



**BENCHMARK
COMMUNITY BANK**

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PRESS RELEASE

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BENCHMARK NAMES NEW KENBRIDGE BRANCH MANAGER

(August 5, 2016, Kenbridge, VA) – Benchmark Community Bank is pleased to announce the promotion of Jerry R. Barnette, Jr. to Branch Manager of the Kenbridge branch. Jerry replaces long-time manager Debbie Brandon, who stepped down to work exclusively on special projects.

A 2009 graduate of Bluefield College with a B.S. in Management and Leadership, Barnette, Jr. has been with Benchmark since 2012. He started his career with the bank first as a customer service representative, then as a relationship banker, before his newest promotion to branch manager.

When asked about his new role, Jerry stated, “As a resident of Lunenburg County, I very much look forward to this new opportunity. Debbie built a great team here in Kenbridge and has done an excellent job preparing me for my new role.”

Barnette Jr., who will be the first manager in the new branch at 204 South Broad Street in Kenbridge, further said, “We’re all very excited about the renovations of our future branch and we

will continue to focus on the objective we've had for 45 years – helping our customers reach their financial goals.”

Jerry is a resident of Kenbridge and a native of Lunenburg County. He is married to the former Candace Hite and they have 3 children. In addition to family time, Jerry stays busy as a board member of Lunenburg Health Services, Inc. and as a member of the Lunenburg Country Club. He plans on joining the Lunenburg Chamber of Commerce. The Barnette family are members of the Kenbridge Baptist Church.

LeAnne Emert, Senior Vice-President of Retail Banking, stated, “It’s a pleasure to promote Jerry to Branch Manager in Kenbridge. Being a local resident with roots in the community makes him a great match for the role. We are fortunate to have him leading our Kenbridge team.”

Jerry invites customers, old and new, to stop by the Kenbridge branch and learn how Benchmark Community Bank’s products and services can help them meet their financial goals.

Founded in 1971, Benchmark Community Bank celebrates its 45th anniversary this year. The \$540 million locally owned and operated full service bank serves Southside Virginia and northern North Carolina. Full service branches are located in Blackstone, Chase City, Clarksville, Crewe, Farmville, Halifax, Kenbridge, Lawrenceville, South Boston, South Hill, and Victoria, Virginia. Loan offices are located in Henderson and Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Benchmark Community Bank was recently named one of the top 200 community banks in the nation by American Banker magazine for the 10th year in a row. Additional information can be found at www.bcbonline.com.

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