

» President's Letter

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. In the pages that follow we aim to provide helpful information for managing your personal finances. We also share tidbits about upcoming events and introduce new employees and employees in new positions. In the remainder of this space I will update you on some of the other goings on at DeWitt Bank & Trust Co.

After a long career in banking, twenty-one years of which were at DeWitt Bank & Trust Co., Ruth Miller has retired. Although she is certainly deserving of a public show of appreciation, we respected Ruth's request that we not hold an open house in her honor. I do want to acknowledge, however, what a dedicated, conscientious, and cooperative employee Ruth has been for this company for all of those years.

In June the community voted us the winner of two awards sponsored by the DeWitt Chamber and Development Co. As a testament to the knowledge, skill, and commitment of our employees, we were named *Business of the Year* as well as winner of the *Excellence in Customer Service* award. Winning these awards reinforced the pride I have in our team of financial professionals.

In August we discontinued our Phone Wizard telebanking system. Viewed as a modern convenience when introduced in the late 1990's, telebanking has been replaced by other conveniences such as online banking, mobile banking, text alerts, and online bill pay. If you are not currently utilizing any of these electronic services, I encourage you to check them out. And don't forget, we still offer a live, helpful voice when you call the bank for assistance!

EMV cards have received a great deal of attention in the media lately. An acronym for Europay, MasterCard, and Visa, the companies that created the EMV knowhow, EMV is a method for securing financial transactions initiated at payment terminals and automated teller machines by using an embedded integrated circuit. In other words, EMV is a chip card. Many credit card issuers, including DeWitt Bank & Trust Co., have issued chip cards to their customers. We will be issuing chip-enabled debit cards to replace existing cards as they expire beginning sometime in the first quarter of 2016.

Finally, as we approach year-end, we look forward to seeing you at one or more of our seasonal events. On Thursday, November 19 we will be hosting our Senior Thanksgiving Dinner. Then, on December 9 we will be heading to Circa 21 to enjoy a presentation of "It's a Wonderful Life". And, of course, our annual Holiday Party will take place in our main bank lobby on December 4. If I don't see you at one of these events, please accept my well wishes for a joyous holiday season and prosperous new year!



Greg Gannon
President and C.E.O.



Ruth Miller

thank
you!

» Our Team Continues To Grow

We are very pleased to welcome Andrea McGivern on our team. With over 20 years of experience working with individuals and business owners, Andrea is an excellent resource for your tax and accounting needs. Andrea's experience working with local business owners in a variety of industries, will help her relate to your individualized needs. She can answer your tax and accounting questions, and help you run your business smoothly.

Prior to joining the staff at DeWitt Bank Tax & Accounting Services, Andrea owned her own accounting practice and worked for two Quad Cities CPA firms. She has experience in investing and retirement planning. She earned her accounting degree from St. Ambrose University and her Masters in Accounting from the University of Iowa. You will find Andrea in the Wilton and DeWitt offices. Give her a call today at 563-659-5175.



Andrea McGivern
Accounting Manager/
CPA

"I am excited to announce the promotion of Shelby Burke to a Personal Banker," said Paul Hill, Vice President of Retail Banking. "Shelby has been with us for over four years in the teller area. She has been learning the bank from the inside out. Shelby is excited to step into this role for us!" Shelby will be happy to assist you with new accounts, CD renewals, account questions and electronic banking. Contact Shelby today at 563-659-3211 or stop in and congratulate her.



Shelby Burke
Personal Banker

We've welcomed these new additions to our staff in the last few months. They will provide you the exceptional customer service you expect at DeWitt Bank & Trust. Zach Lively and Emily Lowery joined our staff as part of our student program. Zach and Emily are active seniors at Central DeWitt High School. Marissa Meland and Tracey Pingel are the newest members of our team. They've joined the deposit service team and you will see their friendly faces in our teller line. Stop by and welcome them!



Zach Lively



Emily Lowery



Tracey Pingel



Marissa Meland

» Six Ways To Boost Your Credit Score

Consumers looking for a new place to live should be mindful of the critical impact credit scores can have on their housing options. "Your credit history and credit score are important, especially when you are looking to buy or rent a home," said Paul Hill, Vice President of Retail Banking. "A positive credit score can help you when qualifying for credit and in obtaining the best interest rates."

Credit Score



To make sure you're building a healthy credit history, consider the following tips:

- **Request a copy of your credit report – and make sure it is correct.** Your credit report illustrates your credit performance, and it needs to be accurate so that you can apply for other loans – such as a mortgage.
- **Set up automatic bill pay.** Payment history makes up 35 percent of your FICO credit score. The more you pay your bills on time, the better your score. Avoid missed payments by setting as many of your bills to automatic pay as possible. Utilize our Bill Pay – it's free – and you can make payments via your mobile phone too!
- **Keep balances low on credit cards and revolving credit.** Racking up big balances can hurt your scores, regardless of whether you pay your bills in full each month. You often can increase your scores by limiting your charges to 30 percent or less of a card's limit.
- **Apply for and open new credit accounts only as needed.** Keep this in mind the next time a retailer offers you 10 percent off if you open an account. However, if you need a new line of credit, don't jump at the first appealing offer; give Mindy Burggraaf or Bree Henderson a call to see how we can help you.
- **Talk to a credit counselor if you're in trouble.** Using legitimate, non-profit credit counseling can help you manage your debt. For more information on debt management, contact the National Foundation for Consumer Credit (www.nfcc.org).

Get a free copy of your credit report annually from each of the three credit reporting agencies, at www.annualcreditreport.com, or call 1-877-322-8228. Note there may be a fee to get your numerical credit score.

» Tax Law is Constantly Changing. What's new for 2015?

Here are some highlights of the 2015 tax law, as it reads today. Changes could be coming before the end of the year, as the IRS finalizes the 2015 tax law.

Mileage Reimbursement Rates for 2015. The optional standard mileage allowance for owned or leased autos for business travel taking place in 2015 is 57.5 cents. The deduction for medical miles is 23 cents per mile and the charitable mileage rate is 14 cents per mile.

Note to those who have purchased health insurance in the Marketplace. You should report any changes in your circumstances (i.e. income, employment, family size, etc.) to your Marketplace provider. This will help ensure you are getting the correct premium assistance.

Penalties increase for failure to have health insurance. For the 2015 tax year, the 2010 Health Care Reform law (sometimes referred to as Obamacare) requires individuals and their dependents to have health insurance that includes minimum essential coverage. If you do not have this, you may have to pay a penalty of \$325 per month without coverage. The 2014 penalty amount was \$95 per month. Some exceptions apply.

Depreciation Expensing. Unless Congress changes the rules, for tax years beginning in 2015, the dollar limit for expensing fixed asset purchases will drop to \$25,000, the beginning of the phase-out amount will drop to \$200,000, and expensing won't be available for qualified real property. The generous dollar ceilings that were available in 2014 are no longer available. The 50% bonus first-year depreciation generally won't be available unless Congress acts to extend this provision.

Health Care Act additional taxes. Just a reminder that higher earning taxpayers need to plan for the additional 3.8% Medicare Investment Income tax on net investment income. Also, the Act provides for an additional 0.9% Medicare tax on wages earned in excess of \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing jointly and \$125,000 for married couples filing separately.)

It's our pleasure to help you with your tax needs, call or stop by either one of our offices to speak with one of our tax professionals. Please call 563-659-5175 or stop by our DeWitt office if you have questions or need assistance with tax planning and/or tax preparation. A tax professional is available in our Wilton office, as well. The CPA schedule in Wilton is set to accommodate our client needs, so call ahead for an appointment.



Jodi Olson
Accounting Manager



Andrea McGivern
Accounting Manager/
CPA



**Contact Andrea today at
Wilton Bank and set up your Tax
& Accounting planning meeting
at 563.732.3211 or
amcgivern@dewittbank.com.**



Advice • Answers • Action... Always

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Don't forget to RSVP for our Senior Thanksgiving Dinner and Holiday Bus Trip.

» Bulletin Board

Upcoming Holiday Bank Hours

Closed
Veterans Day, November 11

Closed
Thanksgiving, November 26

Closed
Tax & Accounting, November 27

Closed at Noon
Christmas Eve, December 24

Closed
Christmas Day, December 25

Closed at 3:30pm
New Year's Eve, December 31

End of year processing deadline will
be 3.30pm on December 31st.



Our Senior Thanksgiving Dinner
will be on November 19th at 10:45am.
The event will be held at St. Joseph's Hall.
RSVP today by calling (563) 659.3211!



Come celebrate the holiday
season with DeWitt Bank & Trust
on our holiday bus trip to
Circa 21 in Rock Island, IL!

The trip is Wednesday, December 9th.
The bus leaves the bank at 11:00am.
Tickets are \$55 per person. **RSVP today
to Jodi or Anita at (563) 659.3211.**



Member's Choice Award

WINNER
Business of the Year
2015



Member's Choice Award

WINNER
Excellence in Customer Service
2015

Thank you to our customers
and staff who helped us be #1.

**Thank you for
your business.**



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.