



January - March 2024

Volume 13, Issue 1



Member
FDIC

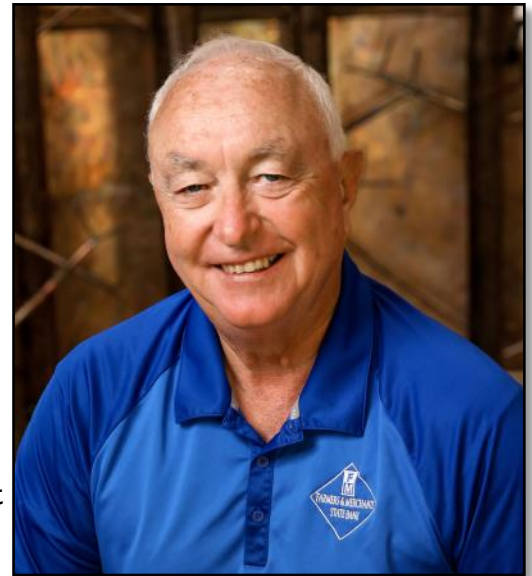


Our Two Cents



Cheers to Almost 35 Years!

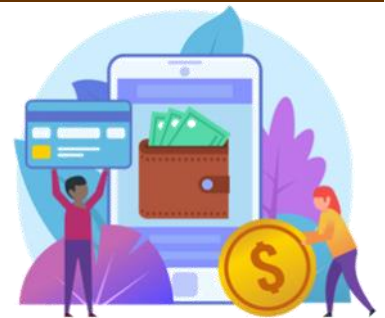
The new year always brings many changes, but this year is a big one for F&M Bank's outgoing CEO Al Berube! After almost 35 years, Al is retiring from wearing ties and is looking forward to every day being casual Friday. Arriving in NYM from North Dakota in 1989, Al and his family jumped right in to become pillars of our community. Whether serving on multiple local and regional boards, replacing the roofing on many local structures, or making loans to farmers, companies and individuals to help achieve their dreams and grow NYM, Al's dedication and desire to make our community thrive is evident. As President of the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota (now BankIN), Al was a natural to promote the positive impact community banks have on their local areas. Always ready to share his wisdom, his mentorship has been valuable to many of the bank's current employees who carry on that commitment to NYM. He'll still serve on the bank's Board of Directors, and we look forward to hearing his infectious belly laugh around the bank once in a while. Never one to sit still for long, we're sure Al will be up at dawn, watching the sun rise while on his morning walk, and making plans to enjoy each and every day. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement! You will be greatly missed!



Digital Wallets To Go Live

January 2024!

You'll now be able to enter your debit card information into your "digital wallet" on your cell phone and use your phone or watch to pay at certain terminals! Keep your eye out for this new feature early 2024!



Have You Seen us Around?

At Farmers & Merchants we try to be as involved in the community as possible! We've been volunteering for the Backpack for Hunger program, engaging via the Adopt-a-Class program, putting on halftime games, creating a reality fair for high school students, speaking to classroom students, providing financial literacy software to the school, speaking about fraud to community groups, and so much more! We love to be involved in our wonderful community!



Watch Out for Romance Scams!

In 2021, the FBI reported some 24,000 victims across the United States reported losing approximately \$1 billion to romance scams. And the FBI notes the actual amount is likely higher as many people do not report romance scams. With Valentine's Day approaching, check out these tips from NACHA to help avoid falling for a romance scam:



- No matter how long you have been communicating with someone online or on a dating app, only send money to people you know and with whom you have established a close and personal relationship. Never send money to anyone you have only communicated with online or by phone.
- Research the person's photo and profile using online searches.
- Beware if the person asks you to leave the platform where you "met" and communicate directly by text or phone.
- Proceed with caution if the person attempts to isolate you from friends and family.
- Beware if the person promises to meet in person but then always comes up with a reason to postpone.

An additional note: If someone becomes a victim of romance or another form of fraud, they should report it as soon as possible to their financial institution and local law enforcement.

How a Romance Scam Works

A cybercriminal creates a fake profile to court victims online.

The relationship moves fast and trust is gained.

The scammer asks the victim for money, receives it, and vanishes.

Community Events for Winter & Spring 2024

January 3rd:

NYM Community Kick-Off @ NYM City Hall Ballroom starting at 5:30pm



March 30th:

Easter Egg Hunt @ Smith Park (weather permitting) starting at 10:30 am



April 6th:

NYM Lions Auction @ NYM City Hall Ballroom starting at 6:00 pm.

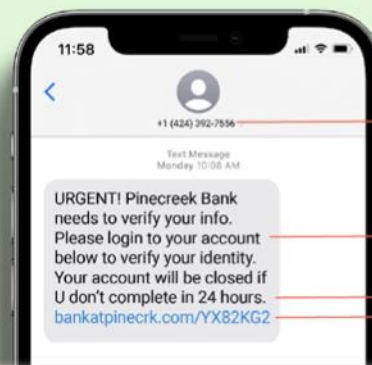


Tech Tips from the ABA Banks Never Ask That: Text Scam Signs!

Did you know that fake bank messages are the most reported text scam? See 5 clues it's not really your bank behind the screen at BanksNeverAskThat.com.

#BanksNeverAskThat

5 Signs That Text is a Scam



- 1 Strange number
- 2 Asks you to log in
- 3 Odd grammar
- 4 Uses scare tactics
- 5 Asks you to open a link

