Self Driving Cars??!!

Millions of self-driving cars may be on the road by 2035. A science fiction dream or reality?

Automakers around the world, and several technology companies, are not just working on driverless cars, but putting them on the street. Audi, for example, recently received a permit from the state of California to test self-driving cars on public roads. Mercedes Benz, Volvo and other car makers are also testing autonomous vehicles, and Google has about seven hundred thousand test miles on its driverless cars.

The driverless car has very sophisticated laser, GPS, and radar systems that allow it to generate a detailed three dimensional map of its route, and mounted cameras that feed data into a computer to read road signs. Some of the limitations at this point are the cars not being able to recognize and obey a policeman signaling traffic, and very rainy or foggy weather impairing the radar systems, but these issues are being addressed.

Google founder Sergey Brin stated in 2012 that the Google self-driving car will be available for the general public in 2017, and this has been confirmed by project director Chris Urmson indicating a possible release from 2017 to 2020.

Imagine the possibilities! Texting while driving (riding) will no longer be a problem. Catching up on reading, or even a nap could be among the things in which everyone in the car could do. No more traffic tickets because the vehicles will not exceed the speed limit, and no more accidents because of human error. Best of all is that visually impaired people will also be able to enjoy the independence and freedom that a self-driving car can provide. One can picture two elderly sisters who no longer have driver’s licenses getting into their driverless car to go to the Cheesecake Factory in the Danbury Fair Mall for a leisurely lunch. Or a man who had one too many cocktails at Molly Darcy’s being driven safely home in his autonomous vehicle.

Just more proof that things once only imagined can turn into reality with human ingenuity.

Sources: Wikipedia, Financial Times
Keeping up with Michael..

Each time our office gets ready to publish our little newsletter I get a chuckle when Sue gently reminds me – “I need you to get me your ‘Keeping Up’ note.” It’s funny to me because it seems like Keeping Up is exactly what I try to do every day. I am Keeping Up on the news, learning about what is moving the markets that day, attending meetings, reviewing client portfolios and meeting with staff. I mostly enjoy the opportunity to Keep Up on what is happening in the lives of our amazing clients; to learn about your joys, sorrows, family traditions, travel plans and milestones.

As most of you know I am committed to being physically fit so Keeping Up also means trying to keep up my speed and stamina on ice skates, on the ski slopes, trying to keep up with Laurie as she snowshoes around the golf course and making sure my feet stay faster than the treadmill. I look forward to Keeping Up with the changes of seasons so with the warmer weather I can get my road bike outside, dust off golf clubs, unwrap and tune-up the boat so we can put it in the water and get the barbecue grill ready for entertaining. As a parent and spouse it goes without saying that there is an automatic Keeping Up we do unconsciously as we hear from our kids and wife on what they are up to. Did I say ‘hear?’ I meant to say ‘see’ what they are up to because updates usually from Kyle and Kate and Laurie come in the form of text messages, email, Instagram pictures or Snapchat videos. But I am not complaining…all these new fancy smartphone tools let me stay connected and makes me feel like I am almost Keeping Up with technology!

Fabulous Food Finds: Market Place

Market Place Kitchen and Bar is located in a tiny strip mall in the dining district of Mill Plain Road. Many of us in the office have dined there and found each visit very enjoyable.

Market Place is a farm to table inspired restaurant, including the materials used on the interior that came from the 300 year old barn of Brookfield’s Gurski Farm.

The food is local, organic, seasonal and beautifully presented and varies from burgers to interesting salads to flatbreads or an assortment of entrees. We had the black quinoa-vegetable salad, Kobe burger, shrimp taco and the tuna special and recommend them all. The wine assortment is extensive and reasonably priced.

Reservations are recommended, and you can ask to sit in the bar room or the dining room. Either area is lively and you’re likely to run into a friend!

Marketplace caters and also serves lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch.

Can’t get to Mill Plain Road? You can visit their sister restaurants: 189 Sports Cafè across from Costco on Federal Road in Brookfield, or, Market Place Woodbury at 641 Main Street South.

Location: 33 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT

Food**** Atmosphere*** Cost $$

Who is David Wilson?

Its been awhile since catching up with Dave. Since joining Matson Financial Advisors in March of 2010 Dave has blended in well with the team. He feels blessed to be part of a real client centered firm.

Dave joined us at a time in his family’s life when his Dad was in failing health. He and his wife, Lynne had added on to his Dad’s home to be there to care for him. This really worked out well as Charlie’s health continued to fail and he passed in 2013 still able to be at home to his last day. Dave says, “I wouldn’t have wished for a better experience. It has helped me gain more wisdom which I now share with my clients who are going through Elder Care issues.”

Dave has remained very active in Litchfield politics as the Town Treasurer and Campaign Treasurer for State Representative Craig Miner (66thDist). He now is serving on the Board of VNA Northwest and on the Board of Trustees for his church.

Over the last few years he and Lynne have traveled to Florida and Arizona and plan a trip to St John this spring.
Sandy and Sue Boughton

If you live in the Danbury area you will recognize this last name. Yes, Sandy is related to the current and past Danbury mayors. But Sandy can go back even further with his relatives, in fact as far back as 1634! But we’ll start after then!

While Sandy has always lived in Danbury, Sue moved to Bethel from Huntington, Long Island when she was 14 years old so her dad could begin a job at Barden. Sandy met Sue at her Sweet Sixteen party hosted by a neighbor and attended by mutual friends. Two months later Sue invited Sandy to a New Year’s Eve party at the same friends home, both were smitten and never looked back.

During and after high school Sue worked in a CPA office, but she knew that was not going to be her career. She then worked at Davis and Geck, but in those days when you were 6 months pregnant you had to stop working! Sue was a stay at home mom until 1979 when she began her next career in the Danbury School system as a para-educator at Shelter Rock School. Sue helped first graders learn to read! Even though she retired last year, Sue still volunteers for their “Boxtops for Education” fundraiser which has brought in thousands of dollars, enabling the school to purchase TV’s, books, and chairs just to name a few.

Sandy attended Henry Abbot Technical School with a concentration in electrical. While Sandy worked a few years at both Dictagraph Corp. and then National Semiconductor, the majority of his working years was for the phone company, SNET as an Outside Plant Engineer. Sandy retired in 1995, the year they started working with Matson Financial Advisors.

Sue and Sandy raised two daughters, and have 4 grandchildren. Their eldest daughter, Laura, has followed in her mother’s footsteps and is a reading interventionist at Shelter Rock School. Laura has her teaching degree and is hoping for a permanent teacher’s position. Laura’s children are Sarah and Erin. The Boughton’s youngest daughter, Heather, is a teacher for the deaf at the American School for the Deaf in Hartford. Her children are Jonathan and Kayla. Grandchildren are an important part of Sandy and Sue’s day, between bus detail, helping with homework or taking them to church on Sunday mornings where they have been long time members.

The entire Boughton family is fortunate to call Candlewood Lake their home. Sandy and Sue have lived on the lake for 50 of their 51 years of marriage. Laura and Heather and their families, along with two cousins and an uncle, also have houses nearby on the “compound”. Boating has always been a love of the family, Sandy’s dad even owned a marina at one point before the war.

Asked what they see for their future, Sandy hopes for “status quo”, but maybe a return visit to his homeland of England.
Invention Trivia

According to Raymond Loewy, the industrial designer who introduced streamlining to packaging, what are the two most perfectly designed containers ever made?
A: The old Coca-Cola bottle and the egg.

Who invented charcoal briquettes?
A: Henry Ford, to make use of scrap wood left over in the manufacture of the Model T.

What famous circus performer introduced the flying trapeze?
A: French Aerialist Jules Leotard, who also invented the tights we call leotards.

A certain Capt. Hanson Gregory is credited with a curious invention: It has neither weight nor density; it can be seen but not felt. What is it?
A: The donut hole

Who invented the first hideaway bed ever patented in the United States?
A: Thomas Jefferson. The bed was hoisted and secured to the ceiling when it wasn't in use

What was plastic first used for in America?
A: Billiard balls. Brothers Isaiah and John Wesley Hyatt developed celluloid in 1869 while competing for a $10,000 prize offered by a company looking for a substitute for ivory in billiard balls.

Largelamb, an anagram pseudonym of a famous inventor, was one of the founders of "National Geographic" magazine. Who was he?
A: Alexander Graham Bell.

William Young invented what in 1800?
A: Different shoes for the left and right feet

Harold H Lipman received a patent in 1858 for what?
A: Gluing an eraser on the end of a pencil

Source: www.triviacountry.com

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