



Community BANK

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COMMUNITY CONNECTION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring Issue | ©2020 F & M Community Bank



Photo By: Cherrie Brink

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Community Matters

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Get In Touch With Dan!

✉ DanC@FMCommunity.com

📞 office | 507.765.3823 ext. 1110
direct | 507.765.6010
cell | 507.251.6497
fax | 507.765.3826



The Latest At F & M

2020 is bringing about a retirement for us. Dianne Ruud is planning to retire as of March 31st after having been with us for over 37 years! We are planning an open house for Dianne where staff and customers can recognize her for her long tenure and wish her well during retirement. Please watch for a date and details.

And 2020 also brought about a new employee. Bruce Rother had been doing some information technology contract work for us for a couple years. But as of the first of the year, Bruce joined us as an employee. This gives us more hours of his expertise and in today's technology-based world, we can use as much of that as we can get! Welcome Bruce!

Daniel M. Christianson
CEO & Chairman of the Board

Notes from Dan's Desk

2020 Brings Change and New Opportunities

Never a dull moment!

by Dan Christianson

I've had the opportunity to serve on the Red Cross Board of Directors for the Southeast Minnesota region for a few years. It's an organization that provides some necessary services in our area as well as throughout the nation and world. Disaster relief and blood donations are probably two of the better-known services they provide. And you may have noticed that we've been hosting blood drives at our Preston location. I think we started those in January of 2019 which also coincides with the first time I gave blood. Since then, I've given three additional times.

I'd thought for years about giving blood, but I needed to gain control of my poor autonomic reaction to being poked and prodded with needles, being stitched up, etc. When Tami was pregnant with Alyssa, I thought it would be a good idea for me to also get a physical. And as part of that process, of course, they want to do a blood work up. So, when I went to have my blood taken, I sat down, rolled up my sleeve, and promptly fainted when they inserted the needle. They thought if I lied down that maybe things would go better. They tried and I fainted again. Luckily, they somehow got enough blood out of me to do the tests they wanted to run!

As you can guess, because of that experience, I shied away from giving blood. And it took me a lot of years to finally get to the point where I could handle the process. But I did it! And you can, too!

So, I'm inviting you to take the time to give blood. At some point in our lives, we or someone we know will need some life saving blood. And we can help by donating as often as possible. One of the things we're [Skies] doing to help the process is that we're hosting blood drives in the community room at our Preston office. Check the schedule in this newsletter for upcoming blood drive dates—hopefully, we'll see you at one of them! But if you can't make one of them, find one at redcrossblood.org. The life you save may be your own!

Elsie's Explorations

This past Christmas was my granddaughter Elsie's first. So, of course, she got a lot of attention! And we were lucky enough to be able to have lots of family time together both here in Minnesota and in Colorado. I didn't get as many photos taken as I would have liked, but I'm sharing a few with you of Elsie, snowshoeing in the backcountry with my wife Tami, and a backcountry ski/snowboard trip my son Jarad took my daughter Carryn, her husband George, and me on. Pictures always bring back some wonderful memories.



1. Elsie visiting with her great grandmothers Evelyn Christianson and Marlene McKenzie. 2. Elsie likes her squash! 3. Elsie playing Christmas carols with Grami Tami. 4. An abandoned mining site. 5. Following Jarad up Mount Baldy.

Community Matters

Important SECURE Act Provisions

The SECURE (Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement) Act was signed into law on December 20, 2019. Many of the Act's provisions took effect on January 1, 2020. This is not an exhaustive list of provisions, but the ones we think are of most interest to our IRA customers. If you have further questions on the SECURE Act Provisions, or would like to discuss opening an IRA, please contact us or stop by any of our branches and we'll be happy to help.

1) Traditional IRA owners can now contribute after age 70½. Since they were first available in 1998, Roth IRAs could receive contributions from individuals over 70½, provided that they were otherwise eligible. That is, Roth IRA owners had to have earned income—but not too much income. Now Traditional IRA owners will enjoy the same benefit. This means that Traditional IRA holders that **[Are]** continue to work—or that have working spouses—will be able to contribute even after they reach age 70½.

More of you may be working well past the “normal retirement age”; now you can also keep contributing to your Traditional IRA. Even though you may have to take required minimum distributions at the same time that you contribute to your IRA, there is a good chance that you will be able to contribute more than you have to distribute each year. So, this provision is a great way to ensure that you have sufficient retirement assets once you stop working.

2) Traditional IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) will now start at age 72. Not only can you make Traditional IRA contributions past age 70½, but now you can begin taking RMDs later. If you turn age 70½ in 2020 or later, you now can wait until age 72 to begin taking RMDs. Specifically, you have until April 1st of the year following the year you turn 72 to take your first RMD. This year-and-a-half delay is not necessarily the big relief that some in the retirement industry had hoped for, but this change certainly provides some benefit. The important thing to remember is this: if you already turned age 70½ by the end of 2019, then RMDs cannot be delayed under the new rule. In other words, anyone born on or before June 30, 1949, is subject to the old rule, which makes the 70½ year the first distribution year.

April is Community Banking Month!

Each year, community banks celebrate Community Banking Month in April. It's an opportunity for them to highlight their role in the communities they serve. Being an essential part of their communities, they support and invest in many initiatives and also encourage their employees to act as volunteers. Watch for fun events that will take place at each of our locations through the month of April.

Mark your Calendars!

F & M Shred Day Saturday April 25th

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in Preston

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Chatfield

Good Question!

Q: I am a Mobile Banking customer. Can I deposit my tax refund check(s) using the Mobile Deposit feature of my Mobile Banking app?

A: Yes, you can use Mobile Deposit to deposit your refund check, as long as that check is at or under the Mobile Deposit daily limit of \$2,000. Also, be sure to write “FOR MOBILE DEPOSIT ONLY at F & M Community Bank” on the back of the check, above or below your endorsement signature. Checks deposited through Mobile Deposit may take two business days to post.

Getting the Most from Your Health Savings Account

In 2020, the updated HSA contribution limits are:

- \$3,550 for individuals, a \$50 increase from 2019.
- \$7,100 for families, a \$100 increase from 2019.

If you have a high deductible health plan, you may already know the primary benefits of opening a Health Savings Account (HSA). But, in order to get the most out of your HSA, there are a few rules to understand.

Know the limits

The amount of money you can put into your HSA each year is limited. For 2020, the maximum contribution limit is \$3,550 for an individual plan and \$7,100 for a family plan. If you are over age 55, you can make an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution. These limits are subject to change each year. We publish them in our Spring Newsletter and they are available at www.irs.gov.

Avoid excess contributions

You are responsible for ensuring that your HSA contributions do not exceed the annual limit. If you don't catch excess contributions before filing your income tax return, the amount that was over-contributed is not tax deductible and you could pay a 6 percent excise tax. If you realize the mistake, consult with your tax advisor and contact a Personal Banker to properly withdraw excess funds from your HSA.

Contributing after year-end

Keep in mind that your HSA can help reduce your tax obligation if you have not met the maximum annual contribution limit by December 31. You can make prior year contributions to the HSA up until the tax filing deadline, which is typically April 15.

Preston's Point Of View



A Tough Ticket to Get

by Chuck Aug

This past November, the Gopher football team was enjoying a great season. I was able to attend the Nebraska and Iowa game. And now here it was, the last game of the year. A trophy game against Wisconsin for The Axe. And much more. The winner would be the Big Ten West Champion with a chance to play in the National Playoff possibly and almost assured a spot in the Rose Bowl. The Rose Bowl! The granddaddy of the bowl games and a place the Gophers had not visited since Kennedy was president. Gopher fans have waited for this as if waiting for the return of the Holy Grail. Surely infinite happiness would result if we could win this game. I had to go.

I wanted to take some family members to the game so I needed four tickets. But tickets were scarce. The perfect storm. Border battle, rivalry game, big time implications. A perfect storm where want and desperation makes one throw caution to the wind.

My daughter asked if I had found any tickets. I said damn right! On Craigslist. Four great seats, priced less than others, seller is out of town so need to do Apple Pay and get tickets by email. I asked her "Do you think this is legit?" She said "Absolutely not, but you are going to buy them anyway". She knows me better than anyone.

And try I did. Being the savvy Craigslist buyer, I had the seller send me pictures of the tickets before paying. I then tried to set up my Apple Pay to make payment. I tried it. Did not work. I tried a couple more times with no luck. Frustration gave me pause and finally I came to my senses. This was a scam. Verified by a posting on Craigslist by someone that had the same experience.

Now what? It was Friday before the game and no tickets. Well, I walked into the Branding Iron on Friday evening and secured 2 tickets from someone in 2 minutes for less than the scammer wanted. Later that evening, Dan texted with a ticket available so now I had three in about an

hour. I had worked on the scammer tickets for five days!

So, six of us went to the game with three tickets and hope. We would see what was available when we got to the game. And guess what? We found a scalper selling tickets to the student section. Which worked great because our grandson wanted to sit with his friends in the student section. We now had four tickets. Vonnie and Nikki decided to watch the game on TV and volunteered to not go.

So into the stadium the four of us headed. After I got thru the gate, I got a call. It was Max. His ticket had already been scanned! He could not get in to the stadium. You got it. We ended up with a bogus ticket after all. The only good thing is I tried to buy another ticket from the scalper but he wouldn't barter on the second ticket so I passed.

I told Max to stay put at the ticket office and Nikki would come and get him to watch the game with them on TV. When Nikki arrived at the ticket office, she saw the scalper that sold us the bogus ticket. He was selling tickets to a couple of prospects. Nikki ran over and shouted at the scalper for selling a bogus ticket. Bam! The couple disappeared. Now, the scalper is mad for losing a sale and yelling back that he did not sell a bogus ticket. The scalper yells at Max, Nikki shoves the scalper and now the cops are taking notice. An officer comes over and asks what is going on. Nikki explains and the cop asks the scalper to leave. It was at this time that a ticket office staff person came out to Nikki, Max and the cop. He says he could not help but overhear the situation. He then told them he had two unclaimed tickets available, 50-yard line, first row, second deck. Do you want them? Nikki says "You Bet!" But she tells him she is double parked now. No problem the ticket person says, I have a parking pass, too if you want it.

Who is the scammer now?



Aberg's Acre

by Brian Aberg

My Dad purchased a new tractor when he was 70, so after 5 years without purchasing a new tractor I thought maybe I should at least ask the price of a new tractor. The sticker shock and the trade boot price were enough to bring me back to the reality that I better maintain what I have.

Looking back over the last 40 years, I found that I had purchased 28 new John Deere tractors. I still have 7 tractors but I did sell one to a nice young neighbor boy in 2019. It was one of my favorites, a JD 7810 mfd that was 20 years old. I had spent nothing on the tractor for repairs. It even had the original batteries. Watching the tractor going by hauling corn for someone else, I had to stop and listen to the deep tone of the mufflers. I hope the new owner gets to have as many good memories as I have.

In The Community

F & M Community Bank is hosting American Red Cross Blood Drives regularly in 2020. Our next drive date is scheduled for Friday April 3rd from 10a-4p in Preston's Community Room.

The American Red Cross has an emergency need for blood and platelet donors to give now to help ensure lifesaving patient care isn't impacted this spring. Right now, the Red Cross has less than a three-day supply of most blood types, and blood products are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations come in.

How to help

Now is the time to help ensure the shelves are stocked with lifesaving blood products for patients who depend on transfusions for survival. Please make your appointment to donate by downloading the free **Red Cross Blood Donor App**, visiting **RedCrossBlood.org** or calling **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**.

Links used in blog/website article:

- Give – www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive
- Red Cross Blood Donor App – www.redcrossblood.org/bloodapp
- RedCrossBlood.org – www.redcrossblood.org

Once or twice a month on Fridays, the staff at F & M will "pay" to wear jeans. We chose 15 different local charities and with the help of the Bank matching dollar for dollar, we collectively donated \$6,975.00 back to our communities in 2019!

2020 Blood Drive
Join Us
August 19th
October 22nd
December 4th

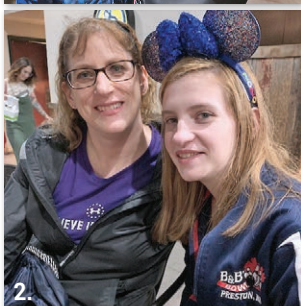
Chatfield Check-In

by Kari Cousineau, Personal Banker



Happy Spring! Hopefully that's true when you're reading this! 😊 I'm writing this on the 3rd day in a row of snow and a storm coming later in the week, so I'm trying to be positive that we will have a beautiful Spring (and Summer!)! We know Spring will be coming...we just hope it's soon!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Open House on December 6th. It's always nice to see everyone stop in and visit with us and each other! We stayed very busy **[Someone's]** all day as the weather was perfect for us. We always remember the year that we had a bad snow storm and only 2 people stopped in!



We hope that everyone had a great holiday season. My family spent Christmas at home, just the four of us: my husband Paul, my daughter Samantha, son Michael, me and our poochies. It's nice to sit around and do a whole lot of nothing once in a while! We did go to my hometown, Appleton, WI the weekend before Christmas to spend time with my mom, brother and his boys. I took my nephew, Dillin to see Santa...not something my own kids wanted to do when they were little! My other son Paul "PK" spent the holiday in Texas at Fort Bliss. He figures that the less he takes time off, the sooner he can be done with the Army and get back to school. 😊

This time of year is always a time for reflection on the last year. Our family had a lot of positives and great experiences. We were very lucky to be able to travel more this year...lots of new memories. I'm looking forward to 2020 and what it will bring for myself and everyone around me. We wish everyone a fun, happy, healthy and successful new year!



1. Kari and nephew Dillin 2. Kari and daughter Samantha 3. Kari's husband Paul, daughter Samantha and Kari in Cozumel 4. Samantha and Paul

Summit Club News

Springtime Renewal

Enjoying Traditions and Venturing into New Territories

Springtime is so refreshing; snow is melting, some sunny days (yay!), a few rainy days to freshen the air, grass is turning green, trees are budding, flowers are starting to poke through the dirt, new life all around! Along with spring's renewal, we invite you to come along as we embark on our traditional day trips we so enjoy and try some new things too! We will be adding events and trips regularly so make sure we have your email address, and follow us on Facebook @fmcommunitybank to watch for new adventures throughout the year! Come along and reach new heights with the F & M Summit Club, where we make traveling easy!

Summit Club Spring Travel Tip:

Ditch the plastic while traveling! Instead, invest in packing cubes and reusable laundry and shoe bags. Want to have your own toiletries and stay TSA compliant? Use bar soaps and shampoos, or purchase reusable refillable BPA free containers. Refilling your own containers saves money and the environment! Lastly, bring refillable water bottles and coffee mugs and fill them once you are through security. Concerned about safe drinking water? Choose a bottle with a built-in purification system. For the most up-to-date TSA rules, visit [tsa.gov/travel](https://www.tsa.gov/travel).

Summit Day Trips



Wednesday, June 10th

Mystery Trip Under the Stars

We changed it up a bit and planned a fun day that extends into the evening for you. We will leave later in the morning and return later in the evening. You do not want to pass this trip up, just saying! The trip conveniently departs in all communities. Preston F & M Community Bank at 10:00am, Fountain Historical at 10:15am, Chatfield F & M at 10:30am, and Rochester F & M at 11:10am. Be adventurous and book your reservation by May 15th for \$134 per person.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, June 20th
Born to Run
Bruce Springsteen
Tribute at Chatfield Center for the Arts

Sunday, August 16th
Minnesota Twins Game

Wednesday, September 2nd
Chanhassen

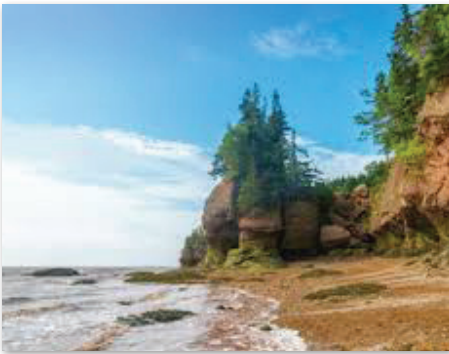


A Friendly
Reminder

Summit Club Trip Cancellation Policy:

If a cancellation is necessary, we will make every effort to provide either a partial or full refund. However, we cannot always guarantee a refund. There may be times refunds will not be possible due to tickets purchased, meal numbers, guarantees, etc. The customer also has the option of trying to find someone to purchase their tickets. If a tour is cancelled due to insufficient reservation numbers, the customer will receive a full refund.

Summit Extended Trips



July 10-16, 2020

Maritime Breezes

Join us for 7 days and 6 nights as we tour Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick! Highlights include a stop at Peggy's Cove in Halifax, a visit to the legendary home of Anne of Green Gables, a traditional lobster dinner, a journey to the site of the Hopewell Rocks, a ride on the Digby Ferry to travel the Evangeline trail and so much more! This is definitely a once in a lifetime **[Gray]** experience. \$3534 per person double occupancy (optional Travel Protection Plan available for \$200). Contact Brenda or Allison for a detailed itinerary and accommodations. It's not too late to sign up for this amazing trip!



September 21-27, 2020

Rails and Sails of the Sierra Nevada

This AMAZING trip features San Francisco, Lake Tahoe and the Old Vine Train. The trip includes 10 meals and round-trip airport transfers. We'll spend two nights in San Francisco, enjoy a narrated city tour as well as a narrated bay cruise to see Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge. Then ride the famed California Zephyr for a scenic trip through the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. We will spend two nights in Lake Tahoe boasting casinos and great entertainment for evening fun. We'll visit the once bustling Virginia City and tour the 1859 Chollar Mine and see the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. Then we'll take a leisurely cruise on the turquoise waters of Lake Tahoe aboard the MS Dixie II. Our trip will end with a tour of the California Capitol Building and visit the California State Railroad Museum and enjoy a farewell dinner and wine tasting aboard the Old Vine Train as we roll along the Sacramento River. Contact Brenda or Allison for a detailed itinerary and accommodations. \$3689 per person double occupancy (optional Travel Protection Plan available for \$200). Reserves are made by a \$400 deposit, and the final payment due June 1st.

AND finally...



March 11-23, 2021*

Best of Ireland

It's the trip you've been asking for! From the bustling capital of Dublin to quaint seaside villages to historic Northern Ireland, you'll see it all on this charming holiday featuring Irish history, music, dance, cuisine, scenery and architecture. This "best of" tour lets you experience 6,000 years of history spread across the dales, valleys, cliffs and castles of Dublin, Killarney, Co Mayo, and Northern Ireland. Wondering what it's like on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland? Join us and find out! Contact Brenda or Allison for more information and a full itinerary. \$4999 per person double occupancy. Reserves are made by a \$599 deposit (this includes the optional Travel Protection Plan available for \$299), and the final payment due November 1st. This all inclusive package includes 17 meals, airfare, hometown pickup, local guides, and gratuities.

***Want to learn more about this trip? Get all your questions answered? Join us for a Travel Show on Monday April 6th at 5:30 in the Preston Community Room!**

The Summit Club Team

Register for trips by calling your local branch or email us at summitclub@fmcommunity.com



Brenda Reicks

BrendaR@FMCommunity.com
Direct Line: 507.765.6004
Cell: 507.273.5479



Allison Whalen

AllisonW@FMCommunity.com
Direct Line: 507.765.6002
Cell: 507.993.8688



Misty Sass

MistyS@FMCommunity.com
Direct Line: 507.765.6016



In January, Preston staff held an informal Soup and Chili Cook-Off and out of 5 entries, Matt's White Chili won the most votes for Best Soup or Chili! It's simply amazing! Here's the recipe for you to enjoy."

White Chili

Ingredients:

- 1 pound tender chicken breast meat cubed
- 2 tsp of garlic powder
- 1 cup of chopped onion
- 2 15.5 oz cans of Great Northern beans drained
- 1 14.5 oz can of chicken broth
- 8 oz chopped green chilies
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon of cayenne pepper
- 1 cup of sour cream
- 1 cup of heavy whipping cream

Directions:

Cook chicken breasts in pan with water or oil until done. Cube cooked chicken. (Alternately you can use precooked cubed chicken)

Sauté chopped onions with garlic powder in 1-2 tablespoons of oil for a few minutes and add cooked chicken. Simmer and stir for a few more minutes.

Add the beans, broth, green chilies, salt, pepper, cumin, and cayenne pepper. Mix thoroughly.

Bring above to a boil and reduce heat and simmer slowly for 20 to 30 minute stirring occasionally.

Turn off heat and stir in sour cream and heavy whipping cream. Let stand for 20 minutes and serve. For better flavor cool and refrigerate **[When]** overnight and reheat the next day. This will tend to even bring out more flavors just like any chili or oyster stew does when reheated.



In our recipe box, we call these Bulau (pronounced boola) Bars!

Boola Bars

(You will need a fork...nice and gooey!)

Ingredients:

- ¾ Cup – Butter
- 1 Cup – Flour
- 1 Cup – Oatmeal
- ¾ Cup – Brown Sugar
- 1 Teaspoon – Baking Soda
- ½ Teaspoon – Salt

Directions:

Mix together in bowl. Keep a little bit of this mixture aside to sprinkle on top at the end. Place the remaining into 9x13 ungreased pan and bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

In a saucepan melt together:

- 35 – Caramels
- 3 Tablespoons – Butter
- 4 Tablespoons – Milk

Pour mixture over pan of bars. Then sprinkle the following over pan of bars:

- 8 ounces – "Milk Chocolate" Chocolate Chips
- Left over bar mixture from above

Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, let cool and serve.

Bakers & Banker's Full Disclosure: VERY RICH



Peace of Mind for Your Loved Ones

We understand that funeral services and expenses may not be the most pleasant topic to discuss. However, by preplanning you can provide your loved one's peace of mind, protect your assets, and earn dividends.

There are a variety of flexible funeral expense life insurance and annuity policy options for you to consider. Rest assured, this sensitive topic is our area of expertise. Cheri has over 15 years-experience guiding individuals, like you, through this.

There are many shining stars to prepaid funeral funding. You still choose your funeral home. You choose lump sum funding or payment plans. You prioritize payments of decedent's reasonable funeral expense in an estate recovery situation. And funds receive dividend growth. Here's an example: a 60-year-old-male can gain a 19% (1) growth upon deposit, while a 60-year-old female can gain 22% (1). Plus, 3% (2) dividends may be received annually thereafter (1% guaranteed).

*(1) dividends are not guaranteed

*(2) based on standard issue, non-smoker rates

Crop Insurance Notes:

March 15: Sales Closing Date Multi-Peril Crop Insurance

2019 & 2020 ARC/PLC Signup Deadline - Should you update your PLC yields? F & M Insurance Services has reports available that gather yields from 2013 – 2017 by FSN which are required if you want to update your yields at FSA. Is ARC or PLC right for you? We have tools available that breakdown your options and an ARC/PLC and SCO Signup Decisions page available to producers for information, including payment calculators.

April 29: 2019 Production Reporting deadline As difficult as the 2019 crop year was, we hope that everyone has 100% of their crop harvested by the date of this publication; however, even if you don't, we need to report your production. If not harvested by March 15, we can use temporary **[Their]** yield information to calculate estimates of coverage and premiums. This is important because temporary yields are NOT updated when the producer provides a production report or a claim is finalized after the April 29 PRD for the current crop year.



Cherrie Brink
Agency Manager/Insurance Specialist
CherrieB@FMCommunity.com

Preston
507.765.3387



Dan Root
Crop Specialist
DanR@FMCommunity.com

Chatfield
507.867.1605



Brenda Reicks
Insurance Specialist
BrendaR@FMCommunity.com

Preston
507.765.3387

*Local insurance experts
meeting you where
you are and providing
solutions for your needs.
Making insurance easy
for you!*



by Scott Rustad

Scott Rustad
Registered Representative
Scott.Rustad@ceterais.com

Tax Time

You still have time to make a contribution that may reduce your 2019 taxes

Yes, April 15th is the dreaded tax day. It is also the deadline to make contributions that could reduce your taxes or provide a bigger return. The most common contributions are to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's). An IRA offers tax benefits that can help you save money now and save for your retirement. There are 2 types of IRA's:

Traditional IRA which allows for tax-deferred growth and a tax-deduction now

Or

Roth IRA which allows you to take advantage of tax-free growth

An individual retirement account (IRA) offers tax benefits that can help you save the money you'll need for your retirement.

With a Traditional IRA you can take advantage of a tax deduction and tax-deferred growth. With the ROTH IRA you can take advantage of tax-free growth!

There are several contribution options to consider that you can take advantage of at tax time. Give me a call, I am happy to offer suggestions that would be best for you.

Securities offered through Cetera Investment Services LLC, member FINRA, located at F & M Community Bank. Cetera Investment Services LLC and F & M Community Bank are not affiliated.

Not FDIC Insured • Not a Bank Deposit • No Bank Guarantee • May Lose Value

Opening Doors with Jayne Johnston

Solutions that fit you!

Spring cleaning? It may not look like it outside yet but spring is coming (I promise).

Spring is tokened as a great time to clean and that can be more than just getting the cobwebs out of corners. It is also a great time to cleanse (or dust off) your finances. One of our experts can quickly take a second look at your home loan to offer suggestions that benefit you. Maybe your goal is to lower your interest rate or shorten the term. Or, how about some extra cash to make the updates you have been putting off? Maybe you have been considering upsizing or downsizing to a new home... whatever it is, we are here to help!

There are a lot of options to consider but no need to fear; we are your local experts! We will sit down and talk about what makes sense for you. A solution designed to fit your entire financial picture for now and years to come.

It is our committed job to ensure we stay abreast to the market. The current market offers interest rates on the low end over the last several years. Many homeowners have taken advantage of these rates by refinancing their home; which has limited the amount of homes on the market. According to the National Association of Realtors, the inventory of homes [Be] for sale is the lowest it has been in 20 years. This becomes advantageous for homeowners to sell, and at the same time more challenging when buying.

Your solution might be new construction. At F & M Community Bank, our construction loans connect with your final long-term loan, which means you only pay closing costs once! It's our commitment to help you from start to finish to create that perfect fit for you. We will leave picking out flooring and paint colors to you.

So, enjoy more time looking at samples of tile because at F & M, we make financing easy!



Jayne Johnston
Vice President
Retail Mortgage Manager

JayneJ@FMCommunity.com
Direct: 507.867.6009
Cell: 507.269.2984



Matt's Trivia!



Matt Quanrud
Technology Officer

MattQ@FMCommunity.com
Office: 507.765.3823
Direct: 507.765.6008
Fax: 507.765.2551

April is Community Banking month so I thought my trivia column would touch on a little of the history of our community bank.

F & M Community Bank opened its doors for the first time on March 27, 1911. Our bank name at that time was Farmers and Merchants State Bank. The bank had \$25,000 in capital and was located on the south side of the courthouse square in Preston. We have had many name changes over the years but how fitting it is to now have "community" in our name. We expanded by opening a branch in Chatfield in 2000 and Rochester in 2015 to even broaden our community base.

Did you know that F & M Community Bank started a Summit Club in 1994? The Summit Club has brought many together to enjoy each other's company, offered traveling opportunities and other benefits. The first issue of the Summit Club Newsletter, which is now called the Community Connection Newsletter, was dated September 15th, 1994. The newsletter is just another resource we provide where "community" is emphasized.

F & M Community Bank has over the years has kept pace in offering many services to its customers including Internet Banking, Telephone Banking, Mobile Banking, and Mobile Capture to name just a few. I invite everyone to really look over our website, FMCommunity.com (not just to use the Online Banking Link!) to see all of the services we offer and also to see how our employees are involved in local community organizations.

F & M Community Bank and our employees have taken great pride in serving our communities over the years and it is a testament to the Christianson family for emphasizing the importance of serving and giving back to our communities.

And finally, a bit of history about some equipment that has been used over the years:



Did you know that my stapler, which I have had on my desk since I started employment with the bank on March 8, 1982, has a manufacturing date of May 10, 1935? It is similar to a Neva-Clog Stapling machine which was patented that year. It is the best stapler in the bank because it never jams like the new ones do. I guess "Neva-Clog" is a fitting name! For 38 years I have used this stapler and I wonder what stories it could tell me from those who used it over the past 85 years!

Did you know that the tellers used to dispense coin with a Brandt Automatic Cashier machine that was patented in December of 1921? I think we still used these machines when I started in 1982.



I could go on and on about the history of the technology changes, office equipment changes, but I can say that one thing probably hasn't changed since the first days of the bank and that is that we have always been here to serve our communities.

F & M Community Bank, N.A.

Balance Sheet 12/31/2019

Cash & Due From Banks	4,029,100
Securities	25,691,577
Loans (Net of Loan Loss Allowance)	102,097,323
Other Assets	7,045,123
Total Assets	138,863,123
Deposits	120,000,544
Other Liabilities	2,722,447
Capital	16,140,132
Total Liabilities and Capital	138,863,123

Missing Word Contest

Winter Winner: Michele Thompson "When Life Gives You Snow, Make A Snow Angel". **2019 \$100.00 Winner:** Amy Zincke

We have hidden a phrase in this issue. The phrase will have a missing word. Look for any words in the enclosed [brackets]. Rearrange the words to form the phrase. One word will be missing. Figure out the missing word, write the missing word(s) down on the entry form, bring this to a branch or mail to: Missing Word Contest, F & M Community Bank, PO Box 467, Preston, MN 55965. All correct entries will be entered into a \$25.00 drawing. All entries received throughout the year will be entered into a year-end drawing for a \$100.00 grand prize.

Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

Missing word _____



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229 Main St. N • PO Box 519 • Chatfield, MN 55923-0519
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PRESTON PRIDE CLEANUP DAY

Meet at 9am at the Trailhead
Cleanup from 9am-10:30am
FREE lunch at 11am for
all volunteers at the Trailhead



Take pride in where you live and work and cleanup the town! Pick up trash, cleanup the green spaces and make Preston beautiful! All groups, businesses, families and individuals are invited to join us! Come prepared by bringing your own tools. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. **WEAR GREEN!**

Contact Gabby at 507.765.2153 with any questions!



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Free Community Paper Shredding



Bring your documents to **FREE Shred Day!**

9:00am to 10:30am | Preston F & M Community Bank
11:00am to 12:30pm | Chatfield F & M Community Bank