



# State Bank of Speer

## PEORIA BANKING CENTER

APRIL 2011

**W**E ARE AN INDEPENDENT, FULL SERVICE BANK PROVIDING SERVICES TO DIVERSE CONSUMER MARKETS AND INDEPENDENT, LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS. IN PROVIDING THESE SERVICES, WE WILL SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES WHILE PROVIDING SHAREHOLDER VALUE OVER THE LONG-TERM.

### STATE BANK OF SPEER

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### LOBBY HOURS

Mon-Thurs 8:30am-4pm  
Friday 8:30am-5pm  
Saturday 8:30am-12 Noon

### DRIVE-UP HOURS

Mon-Thurs 7:30am-5pm  
Friday 7:30am-6pm  
Saturday 7:30am-12 Noon



*Can you believe March is nearly gone? Hopefully, that means winter will soon be leaving as well. We have certainly had more than enough snowfall and cold weather this year; so much for that global warming theory!!!*

*The winter months are always busy at State Bank of Speer. Year end reports for not only customers but also for the bank keep everyone busy. Our loan department keeps quite active assisting farmers in their financial planning for the coming year. The majority of this work is completed by April 15; a lot sooner for our farm customers as their income taxes are due the first part of March. We are blessed in this community that our farmers continue to have good yielding crops as well as really good market prices. With these good market prices, one must really exercise some good control and judgment. I've heard it said that "farming is the biggest gambling game". And it is; farmers are always dependent on good weather conditions to produce a high-yielding harvest, but then have to be astute to all of the volatility that the grain markets bring. I have high respect for all of the farm people in this community.*

*You probably are already aware that Jim Stahl retired from the State Bank of Speer board in January after 35 years of service. Replacing Jim on the board is Win Stoller of Peoria, Illinois. Win is associated with Widmer, Inc. in Peoria. We welcome him to our bank board.*

*Your bank is in the process of doing a major building addition as well as remodeling of the present facility. We have outgrown our existing space. Keep an eye on the Speer facility for the expansion project to begin. All of us are excited about this project; we'll keep you informed of the progress made.*

*Today's technology brings with it more demands for space as it seems we need more and more computers to serve our customers with the most current technology and banking services available. We are proud that our technology services are more advanced and efficient than most of the major banks and local credit unions.*

*Remember with spring comes farm machinery on our roads. Let's all be more careful and watch our surroundings more closely to be aware of slower moving vehicles. We want everyone to have a safe spring.*

*Have a great spring, and keep this great country of ours in your thoughts and prayers.*

Sincerely,  
Mike Stahl, President



## TECHNOLOGY IN BANKING

Often, I'm amazed by how far technology has come and how pervasive it is in the world we live. Specifically, there are two instances which come to mind in my life. At the end of 2010, we purchased a new van. And, although I don't enjoy the normal price negotiations that take place, I had a new ally in my hand. That ally is my Android powered smartphone with the Kelly Blue Book app installed. With a few touches of the screen, I knew the fair market value of the vehicle being traded and purchased. With this ally, I almost feel bad for the dealership....almost!

At a super bowl party with a few friends, the topic of technology in the agriculture industry came up. As we discussed the use of GPS and touch screen technology in tractors, it is apparent that technology has impacted the industry and will continue to make its mark.

Technology in banking is no different. The break-neck pace at which technology grows and how it improves the way we provide customer service is unmistakable. Services such as secure access to checking accounts via Internet banking, direct payroll deposit, and online bill pay are as mainstream as cruise control and power windows. These technologies have helped our customers gain control over their money in a way that's more convenient and secure than ever before.

But, things are always changing in technology and that's true here at the State Bank of Speer. Last fall, we introduced mobile banking and text message banking. Now, we're in the initial stages of revamping our web site to make it easier to find the things you need. And, we are also working on text alerts which can be setup to send you a text message when a transaction of a certain amount occurs or your balance hits a certain level for example. Our hope is that this cohesive set of technologies will improve your banking experience, and protect you from fraud. By staying in touch with account activity, fraud detection can happen early and be stopped quickly.

For more information on our mobile banking products, please visit the "Services" section of our web site. Or, simply give us a call (888-249-2141) to learn more about how technology can help you access your money.

## GOOD NEWS FOR THE ECONOMY

There is some good news on the state of the economy. The Independent Community Bankers of America Newswatch reported in February that the agricultural trade surplus is expected to reach \$47.5 billion in fiscal 2011. That shatters the old record of \$36 billion set in 2008. What impact does the surplus have on the economy? USDA Secretary Tom Vilsach said that every one billion dollars in agricultural exports generates an additional \$1.4 billion in economic activity AND supports 8,000 jobs.

Cash receipts for producers are projected at a record \$341 billion for 2011. Higher commodity prices are a contributing factor to the increase.

Finally, the USDA Economic Research Service projects world per capita income will increase by 2.3% in 2011. This is more than double the growth rate from 2001 to 2010.

We want to thank all of the great farmers in our community for their hard work which keeps our economy in Illinois and the world strong.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Relay for Life Team will be holding a bake sale on Friday, April 8 as part of our Community Banking Week activities.



We will have another bake sale on Friday, April 22 – just in time for your Easter Treats.

Both of these events are at the Speer location. Proceeds will benefit individuals in our area whose lives have been touched by cancer.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Effective April 1, 2011 we will no longer allow the withdrawal of funds on ACH deposits until the actual effective date of the funds.

