



**BENCHMARK  
COMMUNITY BANK**

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **BENCHMARK MAKES CHANGES IN HALIFAX**

**(August 18, 2016, Kenbridge, VA)** – Benchmark Community Bank has announced staffing changes at the South Boston and Halifax locations. Robert Bates will be the new Branch Manager in South Boston and Jennifer Throckmorton has been promoted to Branch Manager in Halifax. Ace Bohanon has moved into the role of Business Banker for the region.

Bates, a 20-year veteran of the banking industry, started his Benchmark career as a relationship banker in South Boston in 2009. In 2010 he was promoted to Branch Manager in Halifax. During his tenure in Halifax he was instrumental in growing the branch by focusing on community relations and attracting new customers. While excited about the new opportunity Bates is, at the same time, wistful about the change. “The Halifax community has been great to work with and I’ll miss the people,” he reflected. “However, I’m very thankful for the opportunity to work in South Boston again – it’s where I started my Benchmark career. I look forward to renewing relationships and continuing to provide a high level of service to our customers.”

Throckmorton, who has been with Benchmark since 2012, most recently as a relationship banker in South Boston, will be taking over the management duties in Halifax. A native of the town of Halifax, Throckmorton brings 23 years of financial experience to the position of Branch Manager.

Well-versed in all facets of retail banking from opening deposit accounts to lending, including mortgages, she is enthusiastic about taking the reins for the Halifax branch. She noted, “Robert did a great job as manager and he will be missed, I’m sure. At the same time, this is a wonderful opportunity for me to serve a dynamic area – which just happens to be my hometown! It’s a very exciting time for me and I plan on giving it my all!”

Also effective in August is the transition of Ace Bohanon from Branch Manager to Business Banker. Bohanon, who has 18 years of banking experience, started his Benchmark career in 2006 as Branch Manager for a brand new location in South Boston. During his time in this role he successfully grew the branch from the ground up to its current size serving well over 4,000 customers. In his new position as Business Banker his focus will be on working with area organizations and businesses to help them reach their financial goals. A native of Halifax County, Bohanon is pleased to continue his career close to home. “It’s good to work with people you grew up with and have known your whole life,” he remarked, “you really take a personal interest in their success. At the same time, I enjoy making new acquaintances and introducing them to what our brand of community banking has to offer.”

Benchmark Senior Vice President, LeAnne Emert, is confident that all three new appointments will benefit the region. Looking to the future she explained, “I’m excited to see the career advancement of Robert, Jennifer, and Ace. They have each demonstrated their desire to aid customers in meeting their financial goals and we know they will continue that same dedication to service in their new positions. They are proven banking professionals and their expertise will really be a valuable asset to the people of South Boston and Halifax who are looking for a bank partner to aid them in meeting their financial goals.”

Founded in 1971, Benchmark Community Bank celebrates its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The \$533 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 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Additional information can be found at [www.bcbonline.com](http://www.bcbonline.com).

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