



Bank of Alma

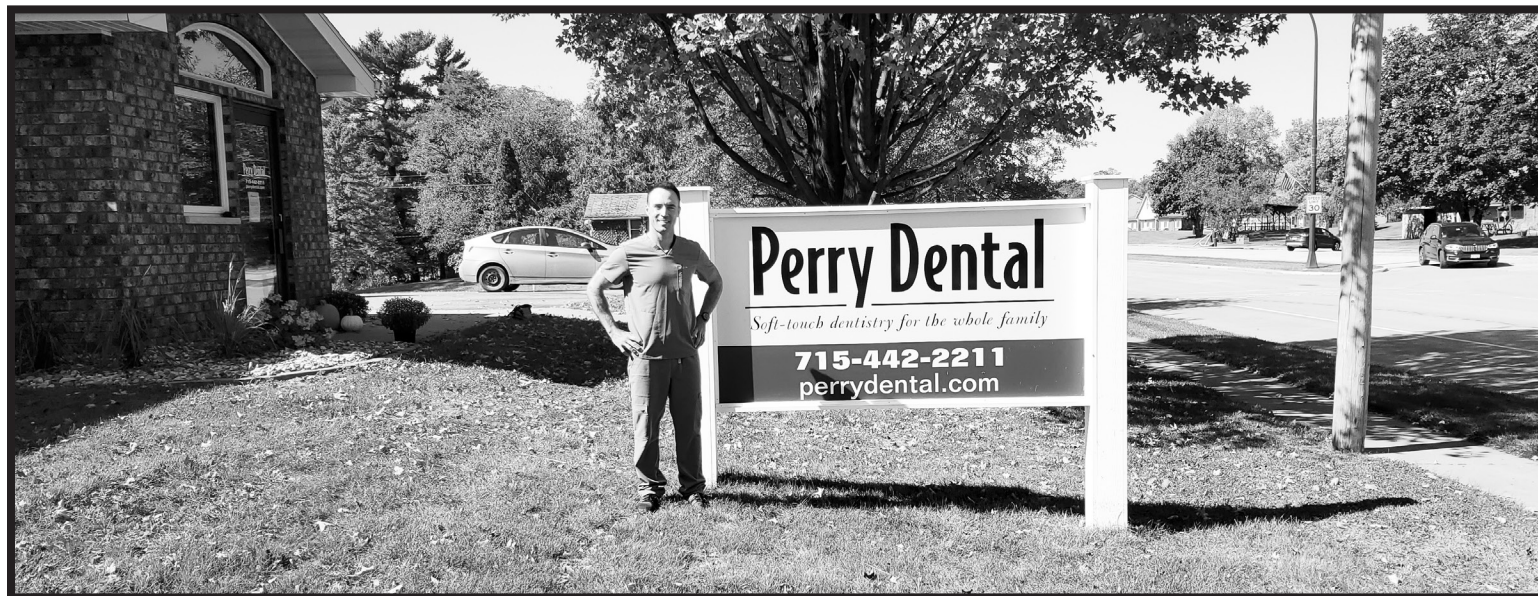
"Friends Serving Friends"



With Offices in Alma - Nelson - Pepin - Wabasha

Member FDIC

MARCH 2021



Welcome to the Community!!!

Perry Dental has come to Pepin. You might already be familiar with Perry Dental Practice located in Wabasha, Lake City and Eyota, MN, and now they recently purchased the dental practice in Pepin from Steve Johnson. Steve had decided to retire, and for Perry Dental, it felt like it was the right fit and an opportunity to grow. "Congratulations Steve!"

Isaac Perry, who grew up in Wabasha, went to Gustavus Adolphus College and then the University of MN School of Dentistry, will be the acting dentist for the Pepin location. Perry Dental has the Pepin office open on Mondays and Tuesdays as Isaac shares his time in the Wabasha Office as well. Isaac is married to Marie Perry, and they have a beautiful little girl, Olivia. Isaac said he wasn't sure if being a dentist comes from genetics or simply being a dentist was the best fit for him but likely some mixture of both.

The genetics start with Isaac's grandpa, Dr. James Perry, or what a lot of people called him, Doc Perry. Next comes Dr. Phil Perry, Jim's son, who works out of the Wabasha Office. Dr. Phil Perry has two children, Isaac and Ava, who also followed in dad and grandpa's footsteps and became dentists as well. Dr. Ava met her husband, Dr. Joe Line in dental school and he works in the Perry Dental practice as well. Dr. Phil works mainly in Wabasha, Dr. Ava is in Lake City, and Dr. Joe Line is in Eyota, MN. It certainly looks to me like dentistry definitely runs in the family.

Like any purchase, you want to put your own stamp on things. So, when you step into the office at Pepin, you'll notice a few changes, like paint, flooring, new lighting as well as some changes to the treatment rooms. They also brought in some new equipment that matches the equipment they use at their other dental offices. With the technology Perry Dental uses, they often are able to diagnose an issue at an early stage before it becomes a bigger problem.

Perry Dental offers general dentistry services in each of its loca-

tions. Fillings, crowns, root canals, dentures and cleanings are a few of the procedures offered. They also have digital x-rays, panoramic x-ray, 3D x-ray (CBCT), and same day crown procedures (cerc crowns).

Isaac said the group of dentists at Perry Dental complement each other as they can each bring something to the practice and work well together. I, of course, would think they have to or family get togethers might not be as fun. Isaac also said that Perry Dental is a team and everybody on the team is very important to the practice.

Isaac prides himself on continuing education. He and the other dentists can collaborate and come up with a plan for treating their patients. Isaac realizes that each person is different and wants to provide personalized care based on the individual. He wants to give his patients as much information as he can so the patient can make an informed decision as to what treatment is best for themselves. Every patient needs to decide what is in the best interest for their oral health as well as what is best for their financial health. He is always happy to see new patients, and if anyone has dental needs or questions, he's happy to help.

Another nice advantage of the four Perry Dental offices is if you need to be seen and are having trouble with scheduling, you can make an appointment at any of the other Perry Dental offices. Their records are digital so each office can have access to your records and can perform the same services and procedures. Their hope in the future is to add another day being open at the Pepin location.

You can check out their website at www.perrydental.com or you can call any of their locations.

Wabasha Office	Eyota Office	Lake City Office	Pepin Office
(651)565-2888	(651)585-5200	(651)345-4677	(715)442-2211

*"Congratulations Perry Dental
and Welcome to Pepin"*



FOUR SIGNS THAT IT'S A SCAM

1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.

Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the Social Security Administration, the IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations. (They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So, the name and number you see might not be real.

2. Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.

They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an emergency. Or that there's a virus on your computer. Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information. Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.

Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.

They often insist that you pay by sending money through a money transfer company or by putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), tell you to deposit it, and then send them money.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO AVOID A SCAM

Block unwanted calls and text messages.

Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.

Legitimate organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately.

Legitimate business will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay.

Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.



Stop and talk to someone you trust.

Before you do anything else, tell someone- a friend, a family member, a neighbor-what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Report Scams to the FTC

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

[ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud)

TIPS & TID BITS

When calling our bank, we need to verify your identity before giving out information. Consider setting up a security passphrase/question and an answer. This gives you and us an added layer of security for your accounts.

It's time again to open/start your Christmas Club account. It's a great way to save for the holiday spending. You can set up an auto transfer and the money can be deposited directly into your Christmas club account.

We offer internet banking. It's a great way to monitor your accounts, set up transfers, make loan payments, balance your statements. Stop in or down- load the internet enrollment form from our website. www.bankofalma.net

Did you get a new phone number or have an address change? Make sure to update the bank with any of those changes.

We are hoping to get our "55 and Better" trips started again soon. There is a lot of uncertainty with the present Covid concerns and we will always take the safety of our customers into consideration. Be on the look out for any upcoming trips.

FIXED RATE HOME LOANS AVAILABLE!



LOAN OFFICERS

Alma - Lisa Crandell 608.685.4461

Nelson - Lisa Candell 715.673.4351

Pepin - Heidi Baader 715.442.2311

Wabasha - Jon Trotter 651.565.2627

www.bankofalma.net

From the Desk of Bill Bosshard



Bill Bosshard,
President

The tremendous amount of money that has rained down from the government over the last 18 months is showing itself with the increased demand for goods and services. While the strain on the "supply chain" does not really affect our banks it certainly does affect our customers. It has affected availability of certain goods as well as increased prices when the items are available. Historically, this has led to an increase in interest rates but the continued pumping of the money supply by the Fed has held rates down. We expect rates to increase over time as savers demand a rate at least equal to the devaluing of their savings as inflation always does. What affect these increases will have on the overall economy remains to be seen.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

Alma

The Burlington Hotel & Bar is now open under new ownership as of February 2021. Hotel rooms are available to rent. The former quilt shop is open now as "Queen Bee Alma" for crafting, beverages and social time. The Burlington Bar re-opened this summer serving mixed drinks, wine, beer, soda, coffee and other refreshments. If you're in search of a neighborhood meeting spot for drinks or conversation stop by and enjoy the warm hospitality, relaxing environment, and a cold one.

Nelson

Thrive! Center to become part of Thrive! Park.

Gary Christopherson donated 25 acres of land known as the Thrive Park as a public park, to the Village of Nelson. Gary has since donated the center which includes the historic 1885 era farm buildings for the public to view. The Center includes the GChris Sculpture Studio/Gallery. Chris, who is the sculptor, has over 100 sculptures on display. While there are no formal hours, it is open most days when Chris is available. This will be a nice attraction for the Village of Nelson.

Pepin

Captain's Legacy Bar & Grill, owned and operated by Don and Dawn Johnson, is now serving food. They are open for lunch and dinner with daily specials. Stop in and say "HI". 715-442-2337

Wabasha

Kudos to the Wabasha-Kellogg Area Community Foundation (WKACF) for all the hard work and generous donations they have done; including pool passes for all area youth, a grant to Hiawatha Valley Mental Health center, Food Shelf and many more. Thank you for caring. www.wkacf.org

Congratulations to Hoppy girl Brewery and Turning Waters B & B! Fans voted (through the Star Tribune) that they are the BEST Brewery and B & B and... most romantic getaway in Minnesota.



Great job Brenda and Ford! Watch for dates of the upcoming Hop & Vine, Beer & Wine Tasting event. www.turningwatersbandb.com

Pure Identity and Spa finished their new location in early June this year (224 Alleghany Ave, Wabasha, MN). It looks beautiful! They offer so many services you really must check them out. Best of luck Collette and Nick. www.pureidentityspa.com

Special thanks to all the volunteers that make Jake's Field of Dreams a reality year after year; 25 years to be exact. 100% of the proceeds go the St Elizabeth-Gunderson Hospital & Clinic for upgrades in equipment and technology. A wonderful dream that began in 1996 and is still thriving.

Congrats to all the 4-Hers during the fair; the thank you cards were so thoughtful and appreciated.

Last but not least, big things are on the horizon for the National Eagle center- a \$27 million expansion! The Center will close Oct. 26th until spring of 2022. Watch the website for all the details. www.nationaleaglecenter.org.

EMPLOYEE NEWS:

Angel McMahon has joined the staff at the Nelson branch as a Personal Banker. Angel is a huge sports fan. She loves the MN Vikings, Twins and the WNBA Lynx. Angel likes to play cards and hang out with friends in her spare time. She also likes to go to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater and the Guthrie Theater. Most of all she says she loves hanging out with her grandkids. Angel says she likes working at the Bank of Alma at the Nelson Branch as it has a very friendly atmosphere and the customers are very appreciative and make her feel good about the job she and the bank are doing.

Madeline Whitman has joined the staff here at Alma as a Personal Banker. Madeline, her boyfriend, Freddy and her 2 cats, Toby and Twinkles live in Alma. Madeline enjoys reading, hiking in the woods and composting kitchen scraps with red wiggler worms. Madeline says it's great to work where she lives and to know she is helping local people and organizations with their banking needs.

Nancy Wolfe has made the move to the Pepin branch as a personal banker to fill the part time position there.

Our Loan Officers are happy to help you!



Stop in at any of our locations.

Lisa Candell in Alma/Nelson
Jon Trotter in Wabasha
Heidi Baader in Pepin

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Market Environment

Tim Wuebben & Brian Harris, SagePoint Financial, Inc.

It's hard to believe we're a few months away from turning the calendar to 2022. While this time of year can feel like it goes quickly, take a moment to enjoy fall: the weather cools, the leaves start to change, playoff baseball begins, and football season kicks off.

We had our fair share of headlines in August, most notably the tragic and disheartening scenes in Afghanistan. Our thoughts go out to the families of the brave American military personnel who served throughout the conflict, as well as those Afghans affected by the Taliban's swift takeover of the country.

We've seen a steady climb in new covid-19 cases caused by the spread of the highly infectious delta variant. We witnessed the impact the COVID-19 virus made on the US economy last year; hopefully, we avoid similar fallout in the future.

House Democrats hurdled internal divisions to clear a path to pass the \$3.5 trillion budget bill, including \$1 trillion spending allocation to address the United States' deteriorating infrastructure. On the one hand, an independent analysis by Moody's Analytics estimates the infrastructure bill alone could create 650,000 jobs at an average salary of \$70,000 per job. On the other hand, the spending adds to an already-bloated federal balance sheet that hasn't been balanced since the Clinton Administration.

Meanwhile, US stocks cut through the noise to find new highs, propelled by a buoyant earnings season. According to FactSet, 88% of S&P companies reported actual revenues above estimates, which is greater than the five-year average of 65%. In other words, US publicly-traded companies made more money than expected last quarter, which is always a good thing for investors.

In a speech from the Federal Reserve's annual retreat in Jackson Hole, WY, Chairman Jerome Powell reiterated his wait-and-see approach to raising interest rates and "tapering" the central bank's asset purchases. Historically, rising interest rates suggest a lower total return for the bond market and can potentially lead to higher volatility in stocks. The tapering language bears watching as markets reacted negatively after the Fed modestly reduced its balance sheet in 2014 and 2018.

Regarding the speech, Kathy Jones, chief fixed-income strategist at the Schwab Center for Financial Research, remarked to Reuters, "we're still going to have very easy policy for a year probably and that's good for risk assets."

Parsing the Fed's every move is something of a parlor game on Wall Street. We maintain our view that a balanced portfolio diversified amongst high quality assets can help clients meet their financial objectives

We welcome the opportunity to review your current situation and address any questions or concerns – 800-299-9079, 3626 East Ave. South, La Crosse, WI 54601- and are happy to visit with you in Alma as well.

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Banking for Fun!

Bring in the completed word search below, with your name and phone number, to be entered in a drawing for a prize by December 31, 2021.

A	M	I	E	P	T	E	L	L	E	R	O
F	O	R	E	I	G	N	D	U	N	R	E
L	C	S	B	A	L	A	N	C	E	A	R
S	O	D	R	I	V	E	T	H	R	U	C
I	I	W	L	W	O	D	N	I	W	P	R
R	N	R	C	W	A	R	D	H	T	I	W
K	C	E	H	C	R	E	I	H	S	A	C
A	V	C	D	E	P	O	S	I	T	C	N
S	K	C	E	H	C	A	L	C	C	I	Y
T	T	L	R	A	S	L	I	P	D	E	C
O	X	E	L	E	V	A	R	T	N	E	I
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	O	H	O	D
A	T	M	C	A	R	D	M	D	H	S	F
R	R	C	A	S	H	I	N	G	C	M	T

Teller
Cashing
Coin
Foreign
Window
Computer

Deposit
Cashier Check
Checks
Travelex
Balance
ATM Card

Withdraw
Money
FDIC
Drive Thru
Slip

Bank of Alma: Your one-stop financial center

Friends Serving Friends on the Banks of the Mississippi

Alma: 608-685-4461 • **Nelson:** 715-673-4351

Pepin: 715-442-2311 • **Wabasha:** 651-565-2627

If you have any questions or comments about the Bank of Alma's MONEY MATTERS, or suggestions for future articles, we'd enjoy hearing from you. Editor reserves the right to edit all articles for length and content.

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