



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2009

Contact:

Peg Purdue, Director of Public Relations, PostScript, Inc.
444 South Union Street, Burlington, VT 05401
802.863.2568, ext. 11 / peg@postscriptinc.com

**Merchants Bank and Merchants Trust Celebrate
Expanded Manchester Office!**

Manchester, VT—President and CEO Michael Tuttle announced that Merchants Bank officially celebrated the opening of their newly renovated offices, located at 4996 Main Street in Manchester Center on Monday, June 16. The facility was expanded to accommodate the Merchants Trust and Commercial Banking Officers that will be serving Southwestern Vermont as well as provide a training center for employees. Remarks by Governor Douglas and bank officials were delivered during a ribbon-cutting ceremony and visitors enjoyed refreshments and toured the new space.

Merchants Bank is the sole remaining independent statewide bank. This expanded, attractive full-service facility is further evidence of the bank's strength and the confidence that the people in Manchester have placed in Merchants. This is a new office for Merchants Trust Company outside of the headquarters in South Burlington. Providing one location for Trust Officers Sheri Savage and Kay Mosenthal and Corporate Banking Officers Bill Kidder, Sandy Pedom and Scott Dikeman alongside Branch President George Araskiewicz and his team of branch lenders and personal bankers makes for the optimum banking situation for the Mountains region.

"We are proud of the commitment Merchants has shown to us and our community. In these uncertain economic times, it is evidence that our local financial organization is growing to meet the needs of its clients while other national and international institutions are struggling," commented Trust Officer Mosenthal.

The state-of-the-art training center will host employees from southern Vermont who will now be able to participate via webcam in trainings taking place in Burlington. The new facility will save travel time but more importantly supports Merchants' on going mission to be responsible stewards of our environment.

During the ribbon cutting, Michael Tuttle spoke to the importance of Vermont and the responsibility of serving Vermonters with the utmost quality, service and integrity. "Vermont matters," said Tuttle, "and we look forward to further building our contributions to the households, businesses, and organizations that make this a great place to live and work."

-more-



Left to right: F. Sheldon Prentice, Senior Vice President and General Counsel; Molly Dillon, Merchants Trust Co. CEO and President; Justin J. Cadoret, Merchants Bank Personal Banker; Michael R. Tuttle, Merchants Bank CEO and President; George Araskiewicz, Merchants Bank VP Regional Manager; Governor Douglas; Casey McClure, Merchants Bank Personal Banker; Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President; Mariah King, Merchants Bank Personal Banker; Tatsiana Clark, Merchants Bank Personal Banker.

Merchants Bank was established in 1849 in Burlington. Its continuing mission is to provide Vermonters with a statewide community bank that combines a strong technology platform with a genuine appreciation for local markets. Merchants Bank delivers this commitment through a branch-based system that includes: 34 community bank offices and 42 ATMs throughout Vermont; local branch presidents and personal bankers dedicated to high-quality customer service; free online banking, phone banking, and electronic bill payment services; high-value depositing programs that feature Free Checking for Life[®], Cash Rewards Checking, Rewards Checking for Business, business cash management, money market accounts, health savings accounts, certificates of deposit, Flexible CD, IRAs, and overdraft assurance; feature-rich loan programs including mortgages, home equity credit, vehicle loans, personal and small business loans and lines of credit; and merchant card processing. Merchants Bank offers a strong set of commercial and government banking solutions, delivered by experienced banking officers in markets throughout the state; these teams provide customized financing for medium-to-large companies, non-profits, cities, towns, and school districts. Please visit www.mbvt.com for access to Merchants Bank information, programs, and services. Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

###