



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2006

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**Merchants Bank Appoints Lou Chase Branch President,
White River Junction**

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT—Thomas S. Leavitt, Senior Vice President, Retail Banking for Merchants Bank announced the appointment of Lou S. Chase to the position of Branch President for the White River Junction office. Chase will be succeeding Kyle Thygesen, effective November 6, 2006. She will be leading a team that includes Personal Bankers Susan Currier, Kristinia Karumba and Liza Valley.

Chase joined Merchants Bank in 1993. She advanced to Managing Customer Representative, and Branch President while working in the Fairlee office. In 2002, Chase divided her time between serving as a Floating Customer Representative for Merchants and lending her expertise to her thriving family fitness enterprise. Chase was later appointed to Branch President in Groton in September 2004.

“Chase has demonstrated unyielding dedication and has made a strong contribution. In particular, her work in elevating our Fairlee office from a non-lending branch to a top small branch loan producer was a notable achievement.” commented Leavitt.

“I look forward to applying my skills and experience to the largest market in the Upper Valley,” said Chase.



Lou S. Chase

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 36 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 Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, a Free Debit Card and Free Automated

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