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**Kathryn J. Hamilton Appointed Branch President, Merchants Bank
Putnam Square, Bennington Branch**

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT—Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President of Merchants Bank announced that Kathryn J. Hamilton has been appointed to the position of Branch President for the Putnam Square office in downtown Bennington. Hamilton is currently serving as Merchants Bank’s Branch President in North Bennington. She will succeed Barbara Fortini at Putnam Square, who is retiring in June. She will lead a team that includes Personal Bankers Annette Dixon, Bonnie Barnes, Gerilyn Shaw, Meghan Coyne and Cecelia Mattison.

Hamilton joined Merchants Bank in February 2001 as Branch President. She has effectively led Merchants Bank’s North Bennington team for the past six years, earning a number of sales awards and progressing as a productive lender. Hamilton has branch banking management background with Chittenden, Factory Point and First Vermont. She began her banking career with Catamount Bank (later Merchants Bank) in the same building she will be moving to as the new Branch President.

“We have a strong tradition in Bennington, and Kathy has been an instrumental contributor all along the way. Kathy’s years’ of experience and her intimate knowledge of the Bennington area market will make her effective in establishing a new home base, building upon the good work that Barbara has done. I am confident that Kathryn and her team will continue to set a great example for the best in community banking service in our state,” commented Leavitt.

“I embrace my responsibilities as Branch President in this new location and look forward to continuing to provide the community with exceptional banking products and service,” commented Hamilton.



Kathryn J. Hamilton

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[®] 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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