A welcome change in banking with Benchmark Bank

Benchmark Bank
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What happened to banking? Sure, there have been some convenient and wonderful innovations over the last couple of decades, but wasn't it great when you knew your banker by his or her first name -- or when you stopped in to cash a check or make a deposit and were greeted as soon as you walked in?

"At Benchmark Bank we tend to think this is the way banking should be," Benchmark's President and Gahanna resident Jeff Kessler said. "We call this the 'Benchmark experience.' We have all of the innovations that have come over the years: online banking, ATM service and debit cards to name a few. But we also kept the personal, neighborly service that often today's banks have left behind."

Benchmark Bank is a FDIC-insured community bank in the New Albany and Gahanna area. The bank is owned and managed by a group of experienced local bankers. Each have 20-plus years of banking experience in the Columbus area and are alumni of the former State Savings Bank.

"State Savings was the hometown community bank for years in Columbus," Benchmark Chairman and New Albany resident, Jerry Caldwell said. "When it left the market, there was a void. Very few institutions in central Ohio can truly call themselves a community bank. We've set out to change that with Benchmark Bank."

Benchmark Bank office is currently located at 1133 N. Hamilton Rd., in the Vista Plaza just south of the Morse Road intersection. Construction is well underway on the bank's new permanent office at 461 Beecher Rd., just east of the Graeter's Ice Cream in Gahanna. The new office is scheduled to
open in May and will include lobby, drive-thru and ATM banking services. It will also have a community room on the lower level for local organizations and groups to reserve and use free of charge.

"All of us at Benchmark are excited to put down our banking roots in this community," Kessler said. "Our new office will not only provide convenient and competitive banking services but hopefully will also provide a place for our neighborhood groups to gather. For now, we'd like to extend an invitation to stop in our current location in the Vista Plaza and talk to us. Have a complimentary cup of coffee and a cookie -- a Benchmark tradition. And enjoy the banking experience once again."