



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT – Thomas S. Leavitt, Senior Vice President, Retail Banking for Merchants Bank announced that Jeff LaBonte has been appointed to the position of Lender/Customer Representative at the Shelburne Road, South Burlington branch of Merchants Bank. Jeff will be supporting Branch President, Betty Bosma and the branch staff of Joyce Reynolds, Melissa Whitney and Wendy Coleman.

LaBonte began his career with Merchants Bank in the Call Center in March of 2000, after working in the office equipment business following his graduation from St. Michael's College. Jeff quickly moved to the Kennedy Drive office and within a year, he was promoted from Teller/Customer Representative to Lender/Customer Representative. In June 2002, LaBonte joined the Corporate Banking team as a Corporate Banking Administrator, supporting Corporate Banking Officer Geoff Hesslink.

“I look forward to returning to the Retail Sales Division at Merchants Bank and to the challenge of my new position,” said LaBonte.

The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a true community bank. It fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 35 bank offices throughout Vermont, employees dedicated to quality customer service and the LYNX family of products: Free Checking for Life[®], MoneyLYNX[®] Money Market Account, TimeLYNX[®] Certificate of Deposit, HomeLYNX[®] Home Equity Line of Credit, RealLYNX[®] Residential Mortgages, CommerceLYNX[®] Business Banking Services, eLYNX[®] Online Banking and PhoneLYNXSM Automated Phone Banking. For more information about Merchants Bank visit our website at www.mbv.com. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.