



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Patricia C. Blake Appointed Branch President, Merchants Bank, E. Thetford Office**

*SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT*—Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President of Merchants Bank announced the appointment of Patricia C. Blake to the position of Branch President for the East Thetford office. Blake has been acting Branch President since August 2006, and succeeds Sherry Crossley. She will continue to work with branch team members Clyde Berry and Susan Ilsley.

Blake began her banking career with Bradford National Bank in the E. Thetford office in August 1988. She advanced from Teller to Head Teller prior to the acquisition of Bradford National Bank by Merchants Bank in June 1993. Blake continued to serve as Teller/Customer Representative with Merchants Bank in the East Thetford office until mid-2005. She joined the Floating Customer Representative group and traveled extensively, serving Merchants Bank branches throughout Vermont. In early 2006, Blake served as acting Branch President in Merchants Bank's Windsor branch covering a maternity leave. In the difficult aftermath that followed the hostage ordeal in E. Thetford on August 2, 2006, Blake was asked to serve as acting Branch President of the E. Thetford branch. She provided stability, continuity and leadership during a trying time to the satisfaction of her customers and the branch team.

Blake formerly served the U.S. Postal Service in Thetford, and served for six years on the Thetford select board. She resides in E. Thetford with her husband Robert. They have two sons and two grandsons.



**Patricia C. Blake**

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 43 ATMs throughout Vermont, Personal Bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service, and streamlined products: FreedomLYNX<sup>®</sup> Banking, which consists of Free Checking for Life<sup>®</sup>, 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<sup>®</sup> Flexible Certificates of Deposit; AutoLYNX Vehicle Loans; HomeLYNX<sup>®</sup> Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit; RealLYNX<sup>®</sup> Residential Mortgages; CommerceLYNX<sup>®</sup> Business Banking; and Q-LYNX Quick Decision Business Loans. For more information about Merchants Bank, visit [mbvt.com](http://mbvt.com). Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.