

Spring 2024

NEWS from

AMERICAN TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

e-Statements Have Arrived – Sign Up Now!



We are pleased to announce that e-Statements have arrived. Please contact us if you're interested in signing up to receive your monthly statements via e-mail.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

What is an e-Statement?

An e-Statement is an electronic version of your checking/savings account statements. You will receive an e-mail when your statement is ready for viewing.

Do I have to have Online Banking?

Yes. For you to take advantage of this feature, Online Banking is necessary. Let us know if you need help registering.

If I sign up for e-Statements, will I still receive my paper statements?

We discontinue your paper statements when you switch to e-Statements. You can view, save, and print your e-Statements at any time.

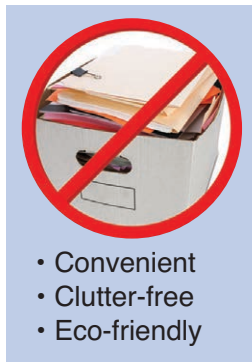
Do I have to switch to e-Statements?

If e-Statements aren't for you, there is no need to worry. Paper statements will continue unless you tell us you don't want them.

How will I know when a new e-Statement is available?

You will receive an e-mail at the close of each statement cycle to let you know your statement is available.

How do I sign up? You can send us an e-mail (info@atsb-lowden.com), call us at 563-941-5391, or send us a secure message through your Online Banking account (click "Secure Message").



- Convenient
- Clutter-free
- Eco-friendly



April is Community Banking Month, a nationwide celebration recognizing the many contributions community banks make to their customers and communities. Community banks, like American Trust & Savings Bank, take in local deposits and redistribute them back into the community—consistently making more than 60 percent of small-business loans and more than 80 percent of agriculture loans. They also contribute tax dollars that help maintain local municipalities and keep local neighborhoods viable and strong because serving the best interests of their customers is fundamental to their business philosophy.

As financial stewards and civic leaders, community banks have always stood shoulder to shoulder with their customers and community; doing whatever it takes to support their neighbors and ensure a strong local economy.

IRA Reminder

You can still make a contribution to an IRA for the 2023 tax year until April 15, 2024. We'll help you decide what kind of IRA makes the most sense for you.

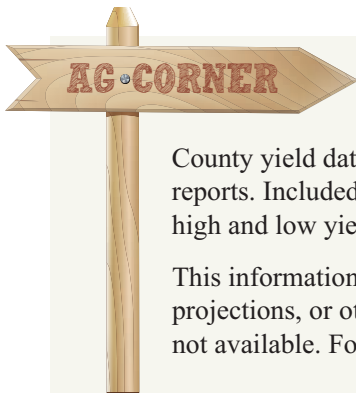
For 2023, your total contributions to your traditional and Roth IRAs cannot be more than \$6,500, or \$7,500 if you were age 50 or older by the end of 2023.

For 2024, your total contributions to your traditional and Roth IRAs cannot be more than \$7,000, or \$8,000 if you're age 50 or older by the end of 2024.

If you're changing jobs or about to retire, we can also help you rollover your retirement account and design a savings plan that meets your retirement goals.



* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of March 19, 2024. Requires a minimum deposit of \$100. Rates may change after account opening.



Iowa Corn and Soybean County Yields

County yield data for corn and soybeans in Iowa is summarized from USDA NASS yield reports. Included in the tables are: the most recent yield, the 10-year average, and the high and low yield in the past 10 years.

This information is helpful in developing corn and soybean budgets, cash-flow projections, or other types of analysis for farmers where the actual production history is not available. For complete details, visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-14.html>



DID YOU KNOW?

Online Banking and Bill Pay is the Convenient Way to Bank

If you haven't tried Online Banking and Bill Pay, they're a wonderful convenience. Online Banking provides customers with the convenience of accessing account information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week over the Internet. Simply access accounts through a login and password. Adding the Bill Pay feature makes bill payment easy and less time consuming.

Online Banking is convenient:

- Check balances and transaction history
- Transfer money
- Set alerts
- Generate an account statement

With Bill Pay you can:

- Pay bills anytime, from your PC or other Internet-enabled device
- Pay anyone you can write a check to
- Specify the payment date of your choice
- Eliminate checks and postage stamps, which saves money

Ready to get started?

Simply visit www.atsb-lowden.com and click on "Enroll" in the upper right-hand corner.

Once you've enrolled in Online Banking, Bill Pay sign-up is easy.

1. Log into your Online Banking account at www.atsb-lowden.com
2. Click on the "Bills and Payments" tab, then click on "CLICK HERE to request bill pay services."
3. Follow the instructions for adding Bill Pay to your account(s).

Spoofing Scams

Spoofing is a type of social engineering where fraudsters pretend to be someone or something else. Scams may appear to be from a known phone number or text to win a person's trust. Their goal is usually to gain access to financial accounts, steal data, steal money, or insert and spread malware. Please be aware that "spoofing" is often followed up with "vishing" when a customer responds to the spoofing text. They're then contacted by the fraudster to ask questions or make a request for online banking credentials.

HOW SHAZAM COMMUNICATES

As a trusted financial partner of American Trust & Savings Bank, SHAZAM we will not ask for any sensitive information on an outbound call. Additionally, any emails from SHAZAM will come from a shazam.net email domain.

SHAZAM never asks accountholders to click links or open attachments in our text messages. They only ask them to respond with either a yes or no. Their phone calls come from a variety of phone numbers. This is intentional and helps to enhance their call center services with additional layers of identity management.

PROTECTING OUR CUSTOMERS

Some of the questions SHAZAM will never ask in a spoofing incident are below.

Remember three words to help avoid a scam: urgent, unexpected and unnerving.

- They'll never ask you to open a link. (urgent and unexpected)
- They'll never use threatening language that your account will be suspended or closed. (urgent, unexpected, and unnerving)
- They'll never request personal identification information, social security numbers, passwords, or debit card numbers, including card number, CVV/CVC codes, and expiration date. (urgent, unexpected and unnerving)



Lowden and the surrounding area are rich in history. In this and future newsletters, we will feature "Trivia Corner" with items of local interest. We hope you enjoy it!

In the 1878 book *The History of Cedar County, Iowa*, published by the Western Historical Company, the population of Lowden (aka "Louden") was principally German. At the census taken in 1875, there were 439 inhabitants, representing 101 families, and having an equal number of residences. There were 149 persons between 5 and 21 years and seventy-eight voters.

Starting Small Can Lead to Big Savings

Meet your savings goals with these strategies

Do you have accumulated debt, perhaps from student loans, credit cards or car loans? Do you want to set aside savings for future needs? There are simple strategies for gradually building small savings into large sums. Here are some ways to help you begin to save or build up your savings.

Save for specific goals

You should have a savings plan for future expenses that you anticipate — perhaps education costs, a home or car purchase, starting a small business, or preparing for retirement (whether that may be a few years or several decades away).

Also, consider setting a goal to build up an “emergency” fund that would cover at least six months of living expenses to help get through a difficult time, such as a job loss, major car repairs, or unexpected medical expenses not covered by insurance.



Commit to saving money regularly

If specific goals seems out of reach for you, any amount you can put in savings will help provide a cushion against future financial hard times or big purchases. This is important for everyone, but especially if you are supporting yourself financially. Even if you do not make a big salary or have a steady source of income, the combination of consistently adding to savings and the compounding of interest can bring dramatic results over time.

Aim to save a minimum percentage of your paycheck and over time, try to increase the amount you put aside as you pay down other debts. Putting aside a set amount on an ongoing basis is known as “paying yourself first,” because you are saving before you are tempted to spend. If you cannot afford to save a specific percent of your earnings, begin with any amount you can afford, no matter how small. Once you see that you can manage your expenses while also saving, try to increase the amount you contribute to your savings at every opportunity.

Put your savings on autopilot

Setup a regular transfer from your American Trust checking account to your savings account. This transfer can coincide with payday to help with budgeting.

Make use of tax-advantaged retirement accounts and matching funds

Look into your retirement savings options at work, which may come with matching contributions from your employer. It is possible that allocating part of your paycheck to your retirement account will not reduce your take-home pay significantly, particularly when you consider what you may save in income taxes. If you have contributed the maximum at work or if your employer does not have a retirement savings program, consider establishing your own IRA (Individual Retirement Account) with American Trust and make regular transfers into it. Remember that you can set up an automatic transfer from a checking account into an IRA savings account.

Separating savings for certain purposes

Consider keeping emergency savings in a separate savings account instead of a checking account, so that you can better resist the urge to raid the funds for everyday expenses. Be sure to develop a plan to replenish any withdrawals from your emergency fund. For large purchases that you hope to make years from now, consider certificates of deposit. These generally earn more interest than a basic savings account, because you agree to keep the funds untouched for a period of time.

Think about ways to cut your expenses

Look at your monthly expenses for everything from food to phones and think about ways to save.

Even if you find yourself with very little savings for immediate needs, starting small can move you toward your savings goals. These simple strategies can help you gradually build your savings into large sums.



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.

Spring Dinner, Zion United Church of Christ, Lowden

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Location: American Legion

Serving 11 AM to 1 PM.

Free will donation.

Carryout available until Noon by calling 563-941-7726. May call for carryout Saturday from 9 AM to 12 noon or Sunday from 8 to 10 AM.

Cookie Day at American Trust

Friday, Friday, May 10, 2024

during banking hours.

It's our way of saying

"Thank you for your business!"

Lowden Garage Sale Day

Friday and Saturday, June 7-8



Bank Holidays

The bank be closed on **Monday, May 27** for Memorial Day, **Wednesday, June 19** for Juneteenth, and **Thursday, July 4** for Independence Day.

Traveling this summer?



If you are planning a trip outside of your normal shopping area and plan to use your debit card, please let us know so we can expand your geographical profile. **We would also like to have a current cell phone and/or home phone number for you.**

American Trust & Savings Bank wants to be sure that your travels are safe and secure. *Enjoy your trip!*



**National Small Business Week
April 28 – May 4**

This year National Small Business Week will be held from April 28 to May 4, recognizing the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

There are 31 million small businesses in the U.S., which roughly make up around 99% of all the businesses in the country. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business and create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. The same is true in Lowden and the surrounding area.

American Trust and Savings Bank recognizes the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and farmers. Every day, they're working to grow small businesses, create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness.

A special thanks to our area small businesses and farmers for all you do to support our local community!



**AMERICAN
TRUST & SAVINGS BANK**

www.atsb-lowden.com



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