

The Gold Standard eNews

A newsletter published quarterly for our SulliFam.



For many years, bank managers have discussed the natural extension to banking that an insurance division would bring and the idea was appealing. However, as we all know, it is all about the people and seizing an opportunity!

When popular St. Clair insurance agent, Steve Hoff, and bank president, Mike Hoffman, first talked about the idea of the bank buying the insurance agency that was his life's work, Steve knew it would take a lot of thought and perfect timing. All the thinking, planning, and execution culminated when Sullivan Bank purchased Hoff Insurance Agency on March 31; opening April 1 as SBK Insurance.

Dalton Nilges, who has worked at the bank for almost nine years and proven successful in other departments, will work with Steve and when Steve eventually retires, he will leave Dalton to carry on the insurance torch.

Also working at the agency part-time is Terry Molitor, who is the friendly voice you hear when calling the front desk of the agency. Terry has been an integral part of the firm for over thirty-three years. She is an important representative to bank customers.

At this time, the agency remains in the original office on historic Old Route 66 in St. Clair, but plans are to







Steve Hoff

Dalton Nilges

Terry Molitor

house the agency within the bank's St. Clair bank location. After a little remodeling, clients will be able to go in the front door and enter either the bank or the agency. The convenient Main Street location will be appealing for customers.

When asked about the future of the agency, Mike had this to say, "We are excited to see where this new division can take us. Undoubtedly, it can be beneficial to both the bank and to our customers. The convenience of offering insurance in combination with loans is a step up in service to our clients. We are proud to have partnered with an agency who carries a sterling reputation in the community and we plan to keep it that way!"

Third Quarter Holiday Celebrations Please join us as we close to spend time with our families celebrating on Independence Day,

July 4th , and Labor Day, September 1st.

Getting to know Tina Bryant



As our customers in Labadie already know, Zac Nutter requested to step out of management at the Labadie branch and we made arrangements for him to do so. He will still be there with his smile to greet you, but the reins in Labadie have been taken by Tina Bryant. Tina has experience in branch management and she will do a fine job serving you in that area! Tina lives in the area with her daughter and son-in-law and her three granddaughters, ranging in ages from 7 - 16. Tina said it can get chaotic, but she loves it! Please join us in making her feel welcome in her new role as Associate Branch Manager!



We are proud to announce three milestone anniversaries during the last quarter.

Barbie Hoke

Sullivan Account Specialist, 5 years on June 3

Suzanne Purschke Union Loan Officer, 10 years on May 18 **Joseph Lochner** Union Loan Officer, 10 years on June 23

Eureka Location Change Finalized

We are happy to announce the property for a new building has been purchased on the popular north service road in Eureka! As you pass by the area near Jimmy John's, watch for the sign announcing our new location. The process will start by choosing a building style and floor plan, with the hopes to raze the old building there and break ground on a new structure later this year.



From Left to Right: Devin Arand, Loan Officer-Eureka; Sierra Mesey, Marketing Director-Sullivan I-44; and Joe Cornejo, Maintenance-Sullivan Downtown

WHATEVER **MEANS THE MOST TO YOU...**

From your favorite memories to what inspires you - make it your favorite card in your wallet with a FREE* personalized debit card that's uniquely yours! Open a Sullivan Bank checking account between June 2nd and August 31st and

*At initial account opening, per account holder. Cards are typically ready in 2-3 business days. Message and data rates may apply.

Is that unexpected text a scam?

Article by: Federal Trade Commission Consumer Advice

get your personalized debit card, on us!

Did you know that people almost always open text messages? In a new <u>Data Spotlight</u> about the big jump in reported fraud losses involving text scams, the FTC notes a study finding open rates can be as high as 98%. Those are really good odds for a scammer. And when scammers get you to respond to their messages, they're cashing in. Here's how you can increase your chances of keeping your money safe.

Some text scams start as fake fraud alerts. You get a message from someone claiming to be from the fraud department with Amazon or your bank, offering to help with a suspicious charge. But that's the hook they use to get you to respond by messaging back or calling a number. Instead of help, they'll spin elaborate lies and drain your bank account.

Or maybe you get a text about a problem with a delivery or a message about unpaid tolls. In both cases, they tell you to click a link to fix the issue. When you land on what seems to be the USPS or highway toll program website (they're not), they tell you to pay "re-delivery fees" or "unpaid tolls." That's when you might end up giving your credit card or even your Social Security number to a scammer.

Test Message Scams on the Rise

New data from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) shows that in 2024, "consumers reported losing \$470 million to scams that started with text messages. This amount is five times higher than what was reported in 2020, even though the number of reports declined."

Scammers also use phony job opportunities and "wrong number" texts to convince you to respond. No matter what story you get, here are ways to avoid text scams:

- Don't reply to unexpected text messages. It could lead to a scam.
- Never click links in unexpected messages. Scammers want you to react quickly, but it's best to stop and check it out.
- Don't assume a text from a known company or organization is legit. Check it out. Reach out to the company, state tolling agency, or bank using a phone number or website you know is real — not the info from the text.

Delete and report scam texts using your phone's "report junk" option or forward unwanted texts to 7726 (SPAM). Learn more at ftc.gov/textscams.

It's nice to work with people you know!

Why do so many people choose a Community Bank when buying, building or refinancing their home? Maybe it is because we offer:



Local expertise - We know the neighborhoods, builders, and real estate agents because we live and work right here in the community.

Flexible loan options - From first-time homebuyer programs and VA or FHA loans to custom construction loans and refinancing solutions, we offer a wide range of products to meet your needs.



Personalized service - You'll work with a dedicated lender who takes the time to understand your goals and walks with you through every step.



Long-term partnership - We're not just here for the closing-we're here for the life of your loan and beyond.

Whether you're purchasing your first home, building your forever home, or refinancing to better fit your budget, we're here to help make it happen-with confidence and care.

Bank NMLS#402603 Subject to credit approval.



Sullivan

Shelly Haney, AVF

Eureka

Branch Operations

Officer

NMLS#1183930





Gary Smith, SVP

Eureka

NMLS#476578

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Josh Groom, AVF Cuba Branch Manager

Eureka

Jeff Brown, SVP

Western Branches

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Manager NMLS#1024843





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Jefferson Citv Loan Officer NMLS#450107

Jefferson Citv Commercial Loan Officer NMLS#747128

Jeff Carr, VF



Springfield

Loan Officer

NMLS#1078026

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Manager NMLS#403100

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Michelle DeBroeck SVP Sullivan NMI S#403085





Joseph R. Lochner

Suzanne Purschke Union Loan Officer NMI S#1755875

Union Loan Officer NMI S#1374489



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Michele Dierker, AVP





Sullivan

Senior Lender

NMLS#403082

Beau Bartolotta.

AVP

Sullivan

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Kevin Carey, SVP





Jacob Neusche, VF Sunrise Beach NMLS#819848





















Peggy Overschmidt, Jeff Sullivan - Union **Business Development** /Lender NMI S#539521 NMI S#1959332









Want to Save Some Money? Take Advantage of the Sales Tax Holiday!

August is the month we send our young people back to school. No matter what grade they are in, it is an expensive undertaking! Don't forget the sales tax holiday the weekend of August 1st – August 3rd. By state law, the sales tax holiday begins on the first Friday in August at 12:01am and runs through Sunday of the same weekend. The sales tax holiday covers school-related expenditures, such as clothing, school supplies and even computer equipment. For complete information about what goods are exempt and what cities and counties are participating, go to the Missouri Department of Revenue's website and follow the leads to read about the sales tax holiday.

LEARN MORE 🚍



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General Information

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

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