

## How Money Smart Are You?

*FDIC Releases New Tools to Build Financial Capability*

The FDIC wants to help people of ALL ages gain financial knowledge. Their MONEY SMART program offers a series of educational tools to teach financial literacy. They recently introduced 14 self-paced games and related resources to provide practical knowledge, to help consumers manage their finances with confidence. Users play games to learn more about borrowing money, managing debt, saving, and investing. 'How Money Smart Are You?' complements other Money Smart products that can be used in conjunction with financial literacy activities, including webinars or workshops, in local communities. Check out the vast resources to engage K-12 students, adults, older adults, and small businesses at <https://playmoneysmart.fdic.gov>.



## Introducing... Justin Rowe

We are pleased to introduce Justin Rowe, Vice President, Sr Ag & Commercial Lender. "Justin is a great addition to our team," said Brian Matzke, President. "He brings over a decade of solid lending experience and a strong desire to serve our customers." Justin likes the community focus and common sense thinking that he found at Citizens State Bank. "I take great pride in listening to my customers to match their needs with our best products. Local decision-making helps us deliver quicker answers and a higher level of service," commented Justin. "I enjoy the small town feeling of our communities, where people know each other and genuinely care about their neighbors." When he isn't at work, Justin enjoys spending time with his wife, working on remodeling projects and restoring classic cars. Stop in so Justin can say HELLO! He looks forward to meeting you.



## Year-End Tax Planning

### Consider IRAs & HSAs



Maximize your tax savings when you contribute to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or a Health Savings Account (HSA).

**Contact a banker to learn more.**

Consult your tax advisor for eligibility and tax benefits.



## Please Join Us in Spreading Holiday Cheer!

### Toy Drive

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Bank.

**Waverly through Dec 13**

We are partnering with **HLWW National Honor Society**.

**Montrose through Dec 20**

We are partnering with the **Buffalo Rotary and Toys for Tots**.

### Food Drive Nov 22 – Dec 10

We are partnering with **WCCA**. Please bring non-perishable food items or cash donations to the Bank.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the WCCA for receiving a \$3,000 Strong Communities Award, recognizing their efforts to empower residents to improve their physical, social and economic well-being.

## Happy Holidays!



# Protect Yourself from Fraud and Scams. Check Out These Helpful Tips.

Thousands of people fall victim to fraud every year as scammers develop new ways to steal our money and identity. Regardless of your age, stay alert and aware to protect yourself. Here are a few examples of current scams:

## Medicare & Health Insurance Scams



Receive an email, call, and even a knock on the door, claiming to be from Medicare and offering pandemic-related services if you simply “verify” your Medicare ID number. Don’t share your personal information if you didn’t initiate or verify the contact.

## Covid-19 Scams

Scammers make contact offering up to \$9,000 for funeral expenses if a loved one passed away due to Covid. While this IS a legitimate program through FEMA, they do not initiate contact or ask for payment for this benefit. Contact FEMA directly to apply for benefits.

## Telemarketing/Phone Scams

There are countless telemarketing scams. Simply hang up or say “no” to unwanted telemarketers or unsolicited callers. Here are three examples of telephone fraud:

- **The Fake Accident** – You are instructed to wire or send money immediately because your child or another relative is in the hospital, or urgently needs money. Contact your relative directly to confirm the story before sending money.

- **Fake Charity** – You are asked to donate to a charity which may not exist. Contact the charity directly if you wish to donate. **Charitynavigator.org** is one trusted website to research charities.
- **IRS Scam** – You receive a call that you owe back taxes. They know portions of your personal information, so it sounds legitimate. They threaten arrest, fines, etc... if you don’t pay immediately with a credit card or wire. Note: The IRS always contacts FIRST via mail.
- **You Won a Prize** – The caller gives you great news and asks for a small processing fee to claim your prize. Beware.

Avoid answering calls from unknown numbers and be aware of caller ID spoofing technology to mask the caller’s true phone number. Do not provide payment info over the phone unless you are confident it is going to a reliable source.

## Account Problems – Payment Required

You receive a text or email regarding a problem with your internet provider, software, credit card, or account. It looks legitimate with the company logo. They urge you to click a link and provide payment information to avoid serious problems. NOTE: Similar scams occur with ads on

social media. Phony retail sites use photos lifted from actual online stores to make their fake store and products look legitimate. If an order is placed, they have your payment info and the goods are often never received, or are a sub-par, cheaper knock-off version.

## Online Scams Targeting Students

- **Save or Earn Money by Downloading This App** – By clicking on a link, you can win or save money. When you click on the link, malware is installed on your device so they can attempt to steal personal information. These links are often shortened to bit.ly, making it difficult to see that it’s a malicious link. .
- **Card Cracking** - A scammer offers an online job or promise of financial aid requiring a money exchange. They ask for bank account information to deposit money and make a deposit with fake, stolen, or counterfeit checks. Next, they ask the victim to send them money or they make an immediate withdrawal from the victim’s account. By the time the fake deposit gets flagged, the money has already been stolen.



## What To Do If You Fall Prey to a Scammer

Stop all contact. Keep copies of all communications. Report the matter to your local police department and the Federal Trade Commission – [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint) or 877-382-4357.

### Additional Strategies to Protect Yourself:

- Don’t share personal or financial information with someone who contacts you. Use your known contact method to reach out to them and verify their need for your info.
- Hang up on unwanted calls and delete unwanted emails.
- Never wire money to someone you don’t know or can confirm their authenticity.
- Shred documents with personal information.
- Check your accounts often.
- Use unique words or phrases for online passwords

**Contact us if you have any questions. Your security is our goal.**

*(To learn more, visit our website: [bankwaverly.com](http://bankwaverly.com). Click on “Security & Resources tab / Fraud Prevention page”. This newsletter article contains excerpts from “The Top Scams Affecting Senior Citizens Right Now (and how bankers can help)” and is shared with permission from the author, Aimee Leeper, Senior Housing Crime Prevention Foundation. It also contains excerpts from “Part 2, by Mike Burke” on the Shazam® Blog: [shazam.net/news/shazam-blog](http://shazam.net/news/shazam-blog) Shazam is our card processor for our Mastercard® debit cards.)*

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### Montrose Office

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