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Tips on the Upcoming “Chip”

As HomeTown Bank approaches the issuance of our EMV Chip Card, we thought you might like an overview of the EMV Smart Card.

What Is EMV?

EMV (Europay, MasterCard, and Visa) commonly refers to the fraud-reducing technology that is built into payment cards with a smart chip. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover have established EMV as the standard card technology in the United States. A smart card chip is a small computer (or microprocessor) that has its own data storage, processing power, and application software. Unlike a magnetic stripe card, a chip is extremely difficult to crack.



Online Danger:

Angela Brooks, Senior Vice President

Every country that has switched to EMV cards has seen an increase in online fraud. Fraud doesn't go away, it just goes somewhere else, and that somewhere else is always online. The thieves can still steal the card number and expiration date, which still can be used online. Although the transition to EMV is expected to lead to less counterfeiting of cards, it will also encourage fraudsters to move to new areas of vulnerability. If counterfeiting physical cards is more trouble, criminals will naturally turn to buying items online with stolen credit card numbers.

So, although we are excited about the future of EMV in the United States, we must be vigilant in protecting our online purchases.

EMV Security:

The smart chip embedded in the EMV card adds layers of security that goes beyond the magnetic strip. A smart chip offers greater security because it contains a secure vault that holds unique keys specific to each card that protect your transactions. A magnetic strip card houses all of the required information on the strip. This has made it easier for the fraudsters to place skimmers over the card readers at gas stations and at ATM machines. Each EMV transaction is protected with advanced cryptography and a numeric code that changes for each transaction which allows the terminals to authenticate the card.

The benefits of the EMV Chip Card:

- Safer transaction in person
- A more thorough authentication process
- Reduced identity theft risk

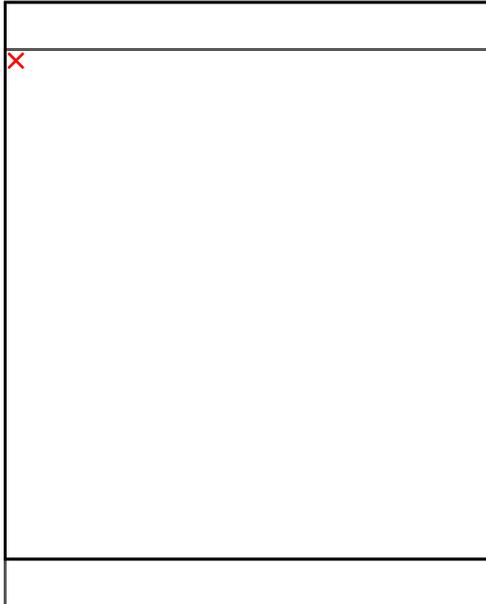
Your new chip debit card will arrive by mail with instructions in the near future. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Congratulations! Jenny Chatman Promoted to Assistant Vice President and BSA Officer:

Jenny Chatman has been promoted to Assistant Vice President and Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) officer. With ten years of banking experience, Chatman administers programs of compliance with the BSA, regulations issued by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and all other related anti-money laundering regulations and laws. Chatman joined the bank as a teller in 2013, and was promoted to Personal Banker that same year. "Prior to coming to work for HomeTown Bank, I was impressed by its outstanding reputation and community involvement," she said. "Over the past few years, I have enjoyed being a part of a bank that truly treats its customers and its employees like family. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to many more years as part of the HomeTown Bank team."

Lemonade Day Galveston 2016

Lemonade Day Galveston 2016 was a huge success with a record 1,200 Young Entrepreneurs. As a proud sponsor, HomeTown Bank hosted Kaitlynn Montgomery (4th grade, Oppe School) of "Krazy Kate's Old Fashioned Lemonade Stand" at the Seawall bank and Madelyn Bond (6th grade, Odyssey Academy) of "Pucker Up Lemonade" at the Main bank. Both are pictured here with Assistant Vice President and happy customer Brandon Rogers.



Melissa Wright has been voted Employee of the Year!

Melissa Wright, Real Estate Processor at the Galveston Seawall location, has been named HomeTown Bank's Employee of the Year! Congratulations, Melissa! Melissa has been with the bank since September of 2014 and stated, "I absolutely love working for HomeTown Bank. Everyone is fantastic and such a pleasure!" Senior Vice President Sharon Hansen added, "HomeTown Bank is lucky to have Melissa in the real estate department. She is such a knowledgeable employee and is always willing to help fellow employees, officers and customers to be best of her ability. Even though she was not actually Born on the Island, Melissa is a BOI at heart...she loves Galveston and our beaches, especially looking for sea shells."

13th Annual Red Hat Luncheon



Back Row Left to Right: Raeanne Crain, Brad Crain, Donna Rizzo (Vice President, HTB of Pearland), Sean Murphy (Vice President, HTB of Pearland), Sara Orlando, Pam Boegler; Front Row Left to Right: Janet Cole, Dolores Koza, Ada Koza.

HomeTown Bank of Pearland and friends attended the 13th Annual Red Hat Luncheon, benefitting the Adult Reading Center.

