

Financial **NEWS & VIEWS**

FIRST NATIONAL BANK of WALKER

February 2012

To Our Valued Customers and Friends

We want to take this opportunity to inform you about an important change at both First National Bank of Walker and Woodland Bank. Many of you may already know that FNB has acquired Woodland's branch offices in Remer, Longville and Jenkins. Woodland will continue to operate its offices in Cohasset, Deer River, Hill City and a loan production office in Grand Rapids.

First National Bank has been in business for more than a century and has earned a reputation as a solid, stable bank with offices in Akeley, Longville, Hackensack and Backus, as well as in Walker. The addition of the three Woodland Bank locations have greatly strengthened FNB's presence in north central Minnesota, and we are working closely with Woodland management to ensure a smooth, seamless transition. We anticipate this process to be completed in the second quarter of 2012.

The sale of these three locations now allows Woodland the opportunity to combine its own operations in a smaller, more manageable geographic area. Woodland is also committed to providing financial products and services in the same manner as it has for the past 90 years.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to our customers and communities that have supported us through the years, made possible through the talents and dedication of our employees. As we enter into a new year and a new era for both of our organizations, we are looking forward to a bright future together.

Sincerely,
Michael Elsenpeter
President and CEO
First National Bank of Walker



Southern Charm Trip
October 14 -21, 2012



Highlights include – Historic Charleston, Savannah, Jekyll Island, Boone Hall Plantation, Beaufort, St. Simons Island, Amelia River Cruise and St. Augustine.

Join us for a travel show on February 20th at 1:30 at The First National Bank of Walker. For more information or to make your reservations call Jeanette at 218-547-1160.

Book by 3/2/12 and save \$100 per person. Regular rates per person: Double \$2,599, Single \$3,199, Triple \$2,569

Included in the price: Round trip air from Bemidji-Beltrami County Airport, air taxes and fees/surcharges of \$50 (subject to increase until paid in full), and hotel transfers.

Not included in the price: Cancellation waiver and insurance of \$165 per person.

Free Service for Seniors

BenefitsCheckUp is a free service of the National Council on Aging, a nonprofit service and advocacy organization in Washington, DC. Many adults over 55 need help paying for prescription drugs, health care, utilities, and other basic needs. There are over 2,000 federal, state and private benefit programs available to help. But many people don't know these programs exist or how they can apply.

BenefitsCheckUp asks a series of questions to help identify benefits that could save you money and cover the costs of everyday expenses.

After answering the questions, you will get a report created just for you that describes the programs you may get help from. You can apply for many of the programs online at www.benefitscheckup.org or you can print an application form.

Why Do Seniors Need Home Modifications?

The main benefit of making home modifications is that they promote independence and prevent accidents. According to a recent AARP housing survey, "83% of older Americans want to stay in their current homes for the rest of their lives," but other studies show that most homes are not designed to accommodate the needs of people over 65.

Improving accessibility means making doorways wider, clearing spaces to make sure a wheelchair can pass through, lowering countertop heights for sinks and kitchen cabinets, installing grab bars, and placing light switches and electrical outlets at heights that can be reached easily.

Before you make home modifications, you should evaluate your current and future needs by going through your home room by room and answering a series of questions to highlight where changes might be made.

- Appliances, Kitchen, Bathroom
- Closets, Storage Spaces
- Doors, Windows
- Driveway, Garage
- Electrical Outlets, Switches, Safety Devices
- Floors
- Hallways, Steps, Stairways
- Lighting, Ventilation

The National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modifications (NRCSHHM) is one of the best sources for more information about home modifications. The center is a major clearinghouse for news on government-assisted housing, assisted-

living policies, home modifications for older people, training and education courses. Visit the center's web site at <http://www.homemods.org>.



Social Security Benefit Increase

Cost of living adjustment is first since 2009.

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 60 million Americans will increase 3.6 percent in 2012, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that nearly 55 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2012. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2011.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$110,100 from \$106,800. Of the estimated 161 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2012, about 10 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2012, when announced, will be available at www.Medicare.gov. For some beneficiaries, their Social Security increase may be partially or completely offset by increases in Medicare premiums.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Upcoming Events 2012

May 4	Plant Day
June 8	P55 Golf Tournament
Sept. 12	P55 Fish Fry
Oct. 14-21	Southern Charm Trip
Dec. 7	Christmas Open House



Valentines Day Trivia

- Wearing a wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand dates back to ancient Egypt, where it was believed that the vein of love ran from this finger directly to the heart.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.
- Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.
- Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.
- The first televised tour of the White House aired on February 14 in 1962. First Lady Jackie Kennedy hosted the tour.
- About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.



Tax Calendar and Last Day to File Taxes in 2012

You might be surprised to know that the last day to file taxes in 2012, for the 2011 tax year, is April 17, 2012.

It's been pushed back a day this year because of the way the weekend falls and because of a holiday. Last year, Emancipation Day got in the way of the tax filing deadline. It's happening again in 2012, the weekend is pushing the date back to the 16th, but that's Emancipation day. So, since Washington D.C. is on holiday, the tax deadline is pushed back to the 17th.

Enjoy your extra two days, and get to the post office early that Tuesday if you still file a paper return.

Mature Workers

While many people think of older adults as retirees, the truth is millions of Americans aged 55+ work full or part-time jobs every day. The reasons they work are varied, but for many it's a matter of necessity to remain financially secure and independent. Others work to stay active and engaged in their communities.

As the population ages, older Americans will play an increasingly important role in our economy and America's leadership in the world marketplace. By 2019, over 40% of Americans aged 55+ will be employed, making up over 25% of the U.S. labor force. The Committee on Economic Development indicates that employers rate older workers high on characteristics such as judgment, commitment to quality, attendance, and punctuality.

Help Your Hips

Six Bone-Boosting tactics that'll reduce your risk of fractures.

*TAKE A BONE DENSITY TEST (IT'S PAIN FREE). This is a 15 minute test that measures the density of those bones most likely to fracture: You hip, spine, or wrists.

*BUILD UP YOUR MUSCLES. Even if you don't have osteoporosis, a regular exercise program can boost muscle strength and improve balance, coordination, and flexibility.

*POWER UP WITH PROTEIN. Take in enough protein to build up muscles, and enough calcium and vitamin D for your bones to gain strength.

*REQUEST A FALL-RISK ASSESSMENT. In addition to offering a physical exam, your doctor will likely ask a host of questions about medication use, vision or hearing loss, and other factors that can contribute to a fall.

*APPRAISE YOUR HOME. Little things-throw rugs, television and phone cords, piles of newspapers can trip you up, quite literally. Also make sure your home is adequately lit and that bathrooms are outfitted with grab bars and skid mats.

*BE SMART, DON'T SLIP. Don't walk on ice without assistance and use handrails.



Contributing to a Traditional IRA

You can deposit as little or as much as you want into your IRA each year up to the limit set by law. The limit is the lesser of

~ The annual contribution limit* (\$5,000 for 2011 and for 2012), plus a \$1,000 catch-up contribution if you're age 50 or older, or

~ 100 percent of your earned income.

HSA Contributions

HSA contributions generally are tax-deductible. You have until your tax return due date (generally April 15th) to fund your HSA. The maximum amount you can receive in contributions to your HSA each year depends on whether you have self-only or family HDHP coverage. Also, if you attain age 55 before the close of a taxable year, your contribution limit increases by \$1,000.

HSA Contribution Limits

	Self Only Coverage	If Age 55 or older	Family Coverage	If Age 55 or older
2011	\$3,050	\$4,050	\$6,150	\$7,150
2012	\$3,100	\$4,100	\$6,250	\$7,250



Member FDIC

Banking Hours

Walker
218-547-1160

Lobby

Mon. Thru Thurs. 8:30 to 4:30
Friday 8:30 to 5:30
Saturday 8:30 to 12:00

Walk-up/Drive-up

Mon. Thru Fri. 7:30 to 6:00
Saturday 8:00 to 12:00

Branch Offices
Akeley, Backus,
Hackensack, Longville

Lobby

Mon. Thru Thurs. 9:00 to 4:00
Friday 9:00 to 6:00

Walk-up/Drive-up

Mon. Thru Thurs. 8:00 to 5:00
Friday 8:00 to 6:00
Saturday 8:00 to 12:00

24 - hour Banking
Bank Anytime 218-547-2060

www.fnwalker.com

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