



Something from Mary

June Newsletter

We don't know what we don't know. A rambling piece on a variety of topics.

Each chapter of life brings about an opportunity and we all have something to learn at every turn of a page.

As we close the chapter of May, I look back at two industry conferences I attended. I'm always reminded there are new ways of doing things. There are new people in our places of work and community we can glean new ideas from. Many people can bristle at the idea of changing from the "way we've always done something," to attempting a refresh, or update, but why? Not sure I can answer that.

Perhaps in your industry, you are also hearing more and more about AI. Artificial Intelligence. While there are certainly some concerns specifically with accuracy, AI can become a time saver, a starting point, a companion to your own brain function. No, this article is written by me, not AI. But, if we are able to create more time for those tasks our brain needs to heavily invest in, by using AI.... I'm just sayin'. Plus, AI is here to stay. Becoming familiar with AI capabilities and options will only help you in the future. Let's not think of it as a work around, cheating, or short cut in life. This is a life giver, cohort, and even a partial FTE in some cases when used appropriately.

AI is certainly pushing us to the cusp of change, and out of the box, when it comes to our work environments. We can see technology changes happening at a very rapid pace again. With these changes, we also have seen an uptick in scams. PLEASE Pay CLOSE attention to emails and phone calls asking for ANY information from you. Scams are becoming more sophisticated, and are using AI to recreate voices and images, even video. Phone calls can now be linked to someone's phone number to make it look someone you know is calling. I once received a call from my own cell phone. Be alert to unusual patterns, and always use your own contact information to reach a person or business to confirm their requests. Your family and friends are not going to ask you to buy gift cards and mail them for you, or have you transfer money to win the lottery, or call from another country in jail needing bail.... Well... most family and friends won't. This is an important topic to cover with those who may be more vulnerable to these scams.

Recently, I talked with Nicole Grobe of MidCountry Bank and Deb Froemming of Citizens Bank & Trust about scams, for the Chamber Connection show on HVCN. It is still amazing to me the number of scams, the types of scams; really the gall of anyone to attempt to take money from someone else. Please be alert.

Hey, isn't it cool to have two people from different financial institutions reach out to help educate everyone? Yes, they reached out to me and I was happy to help get the word out. Our community businesses are in competition with each other, but this underlying message is about community and united for the common good! I love that about Hutchinson. So collaborative!

Hutchinson Leadership Institute just graduated its 35th class- WHAT!?! They spent their last day together working in Library Square cleaning, weeding, planting, and so much more. Then, for graduation, they do a presentation on their community service project groups. This year's class, like so many before them, collaborated with community leaders and made five more projects happen in Hutchinson.

And as I wrap up my meandering piece, I'll bring this article back to home... we don't know what we don't know. But I know a place where you can learn more! Hutchinson Leadership Institute and Leadership 2.0 applications are now live on the website, or you can get them by stopping in or calling, or emailing, or waving me down on the street. The 36th session of Leadership will begin in September. Please consider this for yourself and or employees. The program is led by nine incredible humans who make up the Design Team. So come join us for an incredible year of networking, community engagement and leadership topics you can utilize the same day!

-Margy