



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2007

Contact

Tara Perkins, Director of Public Relations, PostScript, Inc.
444 South Union Street, Burlington, VT 05401
802.863.2568, ext. 11 / tara@postscriptinc.com

Wendy S. Rea Appointed Branch President, Merchants Bank Barre Branch

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT—Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President of Merchants Bank announced the appointment of Wendy S. Rea to the position of Branch President for the company’s Barre office. Wendy has been acting Branch President for the past week and officially succeeds Terry Bessette, effective as of May 21, 2007. She will lead a team that includes Jennifer Moran, Crystal Ricker, Janet Smith and Debra Shepard.

Wendy began her career with Merchants Bank as a Floater in 1996, after managing a restaurant. She became a Teller/Customer Representative in the Barre office in 1997. Wendy gained consumer lending authority and was promoted as one of the early Lender/Customer Representatives (LCR) in 2001. Wendy continued to advance in her LCR and Personal Banker/Lender roles, ultimately earning the added distinction of mortgage lending authority in 2006. She has performed at a high level in all Personal Banker Lender competencies. Wendy assumed additional support responsibilities early in 2007, dividing some of her branch time to assist the Corporate Banking team in Barre. She actively serves as a Certified Trainer for Merchants Bank’s Sales Workshop-I course, and was one of the few selected to serve on the former Deposit Operations Advisory Committee. As a native of Northfield, Wendy knows the Central Vermont market very well and has a strong command of the large Barre customer base.

Wendy holds an Associates degree in Microcomputer Studies from Community College of Vermont. She has completed all of the Merchants Bank training programs during her years of service with the company. Wendy resides in Roxbury with her husband Chris and daughters.

“I am confident that Wendy and her team will continue to set a great example for the best in community banking service in our state,” commented Leavitt. “We have a strong tradition in Barre, and Wendy has been an instrumental contributor all along the way.”

“I am thrilled to grow my responsibilities as official Branch President and look forward to continuing to provide the community with exceptional banking products and service,” commented Mrs. Rea.



Wendy S. Rea

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.

###