



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Announces “*Make It Green*” Program

Community Bank Establishes Program to Minimize Environmental Impact of Transactional Banking

June 2, 2009 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida announced today the independent community bank has established a program to assist clients in minimizing the environmental impact of banking transactions. The Gateway “*Make It Green*” initiative allows Gateway clients to receive incentives for utilizing bank services which reduce paper usage.

According to Merriman, “Gateway Bank is fully committed to environmental responsibility, as evidenced by our most recent opening of our LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) compliant banking center on University Parkway.” Upon review by the US Green Building Council, it is expected the Gateway Banking Center at 6204 N. Lockwood Ridge Road at University Parkway intersection will be the first banking facility in the state of Florida to be LEED certified.

Merriman continued, “Banking generates a lot of paper, and we see very simple ways to reduce paper consumption by using electronic banking features such as online banking with bill pay, e-statements and direct deposit, just to name a few.” He added, “We will reward clients who help reduce the impact that traditional banking has on the environment.”

Under the “*Make It Green*” program, clients who sign up for e-statements, direct deposit, a Gateway debit card and online banking with bill pay will receive free gifts from the bank. Among the free gifts are large capacity reusable shopping bags to reduce

the amount of plastic bags placed into the landfills and free document shredding services.

Further information regarding the environment-conscious programs offered by Gateway Bank may be obtained by contacting Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO, at 941/306-0105.

About Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida: Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida is an independent community bank serving business and personal banking customers in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

The newly announced University Parkway location is the third Gateway Bank location in southwest Florida. Gateway Bank also operates a full service banking location in the Center Pointe Plaza at 2033 Main Street in downtown Sarasota, one block east of South Washington Boulevard. The bank opened a second banking location in downtown Bradenton on Manatee Avenue West in August 2008.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The founding Board of Directors includes: Charles J. Bartlett - Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen and Ginsburg, PA; Dr. Gary K. Bockhold – Center for Sight; Dr. P.T. “Bud” Fleuchaus – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; David J. Grain – Grain Communications Group, Inc.; David K. Maholias – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; Shaun P. Merriman – Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida; Gavin W. Meshad – JWM Management, Inc.; Katherine K. Moulton – The Colony Beach & Tennis Resort; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc. and Jan E. Smith, Jan Smith and Company.

Further information regarding Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida may be obtained by contacting Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO at 941/306-0105.

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