



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Shaun P. Merriman
941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Names Jan E. Smith Board Director

September 12, 2008 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida announced today Mr. Jan E. Smith from Jan Smith and Company has joined the Board of Directors.

He joins Gateway Bank's board with twenty years bank board experience, including eleven years as Advisory Board Member for SunTrust Bank in Sarasota, Florida and nine years as Founding Director with Preferred Bank, Palmetto, Florida.

Mr. Smith also serves as a Director with Brown and Brown Insurance, member of University of South Florida Board of Trustees, member of the Florida Council of 100 and past Chairman of University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee Campus Board.

In making the announcement, Merriman stated, "Jan Smith has extraordinary community bank board experience that will provide great depth and knowledge to our existing bank board." Merriman continued, "With 44 years of residency in Manatee County, his leadership in Manatee organizations, and his prior bank board experience, I am confident Jan Smith will provide valuable leadership to our bank assisting in the development and implementation of extraordinary products and services to our customers."

Jan Smith was raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and is a graduate of University of Florida with a major in Political Science.

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

The newly opened Manatee Avenue location is the second Gateway Bank location on the central west coast. The Manatee Avenue banking center is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street West and Manatee Avenue West in Bradenton. Gateway Bank 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 will open a third location at 6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road and University Parkway this fall.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The 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 Capital, LLC; 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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