

Achieve More. Together.**





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ello again from Valley Agencies and First State Bank and Trust! I hope you have been able to get out to enjoy a few of the many great fall festivals and other activities this autumn. What a great time of year to relish in the splendor of the St. Croix Valley!

I am excited to share with you our fall edition of Simply Stated. As you have read in previous issues, we take great pride in creating personal connections with our clients and community. It is these connections that support our commitment to serve the financial needs of the St. Croix Valley just as we have for over 100 years. Once again, we are showcasing a few of our employees and highlighting a few of the many community and volunteer events that our staff participated in over the last few months.

Unfortunately, as the world evolves, fraud and scams are becoming unavoidable. In this issue, we share some ways to better recognize phishing scams which are becoming more commonplace as online and mobile phone usage increases. While your accounts and personal data remains safe at First State Bank and Trust, scammers are getting bolder in their pursuit of illicit funds. We've shared some insights on common phishing scams to help you better recognize a potential scammer. As always, if something doesn't feel right or make sense, call us directly and speak to one of our locally based employees. We are more than happy to help.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Valley Agencies and First State Bank and Trust, we appreciate the partnership! We enjoy the opportunity to be a resource and guide for you on your financial journey. We believe providing guidance gives you insights and information to make better informed financial decisions helping you achieve your goals. Please don't hesitate to reach out as you contemplate upcoming financial decisions.

Until next time,

Jason Howard PRESIDENT / CEO



can you spot a phishing scam?

Every day, thousands of people fall victim to fraudulent emails, texts, and calls from scammers pretending to be their bank. And in this time of expanded use of online and mobile banking, the problem is only growing worse. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission's report on fraud estimates that American consumers lost a staggering \$5.8 billion to phishing scams and other fraud in 2021—an increase of more than 70 percent over 2020.

IT'S TIME TO PUT SCAMMERS IN THEIR PLACE.

Online scams aren't so scary when you know what to look for. And at First State Bank and Trust, we're committed to helping you spot them as an extra layer of protection for your account. We've joined with the American Bankers Association and banks across the country in a nationwide effort to fight phishing—one scam at a time.

We want every bank customer to become a pro at spotting a phishing scam—and stop bank impostors in their tracks. It starts with these four words: **BANKS NEVER ASK THAT.** Because when you know something sounds suspicious, you'll be less likely to be fooled.

THESE FOUR PHISHING SCAMS ARE FULL OF RED FLAGS:

- **Text Message:** If you receive a text message from someone claiming to be your bank asking you to sign in, or offer up your personal information, it's a scam. **BANKS NEVER ASK THAT.**
- **Email:** Watch out for emails that ask you to click a suspicious link or provide personal information. The sender may claim to be someone from your bank, but it's a scam. **BANKS NEVER ASK THAT.**
- **Phone Call:** Would your bank ever call you to verify your account number. No! **BANKS NEVER ASK THAT.** If you're ever in doubt that the caller is legitimate, just hang up and call the bank directly at a number you trust.
- **Payment Apps:** Beware of text messages from someone claiming to be your bank saying your account has been hacked. The scammer may ask you to send money to a new account they've created for you, but that's a scam! **BANKS NEVER ASK THAT.**

You've probably seen some of these scams before. But that doesn't stop a scammer from trying. For tips, videos and an interactive game to help you keep phishing criminals at bay, visit www.BanksNeverAskThat.com. And be sure to share the webpage with your friends and family.

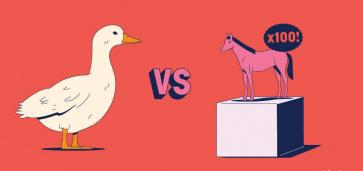
FOLLOW FSBT ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND LINKEDIN TO GET ANTI-PHISHING TIPS TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMMERS.

WOULD YOU RATHER FIGHT A HORSE-SIZED DUCK OR 100 DUCK-SIZED HORSES? BANKS NEVER ASK RIDICULOUS WOULD-YOU-RATHERS.

They won't ask your social security number in calls or texts either.







American Bankers Association In September, we celebrated our communities and clients with our annual Bayport Bash. We estimated that nearly 650 people attended this year's event and it great to see so many familiar faces after a two year break due to the pandemic. We'd like to thank everyone who made this event a huge success including Action Rental, Mabel's Ice Cream and Coffee, WDGY Radio, Bayport Police Department, Bayport Fire Department, Limitless Cycling, and Len's Family Foods. We hope to see you next year!





Tony Cavallaro FSBT

Vice President Commercial Lending in Oak Park Heights

JOINED FSBT IN 2022 (23 YEARS IN BANKING)

How do you spend your free time?

Family: Wife of 42 years 2 children & 3 grandchildren, golf & traveling.

What is your favorite local business? Not Justa Cafe in Bayport.

Heidi Cilley VALLEY AGENCIES

CSR/Agent in Hudson

JOINED VALLEY AGENCIES IN 2021

How do you spend your free time?

I enjoy boating on the St. Croix in the summer. Skiing in the winter in Colorado, visiting friends in Florida. Love watching the MN Wild play.

What is your favorite local business? The Dock in Stillwater.



Lyz Carlson FSBT

Branch Banking Manager in Oak Park Heights

JOINED FSBT IN 2016

How do you spend your free time?

With my 3-year-old daughter Ellery, my husband Dusty, our animals along with family and friends! I also teach dance part time at Legacy Dance Studio!

What is your favorite local business? The Daily Grind/Valley Bookseller!

Rich Stuart FSBT

Vice President Operations & Security in Bayport

JOINED FSBT IN 1992

How do you spend your free time?

Collecting football cards. Spending time with family and friends. Playing a pull tab or two and maybe a lottery scratch-off once in a blue moon.

What is your favorite local business? Willow River Saloon.

employee anniversaries

LISA JOHNSON / 35 yrs RICH STUART / 30 yrs DAN OLSON / 30 yrs JOHN RICHARDS / 15 yrs JASON HOWARD / 10 yrs DAVID TYVOLL / 5 yrs BRENDA LEMOINE / 5 yrs NICHOLE CHERRIER / 5 yrs LAURIE WOTRUBA / 5 yrs



2022 VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL SERIES Mark your calendars for our next Educational Series:

NOVEMBER 10 / 1PM CHARITABLE GIVING IN A MANNER APPLICABLE TO ALL

DECEMEBER 7 / 1PM CYBER SECURITY AND CRIME

Visit fsbt.com to register for these virtual events today. If you have any questions, please email marketing@fsbt.com. If you missed one of our previous Educational Series events, you can view the recordings on our YouTube channel.

american red cross blood drives

FSBT and Valley Agencies are hosting monthly American Red Cross Blood Drives at our Hudson office. These events are open to the public. If you wish to donate blood, please visit redcrossblood.org to secure your time slot and search HUDSON.

NOVEMBER 22 / 9AM-3PM DECEMBER 22 / 9AM-3PM JANUARY 3 / 9AM-3PM FEBRUARY 2 / 9AM-3PM



BLOOD DRIVE Hudson Community First State Bank and Trust 680 Annabelle Way



First State Bank and Trust and Valley Agencies employees enjoy giving back to the communities we serve. Some of the great organizations that we have been proud to support the last few months are North Hudson Pepper Fest, Community Thread, Meals from the Heart, and Hudson Backpack Program. **COMMUNITY FOCUSED.** First State Bank and Trust and Valley Agencies take great pride in the philanthropic support, events sponsorship, staff volunteering, and board leadership for several local non-profit organizations whose mission it is to serve the needs of the St. Croix Valley. Our employees value the opportunity to contribute to the betterment and enrichment of our community creating a better community to live, work, and play. Some of the many great organizations we are proud to support:





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MOBILE WALLET

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