



**BENCHMARK
COMMUNITY BANK**

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PRESS RELEASE

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BENCHMARK SOUTH HILL BRANCH EXPANDS

(October 25, 2016, South Hill, VA) – Construction has begun on the new wing of Benchmark Community Bank’s South Hill branch located at 905 N. Mecklenburg Avenue. The 935 square foot addition will add four offices to the north side of the existing building. The wing will be home to the bank’s area Business Banking team of Steve Creedle, Kim King and Candice Dawson. Existing office space will be allocated to residential mortgage lenders.

Benchmark first opened a branch in South Hill in a leased facility in 1989. In 2010, as demand for the bank’s community-focused services continued to increase, the current full service branch was constructed. The original architectural plans for the 6,064 square foot facility incorporated today’s expansion plans in the initial design.

Benchmark President Jay Stafford stated, “We never thought we’d need more office space after just six years since building the branch, but that’s a good thing. We’ve had great support from the South Hill community. The expansion will give our Business Bankers the room they need to provide the level of service our customers have come to expect.” Stafford continued, saying, “Our short-term goal is to do the construction with the least amount of inconvenience to our patrons.

Lobby customers will probably not notice any changes. For drive-thru and ATM users there will be an adjusted traffic lane next to the work zone, however, that should not present a problem.”

Richmond architectural firm Baskervill designed the expansion along with the original drawings of the branch. Kenbridge Construction Company, the contractor of the current branch, will also perform the work on the new addition. Scheduled date for completion, weather permitting, is early February 2017. All services of the branch will remain open to serve the community during the expansion process.

Founded in 1971, Benchmark Community Bank celebrates its 45th anniversary this year. The \$542 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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