

April 7, 2021

Good Morning,

A strong March jobs report boosted stocks on Friday and the rally continued into Monday. Consumer and manufacturing confidence also came in higher-than-expected last week. These are encouraging signs as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. While vaccines have gained momentum in the US, other countries are moving more slowly. Until most of the globe is vaccinated we won't be completely out of the woods. Letting our guards down could result in a spike in new infections and additional lock downs. That would delay the economic recovery.

Our favorite international thug, Vladimir Putin, has signed a law extending his presidency another two terms. This means he will be the "freely elected" leader of Russia for 36 years in a row. As he tends to poison and jail his rare opponents, he remains Russia's dictator at his own will. As dysfunctional as our political system appears at times, we are clearly light years ahead of Russia (and China, for that matter) when it comes to individual liberties and independence. With those liberties come responsibilities and have plenty of room for improvement in that regard.

The Cincinnati Reds are leading their division after five games of this new baseball season. I suspect this could be the last time I can brag about them. Not to worry, this is Masters week, the best of the year for golf fans. Spring weather has arrived, and summer is not far behind. Of course, the inevitable April snowstorm will remind us that Mother Nature loves to keep us on our toes. Enjoy this beautiful weather!

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[http://www.commonwealth.com/RepSiteContent/weekly\\_comm/commentary\\_redirect.htm](http://www.commonwealth.com/RepSiteContent/weekly_comm/commentary_redirect.htm)

As always, if you would like to discuss this or anything regarding current market conditions or your portfolio, feel free to contact me at any time.

Have a great week,

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Wade A. Sarkis, CFP®, AIF®  
Managing Partner  
Canandaigua Financial Group  
45 Ontario Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
(585) 396-2720

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