments in the federal gift and estate tax landscape. The document discusses the 2026 exemption environment, annual gifting considerations, and broader estate planning implications following recent legislative changes. Given the potential relevance of these updates for wealth transfer and estate planning strategies, we encourage you to review the full document at the link below and consult your tax and legal advisors regarding how these changes may apply to your individual circumstances.

[Learn More](#)

Apple Butter Cinnamon Rolls

Perfect for a cozy Fall morning!

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