



# **SIMPLY** **STATED**

**SPRING 2025**

Achieve More. Together. <sup>SM</sup>

**FIRST STATE**   
**BANK AND TRUST**

**VALLEY**   
**AGENCIES**  
INSURANCE

# Achieve More. Together.<sup>SM</sup>

**H**appy Spring!

With blooming flowers, longer days, budding trees, and the return of spring sports, there is an undeniable sense of optimism in the air. However, we are also aware that recent months have brought significant challenges, both globally and within the economy. We are not immune to the volatility and uncertainty that currently shape the market. Yet, just as we have for over 110 years, we remain confident that Valley Agencies and First State Bank and Trust are well-equipped to navigate these turbulent times. Our commitment to exceptional service for you, our clients, and to the St. Croix Valley community, while investing in our employees, will continue to guide us.

We are excited to share the latest edition of Simply Stated. In this issue, we spotlight several of our dedicated employees who serve you each day, as well as our ongoing efforts to support the vibrant St. Croix Valley community. Unfortunately, fraud continues to rise, and we have included some valuable tips on how to spot and avoid falling victim to fraudulent activities. The best piece of advice? If something feels off or doesn't seem quite right, contact us immediately. Our Client Services team is always available to help you understand various scams and offer recommendations to safeguard your finances.

In other exciting news, we are thrilled to announce that our first-floor Bayport project is now complete. It's been a journey, but we are incredibly pleased with the results. We have included a few photos in this issue, but we also invite you to visit the branch and experience the transformation for yourself!

As an organization deeply rooted in the St. Croix Valley, we are here to support you on your financial journey. With all the noise in the world today, there is no better time than now to lean into our community. We welcome the opportunity to sit down with you and assist in mapping out your financial future. And, as always, we appreciate your referrals and thank you for introducing your friends and family to the value of community banking.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Warm regards,

  
Jason Howard  
**PRESIDENT / CEO**



**Congratulations!**

You won the amount of \$50,000.  
You can get them with one click.  
Access the  
link: <http://banking.scam/fund20>

**FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES  
ARE **ON THE RISE**, AND  
EVEN HIGHLY INTELLIGENT  
INDIVIDUALS CAN BECOME  
VICTIMS OF THESE  
MALICIOUS SCHEMES.**

**DON'T FALL FOR **FAKE**.  
TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT  
YOUR HARD-EARNED CASH  
AGAINST PHISHING SCAMS.**  
In 2023, scammers stole over \$10  
billion from regular people like you.  
Don't become their next victim.  
**GET SCAM SMART.**

## **WATCH FOR THESE FIVE RED FLAGS OF PHISHING IN EMAILS, CALLS, AND TEXTS:**

- 1.** They ask you to open a link you weren't expecting.
- 2.** They use urgent or fear-inducing language.
- 3.** They send an attachment.
- 4.** They request personal info like PINs, passwords, or social security numbers.
- 5.** They pressure you to log into, or send money with, payment apps.

To learn more, visit <https://www.fsbt.com/resources/consumer-protection>

## **HELPING YOU PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST**

HOME | AUTO | LIFE | HEALTH | BUSINESS

**MATT RUDQUIST**  
INSURANCE AGENT



# **VALLEY AGENCIES**

Achieve More. Together.™

651.439.2930 | [VALLEYAGENCIES.COM](https://valleyagencies.com)  
**LOCATED IN BAYPORT & HUDSON**

WHEN YOU ARE  
READY TO BUILD  
**YOUR  
DREAM  
HOME,**  
WE ARE YOUR  
CONSTRUCTION  
LOAN PARTNER!

**CHECK OUT OUR  
CONSTRUCTION  
LOAN SPECIAL!**

**FIXED RATES AS LOW AS**

**4.99%**

9 MONTH TERM\*,  
INTEREST ONLY PAYMENTS

**9.20%**

ANNUAL  
PERCENTAGE RATE

**TO GET STARTED,  
SCAN THE QR CODE:**



Offer of credit is subject to credit approval.  
\* For example: A \$500,000 construction loan would have interest-only payments of \$1,040 with a balloon payment of \$501,040. These payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance premiums, if applicable, and the actual payment obligation will be greater.

**SAMANTHA R. ROSE**  
VP - Mortgage Director

NMLS #1684163  
715.716.5975

**JON M. WEAVER**  
VP - Mortgage Banking

NMLS #700169  
651.351.3732

**WILL REINHARDT**  
Mortgage Loan Officer

NMLS #905459  
715.410.7685

# OUR PEOPLE



**Meagan Barlow**

Senior Accountant

FSBT - Bayport

JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2023

**How do you spend your free time?**

I enjoy spending time with my kids when they aren't busy with college, hanging out in nature, and singing in my cover band.

**What is your favorite local business?**

Golden Crown Chinese Restaurant



**Kenzie Carr**

Human Resources Specialist

FSBT - Bayport

JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2023

**How do you spend your free time?**

Hanging out with friends, workout classes, and watching movies.

**What is your favorite local business?**

Nacho Mama's. Best Mexican food I've ever had!



**Andy Sexe**

President of Valley Agencies  
(Hudson & Bayport)

VALLEY AGENCIES

JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2018

**How do you spend your free time?**

I have several outdoor activities; hunting-spring and fall, fishing, gardening, golf, taking care of my chickens. I enjoy cooking and I make maple syrup each spring. We enjoy traveling as well.

**What is your favorite local business?**

We're lucky to have all the great restaurants in and around Hudson and we enjoy all of them.



**Vinnie Ferraro**

Sr. Marketing Specialist

FSBT - Bayport

JOINED OUR TEAM IN 2018

**How do you spend your free time?**

I enjoy going to sporting events – big fan of the Minnesota Wild. Also enjoy golfing, fishing, and spending time with family/friends.

**What is your favorite local business?**

NJ Café. They have great breakfast.

**EMPLOYEE  
ANNIVERSARIES**  
JANUARY - JULY

**KATIE KRANZ** / 5 yrs

**RICH SANDQUIST** / 5 yrs

**PAM BAKER** / 10 yrs

**TOM SIGSTAD** / 15 yrs

**JOETTE BARR** / 20 yrs

**MARY JO DIIOIA** / 30 yrs

**TERI BARNHOLDT** / 35 yrs

Pictured: Jason Howard of FSBT,  
Jessica Hauser of Valley Outreach,  
and Dan Raleigh of Lake Elmo Bank



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION *for a Cause*

During the month of March, First State Bank and Trust, Valley Agencies, and Lake Elmo Bank joined forces to support the Minnesota Food Share campaign, benefiting Valley Outreach. Thanks to your generous contributions, we were able to collect both food and funds to help those facing food insecurities in our communities.

Your donations have made a significant impact, and we want to express our heartfelt gratitude. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of individuals and families who struggle with food insecurity every day.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our community.

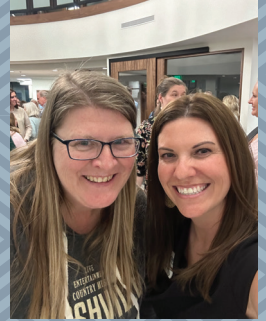
## *Congratulations!*

After an impressive 30 years at First State Bank and Trust, Mary Jo Diiolia is retiring on July 31, 2025. She kicked off her banking career at US Bank in St. Paul, working there for eight years before taking a break to raise her daughters and work for the St. Paul Schools for five years.

When her family moved to Stillwater, Mary Jo joined First State Bank of Bayport (FSBT's original name) as a teller. A year later, she moved to the Trust Services Department and has been a key part of the team ever since, through countless changes.

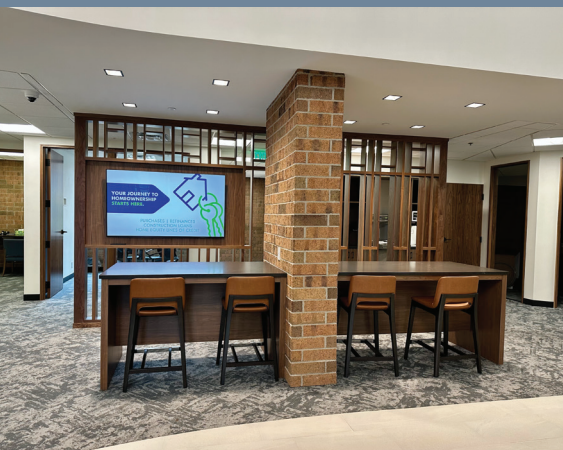
In retirement, Mary Jo plans to volunteer, get organized, travel, and enjoy time with her grandkids. Congratulations, Mary Jo! We wish you all the best.





# CELEBRATING OUR *111th* ANNIVERSARY

WITH A RIBBON CUTTING *and*  
CHAMBER MIXER



## BAYPORT *remodel*



# FIRST STATE BANK AND TRUST

950 HWY 95 NORTH  
BAYPORT, MN 55003

# VALLEY AGENCIES INSURANCE

[fsbt.com](http://fsbt.com) / [valleyagencies.com](http://valleyagencies.com)



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@firststatebankandtrust

## SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR FOOD, MUSIC,  
AND FAMILY FUN!

SEPTEMBER 11 | 3:00 - 7:00

# BAYPORT BASH

