



**BENCHMARK
COMMUNITY BANK**

With you for Life!

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Lucia Malon
VP, Marketing and Public Relations
434-676-2666, ext. 1114 or lucia.malon@bcbonline.com

BENCHMARK TO CELEBRATE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RENOVATION

(NOVEMBER 25, 2016, KENBRIDGE, VA) - Benchmark Community Bank announced today the upcoming completion of its renovation project in Victoria. The reconfiguration of the building, designed by Baskervill Architects in Richmond and executed by Kenbridge Construction Company, is expected to be done by the end of November. To mark the occasion, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 9:00 AM on Monday, December 5 in front of the branch.

The renovation has resulted in dramatic changes to both the exterior and interior of the circa 1981 building. These changes, which include many new features, bring the branch in line with current trends in banking offices and give it an updated look similar to newer Benchmark branches. It is the bank's third major renovation project in recent years. The first was Lawrenceville in 2011; the second was the Kenbridge project which just wrapped up last month. Within the last decade, Benchmark has also built 3 new branches. They are in South Boston (2007), South Hill (2010) and Clarksville (2012).

CEO Mike Walker is pleased to have the work on the Victoria building completed in time for the holidays. He remarked, "Our Victoria staff and customers have cheerfully endured lots of dust, drafty conditions, and inconvenience during this project. I thank them for their patience and

understanding. I hope they are finding that it was worth the trouble. We wanted them to be able to enjoy the same state-of-the-art, welcoming environment that our customers in other areas enjoy and I think we've accomplished that. So far, I've heard nothing but positive comments, most of them focused on the remarkable difference between the old and new. Architectural styles and banking have both come a long way in 40 years!"

After the ribbon cutting, the public is invited to come in to see the exciting new interior which boasts a digital messaging center, décor featuring historic photos, a community post, and a kids corner. At that time, visitors will also be able to enter a drawing for cash prizes to be held during the branch's Holiday Open House on December 16. This year, the event will be extra special as it will also be the official celebration of the completion of the renovation project. Details about the Open House will be forthcoming.

Founded in 1971, Benchmark Community Bank celebrated its 45th anniversary this year. The \$545 million locally owned and operated full service bank serves Southside Virginia and northern North Carolina. Full service branches are located in Kenbridge, Victoria, Farmville, South Hill, Crewe, Lawrenceville, Clarksville, Chase City, Blackstone, South Boston, and Halifax, Virginia. Offices focusing on loans are located in Wake Forest and Henderson, North Carolina. In May, the bank was named one of the top 200 community banks in the nation by American Banker magazine for the 10th straight year. Additional information about Benchmark can be found at www.bcbonline.com.

###