

# Be Safe On The Internet

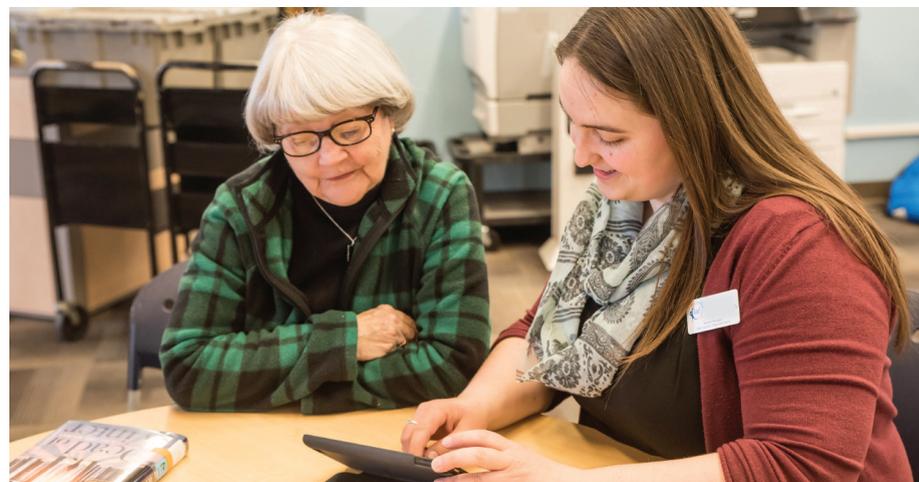
## Remember the small town rumor mill of yesteryear?

Believe it or not, it is still alive. Most would definitely say it has morphed and grown with the advent of social media. Just like the rumor mill where you couldn't believe everything you heard, you can't believe everything you find online. Back in the day, you had the option of repeating unsubstantiated information or doing further investigation-same as today with your online adventures.

Everybody agrees it is difficult to sort what is real from what is fake on the internet, but we all need to rely on tried and true research skills, critical thinking, and fact checking, so we don't fall victim to hoaxes and misinformation. The following websites are dedicated solely to fact checking: Snopes.com, FactCheck.org, and mediabiasfactcheck.com just to name a few.

Fact checking before you repost or retweet something is a good habit to get into, and may save you some embarrassment later. There are steps for finding reliable information on safe websites. When you do a search on the internet, you'll see in your search results, ads or sponsored results at the top and possibly the bottom of your list of results.

These are not considered reliable sources of information, but any sites that end in .gov, .edu or .org are considered more reliable. Domains that are managed by the government are those ending with .gov, those ending with .edu are managed by universities, and those with .org are usually run by non-

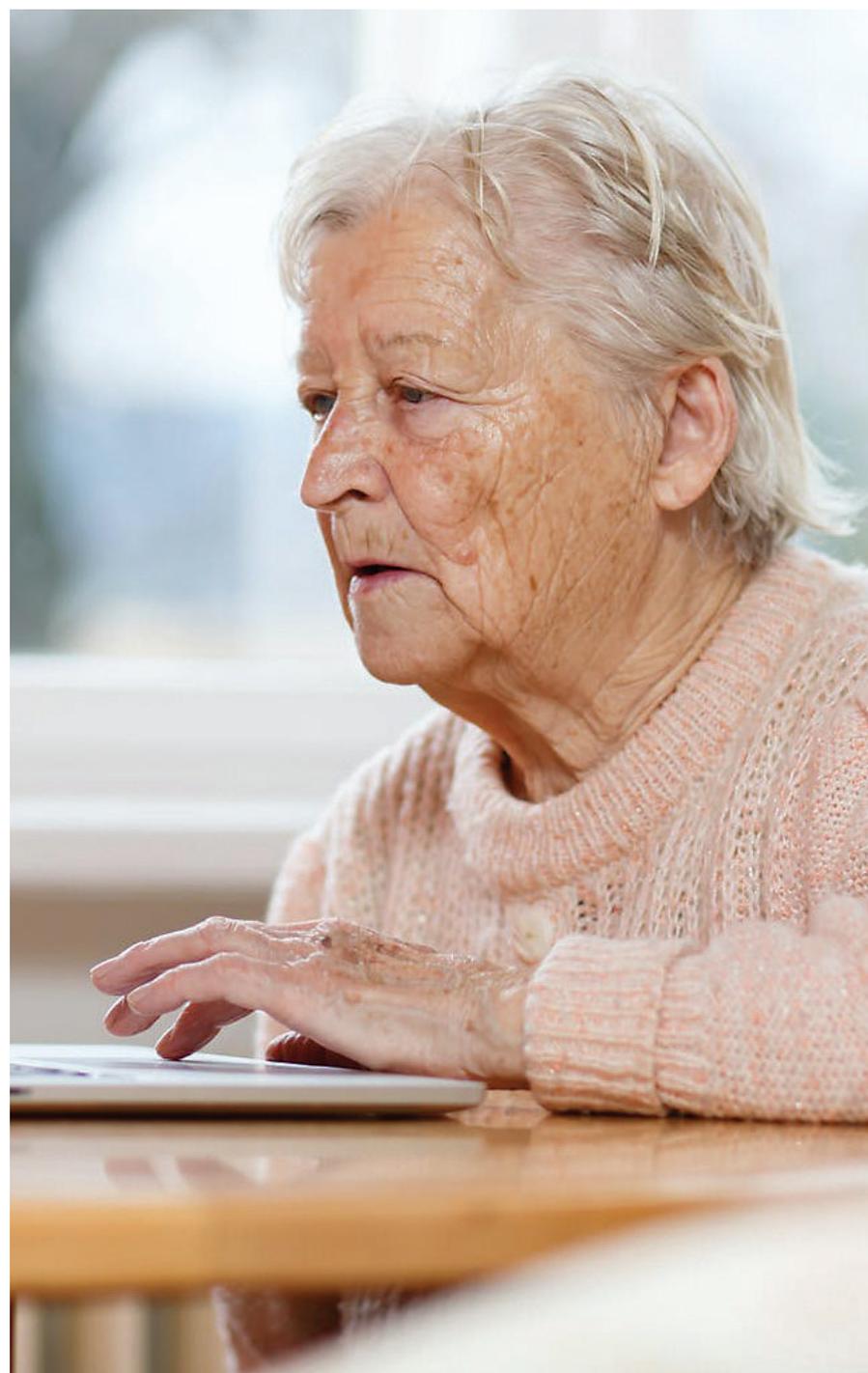


profit organizations.

When visiting a website, you want to check for HTTPS in your browser's navigation bar. The symbol of the padlock is usually displayed to the left of HTTPS. This is important especially if you are doing online banking or shopping, because it encrypts your communications to prevent criminals from stealing sensitive information like your credit card numbers and passwords.

Just remember, you are not alone. Any Lake Agassiz Regional Library branch has librarians just a phone call away to help with any question you may have, including help with research on a website or any possible misinformation you may run into. Call us at (833) 522-5275.

*Article submitted by Lake Agassiz Regional Library, Danell Haspell.*



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