



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month  
**Union Bank Provides Tips for Safeguarding Sensitive Data**

**Morrisville, VT** - In recognition of National Cybersecurity Month in October, Union Bank and the Independent Community Bankers of America® (ICBA) are reminding consumers of simple steps they can take to safeguard their sensitive data when making purchases online or via a smart device and what to do if they suspect their information has been compromised.

“Educating customers about account security and cyber threats is something we all must be conscious about if we want to reduce the risk of sensitive information being exploited for criminal use,” said Patricia Hogan, Senior Risk Officer at Union Bank. “We take great care in handling our customers’ sensitive information and want to equip them with practical steps they can take to help strengthen our nation’s cybersecurity ecosystem and avoid falling prey to identity theft and fraud this holiday season.”

There are steps consumers can take to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of identity theft or fraud. We encourage consumers to:

- **Enable the strongest authentication tools offered** by their bank. Popular authentication methods include biometrics, security keys and single-use codes.
- **Use complex passwords and differentiate them** across multiple platforms. For example, customers should use one password for their online bank account and another for their email account.
- **Do a system check.** Purge unused apps and outdated or sensitive information stored in old files and emails and ensure all software on internet-connected devices is current.

Consumers can also make sure their account has not been compromised by taking the following steps:

- **Check bank statements regularly** to ensure the purchases are legitimate.
- **Read the fine print when purchasing items online.** Often a website or application will ask for permission to save account information.
- **Stay vigilant.** Be mindful when shopping online and look for signs of illegitimate websites. Spelling or grammatical errors, missing contact information, and suspicious URLs or email addresses are all red flags.

Learn more about how to protect your digital life during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month by visiting the [Stay Safe Online website](#).

Union Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Union Bankshares, Inc. (UNB, traded on the NASDAQ Exchange), provides commercial, retail and municipal banking services and asset management services throughout northern Vermont and New Hampshire. Union Bank operates 20 banking offices, two loan centers, and multiple ATMs throughout its geographical footprint.

Union Bank has been helping people buy homes and local businesses create jobs in area communities since opening its doors over 127 years ago. Union Bank has earned an exceptional reputation for residential lending programs and has been recognized by the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development for the positive impact made in the lives of first-time home buyers. Union Bank is consistently one of the top Vermont Housing Finance Agency mortgage originators. Additionally, Union Bank has also been designated as an SBA Preferred lender for its participation in small business lending. Proud to be one of the few independent community banks serving Vermont and New Hampshire, Union Bank maintains a strong commitment to its core traditional values of keeping deposits safe, giving customers convenient financial choices and making loans to help people in our local communities buy homes, grow businesses, and create jobs. These values - combined with financial expertise, quality products and the latest technology - make Union Bank the leading choice for your banking services, both personal and business. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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