



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Announces Staff Additions to Manatee Avenue Banking Center

November 24, 2008 – (Bradenton, Florida) - Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida has announced two new additions to the Gateway Bank staff.

Jennifer E. Chapman has joined the company as Financial Services Representative. She joins Gateway from her previous position as Personal Banker at Whitney Bank. A long time banker in the Bradenton community, Jennifer has also held positions such as Branch Manager, Assistant Branch Manager and Underwriter at various local banks.

Wyndy A. Hubbard has taken the position of Teller. She joins the company from her most recent position as New Client Specialist / Auditor for Gevity in Bradenton. Prior to joining Gevity in 2003, she held the position of Head Teller / Customer Service Manager for Florida First Bank in Bradenton for four years.

The Manatee Avenue banking center is located at the intersection of Manatee Avenue West and 21 Street West, at 2100 Manatee Avenue West. Retail banking is managed by Group Vice President Cindy Denison. Commercial Banking and business development is under the direction of Manatee County market Executive W. Roy Owen.

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 in southwest Florida 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 in early 2009.

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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