

Harbor National Bank
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NEWS

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**Harbor National Bank Turns Three,
Launches Mount Pleasant Branch**

Branch Grand Opening Caps Steady 50% Growth During 2008

Charleston, S.C. – Harbor National Bank recently turned three years old and celebrated with the opening of its Mount Pleasant branch location.

But the back story of the local bank's steady, 50-percent growth in 2008 may well eclipse the buzz that's building in its new location at 953 Houston Northcutt Boulevard. Harbor opened with just two branches in 2006 and reached the milestone of \$195.5 million in assets at year's end 2008. The Mount Pleasant location is Harbor's third branch.

"We welcomed many new customers this past year and they told us it was refreshing to find a local bank where relationships still matter," said Harbor's President / CEO, Charles F. Rivers III. "Our advantage is our local focus and ability to make fast, local decisions. Another advantage comes from very hard work by our staff and lenders. Our lenders understand the marketplace and local business."

Harbor has also earned a distinction as one of the highest rated banks in the nation. Bauer Financial, Inc., a national, independent bank analyst firm, has awarded Harbor with its highest, five-star rating. The five-star mark is based on the Harbor's overall business health, asset-to-loan ratio, loan quality, earnings and other criteria.

Harbor reported a profit of \$254,000 through year-end 12/31/2008, fueled by \$179.9 million in loans and \$151.6 million in deposits.

Rivers says the new Mount Pleasant location will help continue the bank's positive growth trend with promising opportunities in 2009.

The bank focused on involving local businesses and vendors during design and remodeling of the bank location. Stubbs, Muldrow, Herin architectural firm and interior design firm Lucas & Associates provided design direction. Local firms GEL Engineering and Trident Construction Company led building efforts. Mount Pleasant graphic design artist and photographer Chuck Bates of Bates Design provided stunning landscape photos that serve as focal points in the bank's lobby area.

Green building products and sustainable materials are found throughout the building. Additionally, a planned giveaway of reusable shopping bags and live trees all help lower the bank's carbon footprint of operations.

Now in its third year and with three locations, Rivers said Harbor has not lost sight of its original strategy to provide the best personal banking service in the region.

"When a customer comes in, they want to know they are working with someone who can make a decision," he said. "Especially in times like this, experience and local knowledge is the key. We know this is not the time to run away from your customers; this is a time to be with your customers."

About Harbor National Bank

Harbor National Bank opened its doors in February 2006 after posting a private stock offering of \$29.3 million, the second highest amount ever raised by a community bank in South Carolina at that time. As of early 2009, the bank's total assets stand at \$195.5 million, coming off a 50-percent growth in assets during 2008.

The bank executive staff and board of directors consists of all local residents of the Lowcountry, including several long-time Charleston area banking executives who worked together at SouthTrust Bank of Charleston.

Harbor National Bank's focused market segments include commercial lending, residential mortgage lending, business banking, professional banking and consumer lending. The bank's business strengths come from local decision making and strong local relationships already in place in the community.
