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**CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW BEDFORD BANKING OFFICE OF BRISTOL COUNTY SAVINGS BANK REACHES MILESTONE WITH “TOPPING OFF”**

TAUNTON, MA, February 00, 2010 — Less than two months after breaking ground on its eleventh banking office and first in the city of New Bedford, Bristol County Savings Bank (BCSB) announces that the final trusses and beams for the highest exterior elevations of its 3,500 square foot building are now in place. A number of these structural supports have been constructed to create what will be a dramatic vaulted ceiling in the main lobby of the branch featuring an array of skylights to allow natural light to penetrate the space. The banking office, to open mid-year 2010, is bringing more than 200 construction jobs to the New Bedford area and will create approximately eight permanent positions.

The architect on the project, DRL Associates of Weymouth, MA, designed the building to be sensitive to the surrounding neighborhood architecture while still maintaining the look and feel of a Bristol County Savings Bank branch. The building will also feature photovoltaic panels on the south side of the exterior and a high efficiency heating and air conditioning system to conserve energy. Continued framing and roofing will be the focus of construction over the next few weeks in order to make the building weather tight and then the plumbing, HVAC and electrical work will begin in earnest.

Located at the corner of Ashley Boulevard and Tacoma Street (former site of Thad’s Restaurant),

Bristol County Savings Bank's branch will feature a modern, wood clapboard exterior similar to the look of the bank's Dartmouth, MA office, two drive-through lanes, a drive through ATM, a café, a coin machine and, common to all its banking offices and part of its corporate identity, an exterior standing clock.

(more)

**Background Information:**

Bristol County Savings Bank is a full-service financial institution offering commercial lending, personal and business banking, and mortgage services. The Bank has enjoyed consistent growth since its founding in 1846, culminating in the opening of nine banking offices throughout Bristol County and the surrounding area over the last three-plus decades. In 1976, the Bank opened its first branch office in Raynham Center. Steady branch expansion has continued ever since, with branches following in Rehoboth in 1981, North Raynham in 1982, County Street in Taunton in 1988, Attleboro in 1994, North Attleboro in 1998, Franklin in 2000, Pawtucket, RI in 2001 and Dartmouth in 2007. The Bank also operates two Educational Branch Offices for students and faculty located at Taunton High School and Attleboro High School. In addition to growing the full-service banking branch network, the Bank has also expanded its loan operations over the years with dedicated loan centers located throughout Bristol County in Taunton, Attleboro, Fall River and Dartmouth.

Bristol County Savings Bank began expanding into other avenues in 1995 with the acquisition of Anawon Trust in Attleboro, MA, the Bank's trust and investment advisory division which has successfully assisted businesses, individuals and non-profits with the management of their assets since 1990. In 2009, the Bank invested in the Farrell Backlund Insurance Agency, LLC, its majority-owned subsidiary, one of Southeastern Massachusetts' largest independent insurance agencies. This alliance allows the Bank to provide quality insurance options from more than 50 experienced insurance professionals.

The steady growth and expansion has resulted in \$1.2 billion in assets and over 300 employees in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The key words at Bristol County Savings Bank are: "Commitment, Stability, and Community," values that are combined with state-of-the-art technology to meet the needs of its customers. A dedicated local community bank for over 160 years, Bristol County Savings Bank is actively involved in giving back to all the communities it serves both through financial support and the volunteerism of its people.

The Main Office and Corporate Headquarters of Bristol County Savings Bank are located on Broadway in Taunton, MA. For additional information please call 508-824-6626, or visit [www.bristolcountysavings.com](http://www.bristolcountysavings.com).