EAGLE WEALTH STRATEGIES SUMMER 2026

THE EAGLE'S VIEW

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Around EWS and ATA

Chris Tully, CFP®, RICP®, CIMA®,
Managing Partner

Settling Into Mullica Hill

We've now been in our new office space in Mullica Hill for six months, and it's safe to say we feel right at home. The time has flown by, but we're fully settled and set up for the road ahead. If you haven't yet had the chance to stop by, we'd love for you to see the new space — we're proud of it and looking forward to welcoming you in.

Looking Ahead

We believe our industry is on the cusp of more change in the next two years than we've seen in the last twenty. Rather than looking backward, we're committed to staying focused on what's ahead and adapting our firm accordingly. Our ultimate goal remains the same: providing exceptional service to our clients and helping you prepare for an ever-changing future. Last year, we expanded into tax services through Aerie Tax & Advisory. Looking forward, we plan to continue vetting and adding areas of service so that all of your financial needs can be met in one place. More news to come.

New Faces on Our Team

Over the coming weeks, you may notice a few new faces around the office. We're committed to finding the best people for our company, upholding our Core Values, and providing exceptional customer service to our clients. As we continue to grow, building the right team remains one of our top priorities, and we're excited about the talent joining us.

Investing in Our Technology

We've also recently engaged a technology consultant who will be leading us through a comprehensive six-month due diligence process. The goal is straightforward: to ensure we have the right technology in place, tailored specifically to how our firm operates, so we can continue to serve you efficiently and effectively for years to come. Building the right firm for the future means making thoughtful, deliberate decisions today — and that's exactly what this process is designed to do.

As always, we're grateful for the trust you place in us, and we'll keep you updated as these initiatives progress.

1st Half 2026 Market Commentary

The first half of 2026 delivered strong results for investors, even amid a backdrop that gave plenty of reasons for caution. The S&P 500 Index (large US companies) gained 10.14% through Friday, August 1st, and global equities, as measured by the MSCI ACWI All Cap Index, rose 11.46%. Markets often move ahead of headlines, and this first half was a reminder that investor sentiment and underlying company fundamentals don't always track day-to-day news in a straight line.

The geopolitical situation involving Iran remains unresolved. The Strait of Hormuz — a critical corridor for global oil shipments — remains only partially open. Despite this, markets have largely looked past the conflict, with equities up significantly since late March. That resilience is real, but it doesn't mean the risk has disappeared. The eventual impact on global energy prices and economic growth remains genuinely uncertain, and we'd rather be honest about that uncertainty than pretend to know how it resolves.

On the interest rate front, the picture is more mixed. The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield has climbed this year to around 4.7%. Part of this reflects a broader debate about the path of monetary policy under new Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh, who held rates steady at last week's meeting. Some market participants worry the Fed may be falling behind the curve — meaning inflation or growth pressures could build faster than policy adjusts to meet them. We don't think this warrants alarm, but it's worth watching. Higher long-term rates affect everything from mortgage costs to bond returns, and they're a key reason we continue to emphasize diversification across maturities in fixed income allocations.

Each January and July, we meet with one of the main analysts at Ned Davis Research (NDR), a firm we rely on for unbiased, expert insight into the markets. These conversations help inform how we think about positioning portfolios — including where it may make sense to tilt allocations — so that we're making thoughtful, research-driven decisions on your behalf, rather than reacting to headlines. Coming out of our most recent meeting, NDR remained optimistic on stocks. They continuously update their guidance and aren't afraid to shift their views across stocks, bonds, and various sub-categories as conditions change; so we're watching those updates closely and will adjust our approach accordingly.

Paul's Perspectives

Paul Tully, CFP®, RICP®
Founder, Senior Wealth Advisor

I have mentioned in past newsletters that I felt that advances in healthcare would dramatically impact on the lives of not only our clients, but many people everywhere. We have had incremental improvements over the years, as evidenced by longevity, cancer and cardiac cure rates and treatments and in this year, I have read promising developments in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and pancreatic cancer treatments. Some of these are still in mid-to-late trials, but with the contemporaneous improvements in artificial intelligence, this progress will evolve at an even faster pace.

I view these developments as very good news, however, there are problems potentially created by these developments. First, medications and treatments aren't free and some are quite expensive. GLP drugs for weight loss and other health benefits is a recent example. Some are covered by insurance, but some are not. I've recently heard of a promising cardiac treatment, not eligible for reimbursement, that costs $30,000 per year.

Another issue with the health span increasing personal longevity is that people will want to and, in some cases, *have* to work longer. If so, how do the following generations advance their careers? With artificial intelligence already eliminating certain job classes but creating others, what happens? If people live longer, our current housing shortage is exacerbated, as are the long waiting times for many leading long term care facilities. As Ronald Reagan famously said, "*there are no easy answers, but there are simple answers*". That quote applies to many of life's challenges!

"There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers"

- Ronald Reagan

I would rather have these problems than people dying of Covid etc. and I am confident that American resourcefulness, probably combined with AI enhancements, will successfully address many of these issues.

You may wonder why I am commenting on these topics, for which I really have no expertise. The reason is that to benefit from what are clearly some of the greatest advancements ever, we will need the resources to do so. While we have been fortunate to have experienced very robust stock market returns since 2009, there is a broad consensus (which could be wrong) that future stock market returns will be much more modest, perhaps only half the rate of the past 15+ years. Meeting one's goals could be a challenge.

For this reason, you need to do everything else that you can to maximize resources. That includes a proper investment allocation, tax planning strategies to minimize taxes and maximize available options, not overpaying for insurances (or being under insured in critical areas), controlling costs, etc. **Simple…but not easy.**

Quarterly Tax Estimates

Matt Persichetti, CPA
Director of Tax & Accounting

What's happening with estimates for the remainder of the year? Typical CPA firms abide by a "set it and forget it" policy. Not that the CPA forgets about your estimate payments, but they set your estimated payments up in April to be made on April 15th, June 15th, September 15th, and January 15th. Tax processing software is limited in the sense that once you set those payments and dates, CPAs typically can't change them (especially for Federal estimates!). That means that if there are any fluctuations in your income levels (first year RMDs, large wage increases, big capital gains) you'll likely be underpaid once it comes to next April and you file your return. This can come as a shock to some, thinking that they are covered by the estimated payments that were set up for them the previous year.

An additional level to this dilemma is that the IRS is officially phasing out paper returns and paper checks effective in September. Taxpayers are no longer able to mail in paper checks along with the payment voucher that was supplied to them at return time. Taxpayers now need to either make payments via tax preparation software in April when they file their return or schedule and make estimated payments online. The IRS provides a few different methods that make it easy for taxpayers to file and pay estimated tax payments. Everyone can make an IRS.gov and ID.me account to access their IRS profile and make payments through their portal as well as track payments/refunds and other items. Taxpayers can also make and schedule payments through the IRS's Individual Direct Pay portal. In the Direct Pay portal, taxpayers can make payments easily by verifying personal information and setting payments for any date within a one-year time frame.

At EWS and Aerie Tax & Advisory we're doing something different than the typical CPA's process because we are not a typical tax return filer. We want to make sure that you're maximizing the value of your money as much as you possibly can and owe as little in April as possible. Most people will tell you that they would like to receive a refund in April, and who wouldn't? But my rebuttal is always, "*wouldn't you like that money sooner?*". Our goal is for you to owe as little as possible and receive as little a refund as possible so that your money stays in your pocket in the most efficient way . We'll keep track of your income throughout the year and consider any major life events (as mentioned above) to adjust your estimated tax payments throughout the year. This keeps your money where it belongs – your pocket - rather than waiting an extra 4 months to receive it back (along with all the fun delays and processing time by the IRS).

Employee Spotlight
Chazz Scogna, Relationship Manager

Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I live in South Jersey with my wife—she and I are from the same town but didn't meet until we were both at Rowan for college. Go figure! We have two dogs and two cats. I have three older brothers and one younger sister.

How did you get into this business?
Working at EWS is my second career. Throughout my 20s and my early 30s, I ran the gamut of writer/editor gigs, from covering high school sports to social media to magazine editing. I even sprinkled in some teaching. I enjoyed the work but was looking for something else. I figured I'd take my shot in a new field!

What is your favorite part about working with EWS?
I've always enjoyed learning new things. Due to the nature of the business and the work, there is always more to learn.

What's some of your favorite things to do when you are not working?
I moonlight as a writer, which is my favorite hobby. I spend entirely too much time worrying about Philadelphia sports teams, but hey, a few championships and LeBron James seem to make it all worth it! I like to watch shows and movies—I recently watched *Obsession*, and I imagine that movie will stick with me for a long time.

Employee Spotlight

Matt Persichetti, CPA, Director of Tax and Accounting

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I currently reside in West Deptford with my wife and our dog, a Bernedoodle named Finn. I started at EWS back in October to build up the tax filing and planning aspect of the company, along with launching Aerie Tax & Advisory. With this new service, we're able to now file your tax return as well as implement a tax strategic planning process. I've been a CPA since I graduated from Saint Joeseph's in 2021 with a degree in accounting.

How did you get into this business?

I majored in accounting in college and got my CPA once I graduated. From there, I worked at PwC for 4 years working in various tax topics from Individual to Corporate tax. I have experience working in a wide range of tax topics.

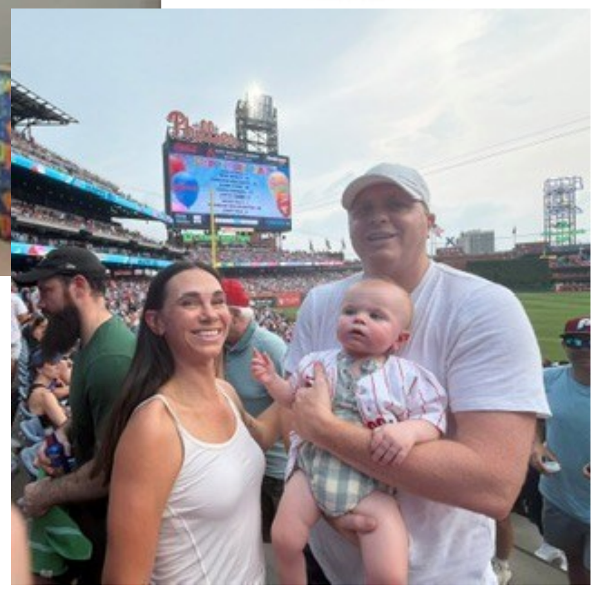
What is your favorite part about working with EWS?

My favorite part about working at EWS is the family atmosphere. I don't feel like just another employee at EWS, I feel like part of the family. Whether that be with my coworkers or the clients that come in and share with me as we discuss their tax outlook, I can be myself in the professional setting without the feeling of being *too* professional (at the appropriate times, of course!).

What's some of your favorite things to do when you are not working?

I love spending time with my wife and dog, and I enjoy being outside and playing fetch (when he wants). I also enjoy reading, golfing, and watching the Phillies, Flyers, Dolphins (Phins Up!) and Sixers. I also enjoy cooking. I can grill up a respectable steak, just let me know if you're interested.

News at EWS



Meyer is ONE!

Chris and **Molly** celebrated their son **Meyer's** first birthday this past July. He also got to check out Citizens Bank Park in what could be the world's smallest (and cutest) Phillies jersey.

Steff and **Melissa** attended the annual **Asparagus Festival** in Mullica Hill back in May.

Harrison Township's Historical Society hosts this annual event to commemorate the first ever shipment of produce via air that took off right from Mullica Hill.

The event includes a Battle of the Chefs, where local restaurants compete with their best asparagus dish. We'll be back again next year, for sure!

RIBBON CUTTING! It's official—the crew held its ribbon cutting ceremony with the help of the Mullica Hill Business Association. As Chris mentioned, we are finally fully settled into our new home and couldn't be more excited for the future.

EAGLE WEALTH STRATEGIES

AERIE TAX & ADVISORY