Password Security Best Practices

Passwords are the first line of defense when it comes to our online accounts. Even if creating strong passwords and managing different ones can be difficult, it's important to get passwords right so that we're best protecting our information.

Tips for strong passwords

- **Passwords should be long, as well as complex.**
- **Don't use the same password for different accounts.** If one of your accounts is hacked, the attackers will likely try to hack your other accounts with the same password. If you're having trouble remember so many different passwords, try one of these:
    - **Keep a secure note**. This is a password-protected file on your computer or mobile device that lists all your passwords.
    - **Use a password manager**. Password managers generate strong passwords on the fly and store them in a secure vault. Try a free trial of a few of these products before deciding whether they're right for you.
- **Don't use anything public or easily found through a Google search or social media.** This includes:
    - Your name/nickname
    - Your birthday
    - A favorite quotation
    - A pet's name
    - Your hometown
- **Your password should not be a full dictionary word.**
- **Never share your passwords.** If you suspect that someone knows your password, change it immediately.
- No password takes forever to crack, which is why we recommend **changing your passwords regularly**.
- Enable **multifactor authentication** if it's available. This feature locks down your account behind a second form of authentication, such as a smartphone notification, an e-mail, or a phone call.
- Rather than basing your password on a word, **try basing it on a phrase**.
    - **Example:** "This little piggy went to market." → "tlpWENT2mkt."

Reference herein to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by Commonwealth Financial Network®.