



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 16, 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

**Merchants Bank Celebrates Branch of the Year!**

***SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT***—Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President for Community Banking and Trust for Merchants Bank announced that the downtown Burlington College Street branch of Merchants Bank has been named the Bank's *2006 Branch of the Year* for its outstanding overall contribution to the company. This honor was designated by the Bank's senior management. Leavitt and Merchants Bank President and CEO, Michael Tuttle, presented the honors at the 2006 Awards Program on February 6, 2007, at the Sheraton's Burlington Hotel and Conference Center.

Twelve contenders were presented as nominees for Branch of the Year. Quarterfinalist branches included Bradford, East Thetford, Rutland's Green Mountain Plaza, Hardwick, South Hero and St. Albans. Semifinalist branches were Brattleboro, Johnson and South Burlington's Kennedy Drive. The branches selected as finalists were Bristol, Jericho and Burlington's College Street. The second runner-up was Jericho and the first runner-up was Bristol.

Leavitt commented, "Branch President Heather Cruickshank and her team have earned this distinction. The College Street branch was among the leading performers in many sales programs and lending categories. The staff has dedicated itself to cross-training to assure the strongest customer service. They have demonstrated an unsurpassed work ethic and a well respected commitment to the community."

"The team is honored to be chosen Merchants Bank's Branch of the Year," stated Branch President Heather Cruickshank. "Big thanks go to my team of Erin Pond, Erin Broe, Billie Crane, Jessica Dows, Emily Dysinger, Mark Ellingson, Michele Guyette and Jennifer Sorrell, and to the Burlington community for their loyal, dedicated support." Cruickshank continued, "We invite our customers and the entire community to share in and be proud of this recognition!"

Merchants' Vice President of Facilities and Security, Gary W. Dean, was also honored during the ceremony when presented with the *Joseph L. Boutin Award* for outstanding leadership contribution. The award was established in 2005 in honor of Merchants Bank's President and Chief Executive from 1994-2006, and is awarded to an individual that goes above and beyond the call, strengthens the company, serves as a role model and

puts the broader best interest of the company before self. Last year's recipient was Branch President of the Merchants' Hinesburg branch, Kelley Jordick.



**The College Street Team—Merchants Bank's 2006 Branch of the Year!**



**(Standing, left to right) Thomas R. Havers, Sr. Vice President—Operations Division; Michael R. Tuttle, President and CEO; Janet P. Spitler, Sr. Vice President and CFO; Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President—Community Banking and Trust; Geoffrey R. Hesslink, Sr. Vice President—Senior Lender**  
**(Seated, left to right) Gary W. Dean, Vice President of Facilities and Security; Zoe P. Erdman, Sr. Vice President—Credit Division**

To contact the College Street Burlington branch, call (802) 865-1898, fax (802) 865-1814 or visit the branch at 164 College Street in downtown Burlington, VT. More information is available at [www.mbv.com](http://www.mbv.com).

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<sup>®</sup> Banking, which consists of Free Checking for Life<sup>®</sup>, 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<sup>®</sup> Flexible Certificates of Deposit; AutoLYNX Vehicle Loans; HomeLYNX<sup>®</sup> Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit; RealLYNX<sup>®</sup> Residential Mortgages; CommerceLYNX<sup>®</sup> Business Banking; and Q-LYNX Quick Decision Business Loans. For more information about Merchants Bank, visit [mbvt.com](http://mbvt.com). Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

###