

Summer 2023

# NEWS *from*

# AMERICAN TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

## NOW AVAILABLE: Mobile Banking

Mobile Banking is now available at American Trust & Savings Bank!

Use your mobile phone for 24/7 access to your funds and other bank-related services. You'll be amazed at the array of features and functions available.

### FEATURES AND BENEFITS

#### *Manage Your Accounts*

- Easy monitoring. Check balances on accounts and view records of your transactions
- Download or print statements for your tax or personal records
- Order checks
- Request a stop payment
- Receive text or email alerts for balances, transactions, transfers, and more
- It's secure. Log in with face and fingerprint recognition, or other secure authentication methods

#### *Move Money*

- View your loan balances and move your money with ease
- Faster transfers. Check balances when you're out shopping, transfer funds so you don't end up overdrawing

#### *Organize Finances*

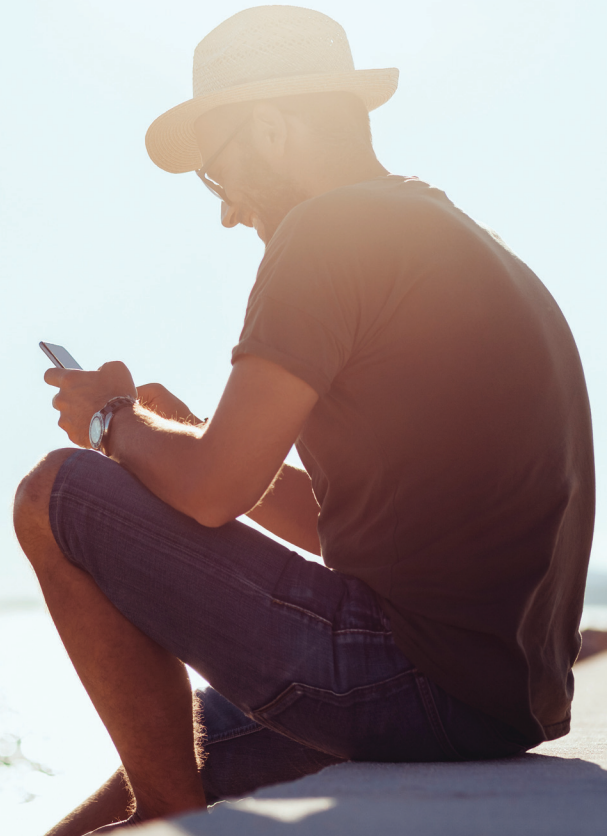
- Quickly access and review your accounts for easy budgeting
- Receive email reminders when a payment is due, or payment has been sent
- Receive alerts about account transactions, activity, history, and more by text message, email, or online

### Getting Started is Fast and Straightforward

Start by going to your smartphone or tablet's app store, Google Play Store for Android devices or the Apple App Store for your IOS device. Visit the bank's web site at <https://atsb-lowden.com/online-banking/> for a direct link to both app stores.

Download the app and follow the enrollment instructions. You'll be asked to create a login and password, plus answer security questions that only you know before accessing your bank account. After enrolling, you can now manage your finances easily and securely from nearly anywhere, anytime. Our goal at American Trust & Savings Bank isn't to meet your financial needs. It's to exceed them. That's why we created this great new financial benefit for you, our customer. This wonderful banking convenience is free, easy, and convenient.

Watch for  
Bill Pay  
coming soon!



## Emergency preparedness plans should include financial records and tax information



People should put together an emergency preparedness plan for their household – and include copies of their vital records and financial information. By creating an emergency preparedness plan and updating it annually, people will be able to start the recovery process faster if they're affected by a disaster or other emergency. Here are some things taxpayers can do to help protect their financial records.

### Update emergency preparedness plan annually

Personal and business situations are constantly evolving, so taxpayers should review their emergency preparedness plan annually. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready.gov website has resources and checklists to help people put together their emergency preparedness plan.

### Create electronic copies of documents

Taxpayers should keep important documents in a safe place. This includes bank statements, tax returns and insurance policies. This is especially easy now since many financial institutions provide statements and documents electronically. If original documents are available only on paper, taxpayers can use a scanner and save them on a USB flash drive or in the cloud.

### Document valuables

Documenting valuables by taking pictures or videoing

them before disaster strikes makes it easier to claim insurance and tax benefits. IRS.gov has a disaster loss workbook that can help taxpayers compile a room-by-room list of belongings.

### Understand tax relief available for disaster situations

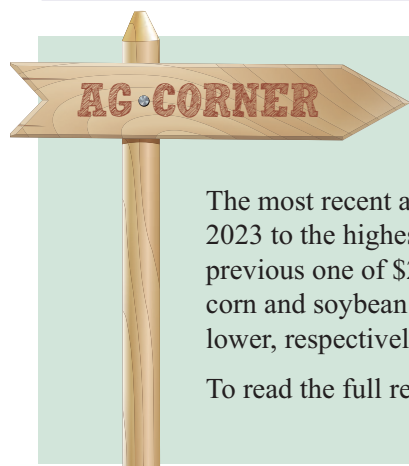
Information on Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief for Individuals and Businesses is available at IRS.gov. Taxpayers should also review Publication 547, Casualties, Disasters and Thefts.

Taxpayers who live in a federally declared disaster area can visit Around the Nation on IRS.gov and click on their state to review the available disaster tax relief. Those who live in counties qualifying for disaster relief receive automatic filing and payment postponements for many currently due tax returns and don't need to contact the agency to get relief.

People with disaster-related questions can call the IRS Special Services Hotline at 866-562-5227 to speak with an IRS specialist trained to handle disaster issues.

If people have lost their tax documents, they can order tax transcripts or request copies of previously filed tax returns and attachments through Get Transcript on IRS.gov, by filing Form 4506 or by calling 800-908-9946.

Source: Internal Revenue Service



## Record high cash rental rates

The most recent annual survey of cash rental rates for Iowa farmland shows that rates increased by 9% in 2023 to the highest average value on record: \$279 per acre. This new peak rent is 3.3% higher than the previous one of \$270 per acre observed in 2013. In comparison, average nominal (not inflation-adjusted) corn and soybean prices received by farmers in Iowa in the first quarter of 2023 were 2.8% higher and 4.4% lower, respectively, than in the first quarter of 2013.

To read the full report, go to: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/plastina/PlaMay23.html>

# Be Aware of Mail Theft-Related Check Fraud Schemes



Despite the declining use of checks in the United States, criminals have been increasingly targeting the U.S. Mail since the COVID-19 pandemic to commit check fraud.

Criminals will generally steal all types of checks in the U.S. Mail as part of a mail theft scheme, but business checks may be more valuable because business accounts are often well-funded, and it may take longer for the victim to notice the fraud.

After stealing checks from the U.S. Mail, fraudsters and organized criminal groups may alter or “wash” the checks, replacing the payee information with their own or fraudulent identities or with business accounts that the criminals control. During check washing, these illicit actors also often increase the dollar amount on the check, sometimes by hundreds or thousands of dollars. Washed checks may also be copied, printed, and sold to third-party fraudsters on the dark

web and encrypted social media platforms in exchange for convertible virtual currency.

## Ways to Protect Yourself

**Deposit mail before last pickup** – Deposit your outgoing mail in blue collection boxes before the last pickup or at your local Post Office.

**Retrieve mail frequently** – Never leave your mail in your mailbox overnight.

**Hold mail at Post Office** – If you’re going on vacation, have your mail held at the Post Office or have it picked up by a friend or neighbor.

**Monitor your bank account** – Don’t wait for your monthly statement. Go online every few days to review account balances and look at checks drawn against them.

**Report incidents quickly** – Contact American Trust & Savings Bank as soon as possible after suspicious activity.

**VISA**

**SECURE**



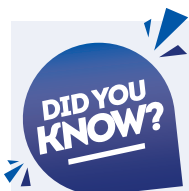
Keeping your account safe and secure is our highest priority. We continue to partner with SHAZAM, our debit card processor, to implement additional authentication known as Visa Secure.

When both the online merchant and American Trust and Savings Bank participate in Visa Secure, the transaction will go through a risk-based authentication. As the cardholder, you’ll be asked to identify yourself by receiving a One-Time Passcode (OTP) via text message. Once received, you’ll enter this code on a checkout screen with SHAZAM’s logo.

If an invalid OTP is entered in the checkout screen, the transaction will not be authenticated. If three (3) consecutive invalid OTPs are entered into the checkout screen, your card will be blocked at all Visa Secure participating ecommerce merchants. To unblock your card, please contact American Trust and Savings Bank. Also, please call the bank to verify that we have your current cell phone number on file to avoid any interruption when using your debit card.

## REMINDER:

*We remind our debit cardholders that when making an online purchase and you’re prompted to enter your name, to be sure to enter your name exactly as displayed on your card.*



On March 8, 1967, the Lowden Sun-News reported that William K. Stout would assume the duties of president and director at American Trust & Savings Bank. He began his new duties on March 10th and succeeded William Witte, who remained as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Since October 1957, Mr. Stout had been serving as cashier and director of Farmers Savings Bank in Princeton, Iowa and as Executive Vice President and Cashier, and director, of LeClaire State Bank.

Mr. Stout was a native of Little Cedar, Iowa, and served as a member of the 30th Infantry Division during World War II in Belgium, France, Holland, and Germany. He later graduated from Upper Iowa University and the University of Wisconsin School of Banking.

Following his graduation from college, Mr. Stout taught school at Wyoming, Iowa from 1950-52 where he taught business courses and served as coach.

Today, Bill Stout’s son, Kent, is president of the bank, and his daughter, Karen Baldwin, is a board member.

## 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.

### Lions Club Sweet Corn Supper

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Enjoy best-of-the-season sweet corn and pork chops from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Lowden Memorial Park. \$9.00 at the door and \$5.00 for children 5 to 12 years of age. There are no pre-sales.



### North Cedar Education Foundation Golf Outing

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM tee off

Location: 3/30 Country Club, Lowden, IA

Register: Contact any of the following:

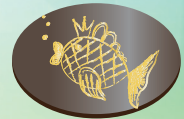
- Dan Chapman at 319-360-2963
- Jonica Ries at 563-210-8464

### All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry Lowden American Legion

Friday, September 1, 2023

Friday, October 6, 2023

Visit the Lowden American Legion for the first All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry of the '23-'24 season.



### Cookie Day at American Trust

Friday, August 11, 2023 during banking hours.

It's our way of saying "Thank you for your business!"



The bank will be closed on these dates:

Monday, September 4 – Labor Day  
Monday, October 9 – Columbus Day

## 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 August 31, 2023.

*This is a quarterly contest, so watch our next newsletter for a new photo!*

### We have winners!

Don (Chuck) Breneman, Diane Esbaum, Bill Ihns, and Janis Muhl correctly guessed that the photo from our Spring newsletter was the speaker by the front door of the bank. They will each receive a \$25 gift certificate for Lowden merchants.



  
**AMERICAN  
TRUST & SAVINGS BANK**

[www.atsb-lowden.com](http://www.atsb-lowden.com)

309 McKinley Ave., PO Box 129, Lowden, IA • (563) 941-5391

