



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Merchants Bank's George E. Araskiewicz Promoted to
Market Manager for Bennington County**

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT—Executive Vice President of Merchants Bank, Thomas S. Leavitt, announced the appointment of Branch President George E. Araskiewicz to the position of Market Manager for Bennington County. He will oversee Merchants' offices in Manchester, Putnam Square (Bennington) and North Bennington.

Araskiewicz began his career with Merchants Bank in July 2001 when he was hired as Branch President in Manchester, having previously managed the Bondville and Jamaica, Vermont branches of Charter One Bank.

“George has demonstrated superior performance in leading his branch. His commitment to service has earned him a favorable reputation in his community and among Manchester customers. George is immersed in all facets of branch operations and has created a positive team environment,” commented Leavitt.



George Araskiewicz , Market Manager, Bennington County, Merchants Bank

Vermont Matters.[®] Merchants Bank strives to provide funding to support organizations with programs and services throughout Vermont that help meet basic needs; advance environmental initiatives, energy efficiency and awareness; and promote community enrichment through local sports related initiatives. 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. Merchants Bank fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 34 community bank offices and 42 ATMs throughout Vermont, Personal Bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service and streamlined solutions, including: Personal Banking with *CashRewards* Checkingsm, 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; Business Banking with Rewards Checking for Business, Business Online Banking and Bill Pay, Business Lines of Credit and Merchant Card Processing; Small Business Loans; Health Savings Accounts; Credit Cards; Flexible Certificates of Deposit; Vehicle Loans; Home Equity Credit; and Home Mortgages. Visit **mbvt.com** for more information. Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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