PRESS RELEASE

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

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida
Names Ross A. Vollmer Vice President

October 7, 2008 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida announced today Ross A. Vollmer has joined the company as Vice President and Commercial Lender. He joins Gateway Bank from his previous position as Commercial Real Estate Lender with Regions Bank in Sarasota. Prior to joining Regions in 2004, he held the position of Vice President Homebuilder Group with Bank of America for six years. He began his banking career in 1990 with Barnett Bank as Credit Policy Officer.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, Vollmer holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, with a major in Accounting and minor in General Business and Communications.

Mr. Vollmer has served on a number of community boards in Manatee County. He is currently Board Member and Treasurer of United Way of Manatee County.

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 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.

--(###)--