



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FIRST FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK
LAUNCHES ANNUAL SPORTS BALL GIVEAWAY
*More than 600 balls donated to youth sports***

COLUMBIA, Tenn. – July 11, 2008 – First Farmers & Merchants Bank launched its first annual youth sports ball donation campaign to help kick-off the spring and summer youth sports seasons.

This past spring, representatives from many youth sports leagues gathered at F&M’s headquarters in Columbia to accept the donated balls.

The balls were purchased from Columbia-based Jones & Lang Sporting Goods. “We have a 42-year history with First Farmers & Merchants Bank and have a shared philosophy of being committed to the community in which we live and work,” said Steve Johnson, one of the owners of Jones & Lang. “We obviously support youth sports in the area and are thrilled to see the bank’s support of youth sports grow each year.”

The following organizations received the donated balls:

- Football leagues: Mt Pleasant, Maury County Bulldogs and Columbia Pop Warner
- The Columbia Soccer Association
- The Columbia and Mt. Pleasant girls softball leagues
- Youth baseball leagues include: Spring Hill Little League, Columbia National Little League, Columbia American League, Columbia Babe Ruth, Mt. Pleasant Dixie Boys, Mt. Pleasant Dixie Youth and the Columbia Post 19 American Legion

“We are pleased to support the youth in our community,” said Brian Williams, senior executive commercial banking. “The sports leagues in our area are such a great resource. The kids learn teamwork, sportsmanship and how to develop strategy, all the while getting outdoors and staying

physically active.”

About First Farmers & Merchants Bank

Founded in 1909, First Farmers & Merchants Bank (Member FDIC) is one of the most successful independent banks in Tennessee, with total assets of more than \$823 million and deposits in excess of \$698 million. An additional \$2.6 billion in assets held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, Tenn., the bank operates 20 offices in a seven-county area that includes Lawrence, Maury, Marshall, Hickman, Dickson, Giles and Williamson counties. It is distinguished by its commitment to traditional, personal banking relationships that incorporate state-of-the-art technology to provide the highest possible level of service. For additional information, visit www.fandmbank.com or call the main office at 931.388.3145.

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