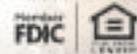


Winter Issue
2024

F&M *Community*
BANK
WE MAKE BANKING *EASY!*
Preston | Chatfield | Rochester



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A NOTE FROM DAN
THE CHUCK DIARIES
INSURANCE UPDATES

MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR
SUMMIT CLUB
THE INSIDE SCOOP
#INSIDEFM

MONEY MATTERS
COMMUNITY IN ACTION
MARK YOUR CALENDARS



DAN CHRISTIANSON
CEO | Chairman of the Board
Direct | 507.765.6010
DanC@FMcommunity.com

A *note* FROM DAN

The end of the current year and the beginning of the next one is when we all like to talk about making changes. And as I said in our last newsletter, this is not only our last newsletter of 2024, but also the last one where we will be doing a mass mailing to everyone. Going forward, you will be receiving an email with a link to our newsletter. As I said in our last newsletter, we hope that transition goes smoothly for you and for us. But please be sure to let us know if you experience any problems with this change.

We weren't quite able to complete all of our exterior work in Preston before the weather stopped cooperating, so we'll be finishing that in the spring. Thanks to all of you who use our Preston office and endured the changes. And thanks to our staff for continuing to provide exceptional service during the remodeling project! We think the improvements inside and out were long overdue and show our commitment to our customers, the community, and our staff.

And speaking of improvements, how about Maple Leaf Services' new building?! One of the reasons we've tried to acquire properties adjacent to our [Sleigh] Preston office is that we could hold them until they were needed for projects like this. I think it's a win-win for everyone in this case!

One thing many retired people do this time of year is think about how much to withdraw from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Many need to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) in order to keep the IRS from penalizing them. An option those people have is to make a distribution directly to a charity which is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Making a QCD is also a tax benefit since those distributions are not subject to income tax. They also qualify as part of the RMD. That's one of the things that Jan and I would work on with our mother at the end of the year—who should get how much of a QCD. I'd strongly recommend that if you have an IRA that you support the charity of their choice by making a QCD from your IRA instead of taking an RMD. That sure was a sentence filled with acronyms!

Another thing that can be done with your IRA to benefit charitable organizations is to have the charity be a beneficiary of your IRA upon your death. That avoids income tax having to be paid on the amount they receive. Our mother made use of that option and those funds can now be used by a charitable organization in the community for the benefit of others. What a great way to leave a legacy and have a positive impact on your community.

That about wraps things up for 2024. Again, I want to express our appreciation for the opportunity to do business with you. Without your placing your trust in us, we wouldn't be able to do the things we do to make the communities we serve better places for all of us.

Have a peaceful Christmas season and a New Year filled with good health and prosperity.



CHUCK AUG
 President | COO
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 ChuckC@FMcommunity.com

THE CHUCK DIARIES

I NEED A JOB

I graduated college in the Spring of 1980 and took a job in Faribault at a loan company. After a year, I returned to Preston to sell insurance. This turned out to be much harder than I had imagined and I was not very good at it. After about a year trying to make it work, Vonnie explained it to me very simply one day: “You need to make some money”.

Properly motivated, I began my search for a new job. In those days, the early 1980s, the ag sector was experiencing a boom. Land prices were rising, expansion was strong and the local Bank was the center of it all. So, I thought it would be a great place to work.

These were the days before LinkedIn, INDEED, Facebook, any social media. You found a job the old-fashioned way – you begged for it. So, I called the local Bank owner and President, A.L. Christianson, and asked for a job. We arranged for a day for me to stop for a visit with him. AL was a very imposing person to a 25-year-old. He was a very successful, prominent, involved local businessperson. And I had no experience in that world. It was my first of many [Ring] nervous days for me at the Bank.



1983

After a short discussion, he said he would get back to me. A few weeks passed and the second in command at the Bank, Verdonn, called me for a lunch date. Over lunch at the Branding Iron, he discussed the Banks need for someone to collect old debts, do a bit of lending and generally stay out of the way until I learned the business. Verdonn asked what I would need to be paid to take the job. I was very vulnerable for such a discussion being that I was starving to death selling insurance and Vonnie’s words were still fresh in my ear. A bit off guard, I said “\$1,000 a month”. And thus, my banking career was born.



1988

On my first day on the job, one of the younger lenders said to me “What is AL doing hiring a rounder like you?” I told him apparently AL had forgot my indiscretions from my younger days, and it would be best if he did not remind him! I needed the job. My first “desk” and “office” was a countertop behind the teller line. Verdonn gave me a box of old, uncollected loans and told me to dig in. That was how my banking career started.

And now, almost 43 years later, it is ending. There have been too many great stories, fellow workers and customers to begin to list it all. But I can say this. The reason I stayed all these years is because of the people – fellow employees, customers, the Christianson family. They have all made this a great career for me and my family.

And, I did end up making a bit more than \$1,000 a month.

Thanks to all!



CHERRIE BRINK
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 ID #20017463

INSURANCE UPDATES

I scrolled through my camera to find some wintry scenes for this article and found – none – from last year. Must’ve been an unremarkable winter.

The Old Farmer’s Almanac predicts a mild and dry winter for Minnesota in 2024-2025 – this information was provided by Google AI overview. Do I need to credit Artificial Intelligence as a source? Colder temperatures in early and late January, late February and early [Are] March. NOAA’s winter outlook predicts colder-than-average temperatures, especially in western Minnesota. They also predict above-average precipitation, likely to be snow, with an average of 50 – 55 inches.

Frozen pipes can cause costly damage to your home, including water damage and mold growth.

BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN

- Check sprinkler or irrigation systems. Make sure everything is turned off and drained.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines. Fix drafty windows and plug drafts around doors. Identify your home's heating vents.
- Know how to shut off your water.
- Protect your pipes. Wrap them with insulation.

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING

- If pipes run through cabinets or basements, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.
- Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.

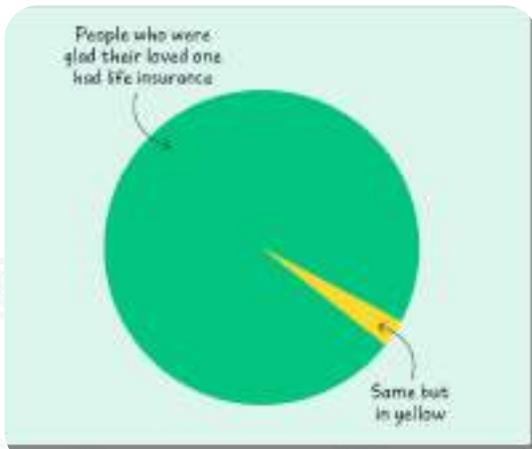
BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE

- Shut off the water immediately.
- Thaw pipes with warm air, with a hair dryer or space heater. Do not flame space heaters unattended and do not use kerosene heaters or open flames.
- Be careful thawing water back on. Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any leaks.

Did you know F & M Insurance Services also provides specialist consultation for your life insurance needs? In 2025, Cherrie Brink will have achieved forty years-experience with life insurance planning and products. But who’s counting? Please reach out if you need help calculating how much insurance you need or would like to review the policies you have.

***according to a 2023 report from LIMRA and LifeHappens.org*

“ I’ll work with your needs, current portfolio, budget and conditions to tailor a plan for you. ”



3 Reasons buying or reviewing your life insurance should be your 2025 New Year’s Resolution:

\$ Life insurance is relatively inexpensive – More than half of Americans (55%) overestimate the price of insurance premiums by three times their actual cost.**

+ The coverage you get from work may not be enough. And it’s usually not portable should you decide to change jobs or become self-employed.

📈 It is easier to get life insurance when you’re younger. While many factors go into determining the cost of life insurance, age plays a significant role. The longer you wait, the more expensive it can be. Also, the longer you wait, the more likely you are to develop age-related health complications.



SCOTT RUSTAD
 Registered Representative
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It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Christmas time is filled with memories. Listening to Christmas music stirs up the memories for me every year. Growing up, music was very prominent in our house. I remember Christmas music being played on the piano by my mother from October through the end of December. My mom, Donna, was the church organist and choir director. She would put in hours [You] practicing her organist playlist and music for the church program every year. At the time, I of course did not know how special this really was.

Music was also a big part of holiday celebrations. Christmas gatherings at our house would involve everyone singing Christmas carols while standing around my mom playing the piano, Duane (my dad) playing the violin and Uncle Allen playing the guitar. It was just like some scenes in the 1954 film, White Christmas! (I would think they were all nuts as I was playing with my toys!)

When the music was not of the homemade variety in our home, the 8-track player was on. We would be listening to the popular music artists of the time, singing their Christmas songs. These songs are still as popular as they were then! As with the title of this article, Andy Williams was a favorite with his song, It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.

I hope you enjoy your Christmas season and enjoy the music that comes along with it! 

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Bing Crosby | A. Merry Christmas |
| 2. Carpenters | B. Rock Around the Christmas Tree |
| 3. Nat King Cole | C. Blue Christmas |
| 4. Bing Crosby/David Bowie | D. Holly Jolly Christmas |
| 5. Eartha Kitt | E. You Make It Feel Like Christmas |
| 6. Jose Feliciano | F. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer (sang it first) |
| 7. Mariah Carey | G. All I Want for Christmas |
| 8. Neil Diamond | H. White Christmas (1954 film) |
| 9. Gene Autry | I. The Christmas Song |
| 10. Burl Ives | J. Frosty the Snowman (TV show) |
| 11. Brenda Lee | K. Santa Baby |
| 12. Elvis Presley | L. Feliz Navidad |
| 13. Jimmy Durante | M. Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth |



How well do you know some of the classic songs and artists?

Match the music artist to the Christmas song they are most associated with.

Answer Key:

1-H, 2-A, 3-I, 4-M, 5-K, 6-L, 7-G, 8-E, 9-F, 10-D, 11-B, 12-C, 13-J



Scott D. Rustad
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THINKING OF PURCHASING A NEW HOME, SECOND HOME, OR INVESTMENT PROPERTY IN 2025?

- ✓ Simple application process
- ✓ Work with a local lender through the whole process
- ✓ Competitive interest rates



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ASHLEY WINSLOW
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AshleyW@FMcommunity.com
507.765.6002

We Are Here to Help!



Extended Trip



upcoming trip

NORMANDY & GEMS OF SEINE RIVER CRUISE

Join us as we travel on the Seine River from Paris to Normandy on this 12-day cruise on the Scenic Gem.

WHEN: August 25 - September 5, 2025

Contact Brenda or Ashley for details



Summit Club Directors



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Insurance Agent, CBCD

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Cell | 507.273.5479



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Lender

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Cell | 507.259.3926



WE
WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU

EMAIL US A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FROM A RECENT SUMMIT CLUB TRIP OR PICTURES TO SHARE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Travel Packing **QUICK TIPS**



- **Roll, Don't Fold:** Rolling clothes instead of folding them saves space and minimizes wrinkles.
- **Wear Heavy Items:** If you're traveling with heavy clothing like boots or a coat, wear them during your journey to free up space in your luggage
- **Tech Organization:** Use a small pouch or Ziplock bag to organize your tech accessories like chargers, cables, and adapters. This keeps them easily accessible and tangle-free.
- **Stuff Small Items:** Utilize the inside of shoes or hats to stuff small items like socks, underwear, or chargers. This maximizes the use of every bit of space.
- **Layer with Vacuum Bags:** For bulky items like sweaters or jackets, use vacuum-sealed bags. They compress the items, saving space in your luggage.



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 canceled due to insufficient reservation numbers, the customer will receive a full refund.

SUMMIT *club* News

We had lots of fun in September on our Mystery Trip! A day was spent in Stillwater, MN, a riverboat lunch cruise on the St. Croix River followed by a trolley tour of Stillwater. So many beautiful homes and history! Our final stop was at Aamodt's Apple Orchard for a little tour, a delicious slice of apple pie and a glass of cider!



What We've Been Up To!

Mystery Trip Fun!



By the time you get this we will have been to our Branson Country Christmas Show at Treasure Island!

Stay tuned for any upcoming events we plan! Do we have your email address? If not, be sure to send it to us so you get any planned events right away! You can also check at each of our branches to see what we have [Listening] going on or give us a call! We don't want you to miss out having fun with us!

Also, be sure to check out what is happening at Chatfield Center for the Arts!



ChatfieldArts.org

Check it out

We want to share some fun pictures of our family!



Ashley with her husband Colin and daughters Lorelei and Isabelle



Brenda with her husband Kurt, daughter-in-law Bree, and 3 granddaughters at the Alzheimer's Walk in Rochester

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Anniversaries

We Appreciate All Of You!

9
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Laura Witt
Personal Banker

9
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Tami Larson
Assistant VP |
Lender

9
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Jana Janosik
Operations
Accounting
Assistant

21
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Scott Rustad
Registered
Representative

22
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Kari Goldsmith
Loan Processing
Supervisor



Nate Askelson
Assistant VP



Michelle Woodard
Vice President



Ashley Winslow
Assistant VP



F & M COMMUNITY BANK, N.A.

Balance Sheet 9/30/2024

Cash & Due from Banks	8,010,921
Securities	47,580,466
Loans (Net of Loan Loss Allowance)	140,595,402
Other Assets	13,644,538
Total Assets	209,831,327
Deposits	182,629,455
Other Liabilities	12,000,156
Capital	15,201,716
Total Liabilities and Capital	209,831,327



New Hires

MEET MAKENNA GATZKE

Administrative Support & Receptionist for F & M Insurance Services

If I could have a superpower, it would be **controlling the elements.**

I am happiest when **I am outside with my animals.**

My dream job as a kid was **to be a veterinarian.**

A movie title that best describes my life is **Home On The Range.**

I could give a 40 min presentation on **cows** with absolutely no preparation.

The most interesting person I've ever met and talked with was **my Grandpa Jon Gatzke.**

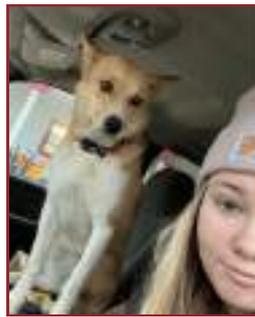
On the weekends, you most likely find me **out and about with friends.**



Makenna with her dairy cow Dumbo



Totem pole made by Makenna's Grandpa Jon



Makenna with her dog Mia



Makenna with friends

MEET SAM RUSTAD

Unregistered Sales Assistant

Where are you from? **Fountain Minnesota. Born in Minneapolis.**

What is the most interesting thing about you? **Maybe more of a fun fact. But I've torn both of my ACL's now. So, I'm exploring early retirement in my sports career.**

What was your first job? **Worked at the Branding Iron as a Busser.**

What's your favorite place you have ever visited? **I would say Gettysburg. I've always enjoyed history dating back to first grade. I know a lot about the Civil War, but most specifically the Battle of Gettysburg. My senior year we got to visit there on our class trip and it was cool to piece together the things I already knew to what I was seeing in front of me.**

What skill would you like to master? **Hopefully investment advising!**



Sam's cat, Stan and dog, Summit



Sam (left) with friends



Sam's dog, Schroder



Sam



Sam (2nd from the right) with softball team

#INSIDEFM



Heather Borgen's new grandson, Zion with older grandson, Zayden (6)

— HAPPY —
Retirement



Carol Throckmorton's Retirement Party



Preston Remodel Update



F & M sponsored Bowling Team took 2nd place for the first quarter!



*** Western Day Parade ***

TRICK OR TREAT



Halloween Fun!

MONEY MATTERS



The Driftless Flyfishing Co.



B & B Bowling



Terri's Tender Lovin' Stitches
Terri's Tender Lovin' Stitches



The Sweet Stop



Fiddle & Fig



Preston Floral & Gift

SHOP LOCALLY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season, consider giving the gift of local support by shopping at nearby businesses. Whether you're searching for the perfect gift card, a unique handmade creation, or delicious catering options for your festive gatherings, your neighborhood shops have a wealth of offerings to explore. Shopping locally not only ensures that you find something truly special, but it also helps your community's economy, sustaining the livelihoods of artisans and entrepreneurs who call your area home. By choosing to spend your dollars close to home, you're contributing to a cycle of prosperity that benefits everyone. This year, let your holiday shopping be a celebration of the innovative businesses our community.



The Engraver



Urban Artifacts of Preston



Silver Lake Foods



The Branding Iron

Community IN ACTION

#InTheCommunity



Rochester Area Foundation



Tamsen Leimer joined the Rochester Area Foundation staff and weGive365 members in supporting Rochester's Community Back to school Block Party and Parade efforts in providing area students with school supplies by volunteering time packing backpacks.



Tamsen Leimer, with friends Denise and Keri, volunteered at the NAMI walk on September 28th at Cascade Lake.



F & M partnered with ABC 6 News and United Way to "Stuff the Resource Rooms" at the local high schools. These Resource Rooms provide basic necessities to students. The drive was a success! Thank you to all who donated!



Chris Braendlin is F & M's designated Meals on Wheels Delivery Man for Family Service Rochester. Every month, Chris delivers hot meals and a visit to Seniors in the area. He also is Treasurer, Finance and Grants Chair for The Rochester Repertory Theatre.



Tamsen Leimer, with Rotary friends serving dinner at Jeremiah Program.



F & M sponsored Channel One's 2024 Empty Bowls To-Go Event which raises money for people struggling with food security.



Michelle Woodard is a member of the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee which works closely with a designated farm family each year to host the annual Family Night on the Farm in Winona County. This was a very successful event held August 8, 2024 at Miller's Clear Crest Farm in Lewiston which the attendance was approximately 1,300 people!



Jim Oeltjenbruns, Erik Topness, Michelle Woodard and Dan Root volunteered in the Pork Producers food stand at the Fillmore County Fair this past July.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

Holiday
OPEN HOUSE

..... 

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

10 AM - 4 PM

PRESTON | CHATFIELD | ROCHESTER

**Join us for a day of treats, socializing
and giveaways!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#InTheCommunity

Holiday Open House



10 am - 4 pm

Preston | Chatfield | Rochester

Friday, December 20, 2024

Blood Drive



10 am - 4 pm

Preston Community Room

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Dates are subject to change

RedCross.org/Give-Blood

Missing Word Contest

Fall Missing Word Contest Winner: Donna Novotny "Grateful for all things BIG and small."

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, email to MissingWordContest@FMcommunity.com, 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 \$100.00 grand prize.



Entry Form

Name

Address

Missing Word

100 Saint Anthony St. N | PO Box 467 | Preston, MN 55965-0467
229 Main St. N | PO Box 519 | Chatfield, MN 55923-0519
1820 W Frontage Rd. Hwy 52 NW | Rochester, MN 55901-8791

#InsideFM
#CommunityMatters
#InTheCommunity
#SummitClub



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



We are excited to announce that starting next quarter, our newsletters will be delivered exclusively in an electronic format. This change allows us to provide you with timely updates. This edition will be the last physical mailing you receive, but don't worry—we will still have some extra physical copies at any of our branches and you can still always access the newsletter on our website at your convenience. To ensure you continue receiving important updates, please update your email address through your online banking or by calling one of our branches.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we make this exciting transition.

we thank you

