



# LAKE SUNAPEE BANK

BANKING • INSURANCE • WEALTH MANAGEMENT

## NEWS RELEASE

October 20, 2015

For Immediate Release:

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### **CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH: LAKE SUNAPEE BANK REMINDS CONSUMERS TO PROTECT THEIR DATA**

**NEWPORT, NH** - Americans live in a mobile society, relying on smartphones, tablets and computers to gather news, make purchases, interact with friends and family, and connect with financial institutions. Increasingly, cybercriminals compromise the networks that support these devices. This often results in identity theft, which can also yield financial losses and safety for consumers. A recent report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) found that computer hackers have stolen the personal information of approximately 40 million U.S. residents.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month, and Lake Sunapee Bank and the Independent Community Bankers of America® (ICBA) are offering tips to help consumers avoid having their online financial information disrupted or stolen. ICBA, along with more than 6,000 community banks across the country, urge consumers to remain vigilant and protect themselves from potential credit card and bank fraud.

Lake Sunapee Bank and ICBA offer the following tips to help consumers safeguard their online accounts:

- When sending sensitive information via the Internet, make sure “https:” appears in the address bar. This means the information you are transmitting is encrypted.
- Ensure the wireless network you use is password-protected, and choose a strong password and update it frequently for your work and home wireless networks. Likewise, always use a passcode on your mobile phone or tablet to stop an unauthorized user from accessing your device.
- Don’t enter sensitive information into your phone when others can see what you’re entering.
- Set the privacy settings on frequented social network sites. Cybercriminals often learn about people and their families and friends via social media in an attempt to spoof or phish you and your network.
- Remain cautious of someone who isn’t who they say they are or if the name and area don’t match what appears on caller ID. This is often how spoofing occurs.
- Never respond to text messages, emails or phone calls from companies alleging to be your bank, government officials or business representatives that request your banking ID, account numbers, user name or password.
- Similarly, don’t click on links sent to you from unknown sources via text message because they are likely malware.
- Beware of “get rich quick” schemes; never voluntarily give out your bank account information or security credentials.

“Now more than ever consumers must remain alert to the possibility of their personal credit and financial security being compromised,” said Bill McIver, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Lake Sunapee Bank. “Checking their accounts regularly and keeping their computers up to date with the latest antivirus/malware software is highly recommended.”

You can learn more about Cyber Security Awareness Month by visiting <https://www.staysafeonline.org/ncsam/>

### **About Lake Sunapee Bank, fsb**

Lake Sunapee Bank, a federally chartered savings bank, provides a wide range of life-cycle banking and financial services. Lake Sunapee Bank wholly-owns McCrillis & Eldredge Insurance, Inc., a full-line independent insurance agency, and Charter Holding Corp., which wholly-owns Charter Trust Company, a trust services and wealth management company. Lake Sunapee Bank, through its subsidiaries, as well as The Nashua Bank, a division of Lake Sunapee Bank, operates 42 banking, insurance, and trust and wealth management locations throughout Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack and Sullivan counties in New Hampshire and Orange, Rutland and Windsor counties in Vermont. The bank is wholly owned by Lake Sunapee Bank Group (NASDAQ: LSBG).