



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact

****MEDIA INVITED****

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**Merchants Bank Celebrates Waterbury Branch Opening!
Public Invited to Grand Opening Celebration!**

WATERBURY, VT—Michael Tuttle, President and CEO of Merchants Bank, announced the opening of the Bank's 36th location in Waterbury, VT, located at 994 Waterbury Stowe Road (Route 100 near the new Shaws Supermarket), on Monday, September 18, 2006. The branch will celebrate with a "**Grand Opening Celebration**" and open house on Friday, October 6, from 9am until 4pm. The community is invited to attend and see the new facilities. Cider, donuts, a luncheon buffet, ice cream and coffee will be served. During a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, Branch President, Peggy Henry, will present a \$1,500 donation to the Waterbury Senior Center and a \$1,500 donation to The Ice Center of Washington West.

Since April of this year, the new branch has been under construction and was completed the beginning of September. "We are extremely pleased to be opening our new location in Waterbury, and we look forward to a long partnership with the people and businesses here," said Tuttle. "It is our goal to bring the community the best in streamlined banking products and exceptional customer service."

The Waterbury office is the thirty-sixth Merchants Bank branch in Vermont. "Waterbury was a logical choice for us and will cement Merchants' presence in central Vermont, which is a thriving region," said Tuttle.

Peggy Henry serves as the Branch President and is assisted by a staff of Personal Bankers, including: Cheryl Massucco, Jeanne Quesnel and Tom Reen. Maryann Russell will serve during the transition. Philip C. Smith is the Corporate Banking Officer; Robin C. Miller, the Corporate Banking Assistant; and Matthew D. Granai, the Trust Officer. Peggy was chosen to for her stature within and knowledge of the Waterbury community, and her more than two decades of invaluable banking experience. In addition, she has served on the boards of the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce and Waterbury Senior Citizens Center, and served as the treasurer of the Waterbury Salvation Army.

"I am thrilled with my new position and embrace the opportunity to serve the community through Merchants Bank and their outstanding products and services," said Henry.

Lobby and drive-up window hours of the Waterbury branch are 8:30am – 5pm, Monday -Friday. ATM service is available at a dedicated drive-up lane, 24-hours, seven days a week.



Merchants Bank Waterbury Staff
Jeanne Quesnel, Tom Reen, Cheryl Massucco, Peggy Henry (seated)

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 Phone Banking; TimeLYNX[®] Certificates of Deposit; HomeLYNX[®] Home Equity Loans; RealLYNX[®]

Residential Mortgages and CommerceLYNX® Business Banking. For more information about Merchants Bank, visit mbvt.com. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

For more information about **Merchants Bank**, please visit www.mbvt.com.

The purpose of the **Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Association** is to enrich the lives of older persons by providing services and activities that sharpen the minds and improve the physical and emotional health of its members and help keep them active and involved in the life of the community. For more information about the Waterbury Senior Center, please call **(802) 244-1234**.

Since opening in December 2003, the **Ice Center of Waterbury West** is home to area girls and boys teams, practicing talented figure skaters, adult hockey pick up teams and public skating programs. The Center's learn to skate program offers a friendly opportunity to test the ice. For more information about the Ice Center of Washington West, please visit www.icecenter.org.

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