



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Merchants Bank's New Woodstock Avenue Branch Opens January 15!

RUTLAND, VT--Executive Vice President Thomas S. Leavitt is pleased to announce that the newest office of Merchants Bank will have its Grand Opening Celebration on January 15 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The new facility, located at 92 Woodstock Avenue in Rutland, replaces and doubles the capacity of the previously operating branch at that same location.

The new full-service ADA-compliant branch includes four lobby teller stations; two drive-up service lanes; an additional ATM drive-up lane; and offices for Community Banking, Corporate Banking, Government Banking and customer service.

Special events for the Grand Opening will include a book signing from 10:00 AM. – Noon by James A. “Buddy” Edgerton and Nan O’Brien, authors of “The Unknown Rockwell.” Visitors are also invited to enjoy refreshments from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and tour the new facility. A ribbon cutting and remarks by bank officials are scheduled for 11:30 AM. Special donations to mark the occasion will also be made to the Rutland City Rescue Mission and Neighborworks of Western Vermont. Leavitt comments, “This is going to be a unique opportunity for the people of Rutland to meet Buddy and Nan. Buddy’s next-door relationship with the Rockwell family and his recounting of his experiences as a subject of a number of famed Rockwell paintings is fascinating. He has insights about Norman Rockwell unlike any shared before. This is Americana and Vermont history joined at the hip.”

Leavitt says this is the fifth new construction project that Connor Contracting of Berlin and St. Albans, VT has built for the Bank. “We are very pleased with the working relationship we have had with Connor and several fine Rutland area contractors during the construction process. The final product reflects great Vermont craftsmanship with pride. We look forward to serving our customers from this beautiful new facility.”

“The space is a warm and welcoming environment for both customers and staff,” adds Deanna Wetherby Branch President. “This new Woodstock Avenue home for us offers a wonderful opportunity to bring the best of service to our existing customers and reach out to new friends as Vermont’s independent statewide bank.”

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Merchants Bank's new Woodstock Avenue branch

Vermont Matters. Merchants Bank strives to fulfill its role as the state's leading independent community bank through a wide range of initiatives. The bank supports organizations throughout Vermont in addressing essential needs, sustaining community programs, providing small business and job start capital, funding financial literacy education and delivering enrichment through local sports activities.

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. Merchants Trust Company, a division of Merchants Bank, provides investment management, financial planning and trustee services.

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.

For information about the Rutland City Rescue Mission and Neighborworks of Western Vermont please visit <http://vermontpet.com/mission/> and <http://www.nwvvt.org/> respectively.

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