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Merchants Bank Supports 15th Annual South End Art Hop 2007

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT— Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President of Merchants Bank announced the company's support of the 15th Annual South End Art Hop, scheduled for Friday, September 7 and Saturday, September 8, 2007. Merchants Bank will also display three large, freestanding signs that will symbolize and represent renowned artists' pieces.

Vermont's largest visual art event features work from more than 400 artists, now attracting crowds of close to 40,000. The South End Art and Business Association, or SEABA, founded in the late 1980s, is the event organizer. SEABA soon grew to represent the entire South End of Burlington. Special activities during this year's Art Hop include fashion shows, a juried art exhibit, outdoor sculpture, artist-designed mini-golf, music, dancing and more.

"Merchants Bank is proud to be a supporting sponsor of this important cultural event that adds so much diversity to our community," commented Leavitt.

The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a state-wide community bank that blends a strong technology platform with a genuine appreciation for local markets. It fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 36 community bank offices and 44 ATMs throughout Vermont, Personal Bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service, and streamlined products: FreedomLYNX[®] Banking, which consists of Free Checking for Life[®], a low cost Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, Free Debit Card and Free Automated Phone Banking; TimeLYNX[®] Flexible Certificates of Deposit; AutoLYNXSM Vehicle Loans; HomeLYNX[®] Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit; RealLYNX[®] Residential Mortgages; CommerceLYNX[®] Business Banking; and Q-LYNX Quick Decision Business Loans. For more information about Merchants Bank, **visit mbvt.com**. Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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