



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Merchants Bank Announces New *CashRewards Checking*<sup>SM</sup> Product**

**SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT**—Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President of Merchants Bank, announced that the company is introducing a new product as part of its *Vermont Matters* campaign. *CashRewards Checking*<sup>SM</sup> will pay back one percent of all point-of-sale purchases customers make with an associated debit card. The cash back is credited to a customer's account at the end of every statement cycle.

Merchants Bank-assessed ATM fees associated with the use of other banks' ATMs will be automatically waived each month—a big change for the bank. Customers will still be subjected to the fees that other banks assess when a Merchants customer uses another bank's ATM.

“We made this uncomplicated. There are no points that a customer must redeem—cash is deposited directly into the account. Though minimum balances are required, there is no limit to the cash rewards a customer can receive,” said Leavitt.

“When someone banks with Merchants, they make a decision to put their resources to work for themselves and for Vermont. Homes are financed, local employers are provided growth capital, and community organizations and events are supported. We embrace the benefits of being local and have been dedicated to Vermont since 1849. Merchants Bank is Vermont's independent, statewide bank today, and we are proud of that distinction. With *CashRewards Checking*<sup>SM</sup> we are finding another way to share the value we create,” said Leavitt.

“Our customers get the best of both worlds: products that rival or exceed those of any out-of-state bank, along with genuine service from our community bankers. At Merchants, we develop our products and services around customer input. We encourage an open dialogue. We choose to listen, because Vermont matters to us and we want to provide a strong, independent option for our communities around the state,” concluded Leavitt.

**To find out more about Merchants Bank and *CashRewards Checking*<sup>SM</sup> visit [www.CashRewardsVT.com](http://www.CashRewardsVT.com), your local Merchants Bank branch or call (800) 322-5222.**

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. Merchants Bank 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 solutions, including: Personal Checking and Savings with Free Checking for Life<sup>®</sup>, *CashRewards*

Checking<sup>SM</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; Business Banking with Business Online Banking and Bill Pay, Business Lines of Credit and Merchant Card Processing; Small Business Loans; Health Savings Accounts; Credit Cards; Flexible Certificates of Deposit; Vehicle Loans; Home Equity Credit; and Home Mortgages. **Visit [mbvt.com](http://mbvt.com) for more information.** Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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