

SIMPLY STATED

FALL 2026

Achieve More. Together.℠

FIRST STATE BANK AND TRUST

VALLEY AGENCIES INSURANCE

Achieve More. Together.℠

As fall settles into the St. Croix Valley, it gives us a natural moment to pause and appreciate the people and relationships that make this community so special. At First State Bank and Trust and Valley Agencies, those connections have always been at the heart of who we are.

This issue of Simply Stated highlights that spirit in many ways. You'll read about Empower, a community built around education, confidence, and meaningful connections. You'll also see the familiar faces of employees who serve our clients every day, along with milestones that remind us how fortunate we are to have talented people who choose to build their careers here.

We are especially pleased to celebrate several remarkable careers. Peter Clements' 50 years in community banking reflect a legacy of service, humility, and leadership. We also extend our thanks and best wishes to Betty Lambert, Rich Sandquist, and Jill Link as they begin well-earned retirements. Each has made a lasting difference for our clients, coworkers, and organization.

That same community spirit comes through in events such as Bayport Bash, Toys for Tots, and Santa Day. Beyond a way to celebrate our community, these events serve as a reminder that our business is about more than transactions. It is about showing up, listening, helping, and being a trusted partner through every season of life.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We are grateful to be part of your community - and proud to continue serving it.

Enjoy the season,

Jason Howard
PRESIDENT / CEO



empower
by FSBT



Our *empower* community is designed to build meaningful, trust driven connections between the bank and the communities we serve. By keeping women's financial literacy at the forefront, we provide resources and education that equip women to make confident, informed financial decisions.

From personal banking and business lending to mortgages and wealth management, Empower is here to guide you through every stage of life. Together, we're strengthening our community - one relationship at a time.

As we reflect on this past year, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for those of you who are a part of the Empower community. Your support, participation, and enthusiasm have helped make Empower a space where individuals can learn, grow, and build meaningful connections. Empower was created to bring people together through education, resources, and relationships, and because of members like you, we've continued to build that vision throughout the year.

We hope that through our events, conversations, and networking opportunities, you have made valuable connections, gained new insights, and found inspiration along the way. Seeing our community come together to support, encourage, and empower one another has been incredibly rewarding.

If you haven't already, scan the QR code to join our mailing list.

Watch for 2027 details soon!











OUR PEOPLE



Angel Wolske
Associate Trust Officer

FSBT - Bayport

JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2026

How do you spend your free time?
I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, reading, cooking, and traveling with Thailand being my favorite destination so far!

What's a piece of advice you live by?
You can only truly fail if you stop trying. Keep trying and you will get there!



Erika Port
Trust Operations Specialist

FSBT - Bayport

JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2026

How do you spend your free time?
I love cooking, thrifting, antiquing, and taking care of my plants (and buying more!).

What is your favorite local business?
Dunn Bros! I love coffee, and I appreciate how consistently good Dunn Bros coffee is.



Natalie Holmberg
Client Service Specialist

FSBT - Bayport

JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2026

What brings you joy?
Fresh-cut grass after a long Wisconsin winter, family gatherings, belly laughs, tattoos with stories behind them. Motorcycle rides, and any excuse to spend time on or near the river. Give me a sunny day, an open road, good company, and a little adventure, and I'm pretty happy. I'm a firm believer that life's best moments are usually the simple ones, and sometimes the best memories come from the plans you never made.

What is your favorite local business?
San Pedro in Hudson is my favorite local spot! The Caribbean food is fantastic, the staff are wonderful, and the atmosphere transports me back to some of my favorite places in Florida. There's something special about finding a place close to home that makes you feel like you've escaped somewhere else for a little while. Good food, good people, and a little island vibe; what's not to love?



Lauren McCabe
Loan Operations Specialist

FSBT - Bayport

JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2026

What's one item you can't live without?
Trader Joe's Cookie Butter Ice Cream

What is your favorite local business?
Ember and Bean. I love their coffee!

EMPLOYEE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES
JULY - DECEMBER

CHARLEY CLEMENTS / 5 yrs
KARYN KOLLITZ / 5 yrs
JULIE LONGSDORF / 5 yrs
NICK WITTHOFT / 5 yrs
LYZ CARLSON / 10 yrs
SCOTT FAUST / 10 yrs
SANDY HAGEN / 10 yrs
RENEE PEABODY / 25 yrs



A *remarkable* CAREER.
AN *incredible* LEGACY.

Congratulations to Peter Clements for receiving the 2026 Legacy of Community Banking Award from BankIn Minnesota, recognizing individuals who have dedicated 50 or more years to serving the banking industry.

Few careers better demonstrate servant leadership than Peter's. Over the past 50 years, he has taken on virtually every responsibility a community banker can hold – from part-time teller and bookkeeper to President, CEO, and now Board Chair.

His colleagues admire his willingness to tackle any challenge, but even more, they remember his people-first leadership. Through mentorship, humility, and an unwavering commitment to others, Peter has helped shape both a successful bank and the next generation of banking leaders.

Peter, thank you for the example you've set for so many in our industry. We are proud to recognize your outstanding career today.

Congratulations Peter! Well deserved!



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HAPPY *Retirement!*



Betty Lambert

After five wonderful years with First State Bank and Trust, Betty Lambert recently retired on September 30, 2026!

Betty has been a friendly and welcoming face at FSBT, helping clients open accounts, navigate online and mobile banking, answering countless questions, and training new bankers along the way.

With a banking career that began in 1998, Betty has dedicated many years to helping others and providing exceptional customer service. Her knowledge, kindness, and commitment have made a lasting impact on our clients and her fellow employees.

Please join us in congratulating Betty and wishing her all the best as she begins this exciting new chapter!

Thank you for everything,
Betty - you will be missed!



Rich Sandquist

After more than 30 years in banking and more than six years with First State Bank and Trust, we would like to take a moment to recognize and celebrate Rich Sandquist as he officially retired on September 30, 2026.

Rich joined First State Bank and Trust on February 25, 2020, as a Vice President – Commercial Lender.

Throughout his time with the Bank, he has brought a wealth of knowledge, experience, and dedication to his work and to the customers and communities he has served. His professionalism, commitment to customer relationships, and passion for helping businesses succeed have made a lasting impact on our organization and the many customers who have had the pleasure of working with him.

While we will miss having Rich as part of the FSBT team, we are excited for him as he begins this next chapter and wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement.



Jill Link

After 7½ years with First State Bank and Trust, Jill Link will be retiring on December 31, 2026.

For so many of us, it is hard to imagine the Bayport line without Jill. As our Head Teller, she has been a steady, dependable, and familiar presence - someone who has been there through the busy days, the challenging days, and everything in between. She has been a true leader, not just because of her position, but because of the way she has supported, encouraged, and cared for the people around her.

Over the years, Jill has trained and mentored countless tellers and employees. She has shared her knowledge, her experience, and, perhaps most importantly, her patience. Many of us have learned something from Jill, whether she was officially training us or simply showing us how to handle a situation with professionalism and a smile.

Jill has been such an important part of First State Bank and Trust, and her impact goes far beyond the Head Teller position. She has helped shape our employees, supported our customers, and been a wonderful colleague and friend.

Her presence will be deeply missed—not only on the Bayport line, but throughout the entire Bank.

After 7½ years of taking care of everyone else, we hope retirement gives you plenty of time to take care of yourself, enjoy the things you love, and maybe even sleep in once in a while!

Congratulations, Jill! We are so happy for you, and wish you all the best in retirement!

SEPTEMBER 10TH

2026 Bayport BASH























FIRST STATE BANK AND TRUST

VALLEY AGENCIES INSURANCE

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JOIN US AT OUR HUDSON LOCATION

680 ANNABELLE WAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

VISIT WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS
ENJOY COOKIES AND HOT COCOA
HUDSON SWING CHOIR
TO PERFORM 4:00 - 4:45 PM