



**HIGH STREET BRANCH OFFICE TO CELEBRATE ITS CUSTOMERS
AND TWO SPECIAL EMPLOYEES**

“Hot dogs with the ‘Hot dogs’” honors long-time drive thru tellers

COLUMBIA, Tenn. (May 26, 2010) – On Friday, June 4th, First Farmers & Merchants Bank will express appreciation for the customers of its High Street branch office with a free hot dog lunch. But the day will also say thanks for the two women who have worked at the drive-thru-only branch for the past ten years, helping inspire its unique character.

Dubbed “Hot dogs with the ‘Hot Dogs,’” the observance will recognize Nancy Adkisson, teller, and Lynda Prosser, teller and branch manager, who have built a large and loyal customer following thanks to their caring, engaging personalities. Leaders from the bank’s main office will be cooking and handing out the free meal.

“You can’t help but like Lynda and Nancy when you first meet them,” said Tim Pettus, president, First Farmers. “Both ladies care about the folks who bank at High Street and are always going out of their way to help customers not only with their money, but their lives as well. They’ve made countless friends over the years and we thought it was time to say thanks to them, as well as to the customers who have banked with us there for so many years.”

From 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., a sack lunch of a hot dog, chips and a soft drink will be free to anyone who drives up. Bank management, as well as Prosser and Adkisson, will be greeting patrons and passing out the lunches, which will be prepared by bank employees.

Adkisson joined First Farmers to work as the branch’s drive-thru teller in 2000, coming from Union Planters Bank in Columbia where she had worked in a similar position since 1988. Affirming she

“absolutely loves First Farmers and what I do,” Adkisson says she and Prosser try every day to do what they can to help people.

Prosser joined First Farmers in 1977 as a bookkeeper. She has since worked in a number of departments throughout the bank and in three other branch offices of First Farmers, becoming the High Street branch manager this time in 2000.

Between them, that’s 43 years of banking experience.

The fourth branch of the growing First Farmers and Merchants Bank organization, the High Street office opened in 1958 at the corner of High and West Fifth Street primarily to serve workers of the Occidental Chemical, Union Carbide and Spontex Sponge plants just down the road. The branch had walk-up tellers and loan officers on-staff, and at that time was the first bank in Maury County to offer drive-thru service.

In the early days of the drive-thru, one teller worked out of the side of the building and a second would have to use an underground tunnel from the bank to the all-brick teller’s station, which stood in the middle of the driveway and was only large enough to accommodate the teller and her cash tray. The branch moved to the more modern pneumatic tube system around 1980 and transitioned to drive-thru-only in 2005. Today, the branch also houses the training department for tellers, loan officers and other educational needs.

“I’m very proud of Lynda and Nancy for what they mean to the multitude of loyal customers that they serve in the High Street branch office,” said Virgil H. Moore, Jr., First Farmers senior chairman, under whose leadership the branch opened. “That office has been an important part of our community for over half a century.”

“I’ve heard stories about these two ladies sending cards and taking gifts and food to older customers who can’t get out of their house or are down on their luck,” Pettus said. “And I know they’ve got a list of people they’re aware of who are in need... and who somehow receive a surprise gift basket at

just the right time. That's what caring neighbors and community bankers do and that's why we feel fortunate to have employees like Nancy and Lynda working for us.

“We'd like to see a lot of their friends and customers at High Street on June 4th.”

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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 approximately \$935 million and deposits in excess of \$772 million. An additional \$2.7 billion in assets is held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, Tenn., the bank operates 17 offices in a seven-county area in Middle Tennessee that includes Maury, Lawrence Marshall, Hickman, Giles, Dickson 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.myfirstfarmers.com or call the main office at 931.388.3145.