

Winter 2022

NEWS from AMERICAN TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

New Year Letter

2022
HAPPY NEW YEAR

The New Year is upon us and we hope you had a joyous Christmas season with friends and family.

By lending to farmers, entrepreneurs and small businesses, American Trust and Savings Bank has helped our local economy. When you bank with us, you help support your neighbors and the community at large.

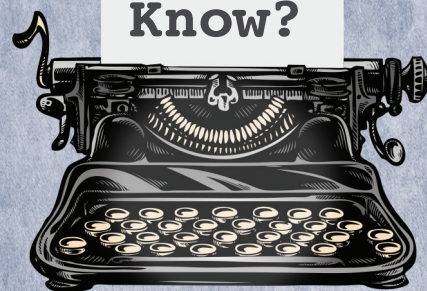
Our community support for the North Cedar school system and local charities helps improve the quality of life for our children, grandchildren and our community. It's the kind of support you only find from a long-standing, locally owned business.

Make it your New Year's resolution that the next time you have a loan or deposit need, whether it's for your farm, business or personal life, to take a look at American Trust and Savings Bank.

Thank you for your business and may you have a safe and prosperous New Year!

Miss
Karna
Sandy
That
Jeri
Rich
Gumalle

Did You Know?



According to *The History of Cedar County, Iowa*, published by the Western Historical Company in 1878, the first school in Lowden was taught by Miss Huldah Monroe in a building rented for the purpose, in 1859. The first school house was a one-story frame, built in 1860, near the site of the German Zion's Evangelical Church. It was later enlarged to two rooms, and sold to the church society when a new building was erected.

A two-story brick school house was built and furnished in 1874, at a cost of \$6,000. It had two rooms and recitation room with two teachers in Summer and three in Winter.

At one time there were three German schools; two in connection with the churches and a private school, by Petersen Brothers, held over their store rooms. There were eight students.



Ag Projections for 2022

Projections for 2022 crop acreage have begun to roll in over the last couple of months, but the tenor of those estimates shifted during the harvest. The early estimates reflected the bullishness of the significant crop prices last year. Later estimates tempered those prices with the matching increases in agricultural inputs. Explore those projections and the factors that shaped them by visiting: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/hart/HartNov21.html>

Guess the photo and you could win!



Can you guess where in Lowden this photo was taken? If so, submit your entry, including your name, address, phone and email address. Drop it by or send it to the bank at:

**309 McKinley Avenue
PO Box 129
Lowden, IA 52255.**

Correct entries will be entered in a drawing for four (4) \$25 gift certificates to local merchants. Entries must be received by February 28, 2022.

***Watch our next newsletter for the ATSB Quiz.
You could win!***

We have winners!

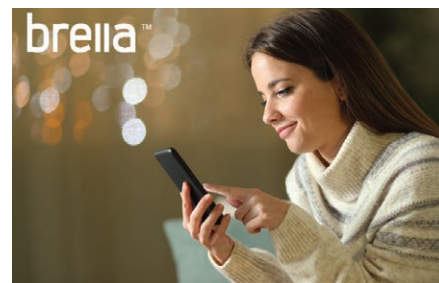
Diane Esbaum, Steve Gehrls, Janis Krafock, and Barb McCreight correctly guessed that the photo in our Fall newsletter was taken at 508 Grant Avenue in Lowden. They will each receive a \$25 gift certificate for Lowden merchants.



Employees, directors and their immediate families are not eligible.

Keep your debit card safe with Brella

With the free SHAZAM Brella app, you can access balance information anytime, anywhere via your smartphone, tablet, or the Internet. As a



Brella user, you can add travel notices and you are able to pause your debit card with the transaction control feature.

Brella is a free mobile app that helps protect you from fraud by sending alerts when your card is used so you can quickly detect unauthorized activity. You choose which alerts to receive and when. Alerts include:

- Purchases exceeding thresholds you set.
- Purchases made via the internet or over the phone.
- Suspicious or high-risk purchases.

With Brella, you can also:

- Check your account balance without logging in with the Quick Balance feature.
- Turn your debit card off or on. This is great if you misplace your card!
- Find nearby ATMs.
- Submit travel notices.
- Log in with just your fingerprint.

To download a free Brella app, simply search for “Brella—Card Manager” in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Don't forget your IRA Contribution

Individual retirement accounts, or IRAs, are personal savings plans that offer tax advantages as you save for retirement. The amounts in these accounts generally are not taxed until you take a distribution starting as early as age 59½ but not later than age 72.

For 2021, you generally can contribute up to \$6,000 to a traditional IRA. This limit can be split between a traditional and a Roth IRA but the combined limit is \$6,000. If you are 50 years of age or older before the end of 2021, the maximum contribution that can be made to a traditional or Roth IRA is \$7,000.

Regardless of your age, an IRA at American Trust is a safe and secure way to save for retirement while reducing your tax bill at the same time. If you're changing jobs or about to retire, rolling over your retirement account to a secure investment is also very important.

American Trust also offers SEP accounts. A SEP (simplified employee pension) plan provides employers with a simplified method to make contributions toward their employees' retirement and, if self-employed, their own retirement.



SCAM ALERT

Amazon impersonators: what you need to know

Has Amazon contacted you to confirm a recent purchase you didn't make or to tell you that your account has been hacked? According to the FTC, since July 2020, about one in three people who have reported a business impersonator scam say the scammer pretended to be Amazon.

These scams can look a few different ways. In one version, scammers offer to "refund" you for an unauthorized purchase but "accidentally transfer" more than promised. They then ask you to send back the difference. What really happens? The scammer moves your own money from one of your bank accounts to the other (like your Savings to Checkings, or vice versa) to make it look like you were refunded. Any money you send back to "Amazon" is your money (not an overpayment) — and as soon as you send it out of your account, it becomes theirs. In another version of the scam, you're told that hackers have gotten access to your account — and the only way to supposedly protect it is to buy gift cards and share the gift card number and PIN on the back. Once that information is theirs, the money is, too.

Here are some ways to avoid an Amazon impersonator scam:

- Never call back an unknown number. Use the information on Amazon's website and not a number listed in an unexpected email or text.
- Don't pay for anything with a gift card. Gift cards are for gifts. If anyone asks you to pay with a gift card — or buy gift cards for anything other than a gift, it's a scam.
- Don't give remote access to someone who contacts you unexpectedly. This gives scammers easy access to your personal and financial information — like access to your bank accounts.

Have you spotted this scam? Report it at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

If you think someone has gotten access to your accounts or personal information, visit [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/identity-theft). There, you'll find steps to take to see if your identity has been misused, and how to report and recover from identity theft.



Mark Your Calendar

If you would like us to publish upcoming community events, be sure to contact us at the bank. We'll include it in our quarterly newsletter.

Lowden Lions Soup Luncheon

Sunday January 23, 2022
Location: Lowden AM Vets Hall
Time: 11 am – 1 pm



Fish Fry

Visit the Lowden American Legion on these dates for the All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry:

Friday, February 4

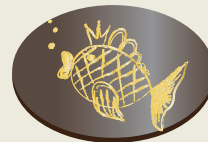
Friday, March 4

Friday, April 1

Serving from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Only \$15 for adults and \$5.00 for children 5 to 12.

Carry outs are available.



Bank Holidays

The bank will be closed on **Monday, January 17** for Martin Luther King Day;
Monday, February 21 for Presidents' Day; and will close at 3 pm on Good Friday, **April 15, 2022.**

The Class of 2034

This Fall the bank donated 36 t-shirts to the Kindergarten classes in Lowden and Mechanicsville. The Class of 2034 is pictured here in their new American Trust t-shirts. We look forward to watching their progress in the years to come!



front



back




AMERICAN
TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

www.atsb-lowden.com

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