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Contact: Shirley Pirko s.pirko@towncenterbank.net 815-806-7007

Town Center Bank Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Big Bash
Public invited to September 10th, 10 am to 2 pm, in Frankfort

Since Town Center Bank first opened its doors in 2006, its mission of serving the New Lenox, Mokena and Frankfort area communities has never wavered. Now, the Bank is hosting a 10th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday September 10th and, "We are inviting everyone in the community to come celebrate with us." said Dan Regan, President of Town Center Bank.

The celebration will be held from 11 am to 2 pm, with free Shred X services available from 11 am to 1 pm; free Aurelio's Pizza, free Creamery ice cream treats and free beverages will be offered throughout the event. The event is strongly family-focused, so visitors will meet superheroes, princesses Elsa and Anna, cuddle with PAWS puppies and kittens, get their faces painted and receive free piggy banks. They will also enjoy an acoustic guitar player, magician, free t-shirts and other free giveaways. Every half-hour, gift certificates and gift baskets will be given away with free raffle drawings. Prizes include gift certificates to many local restaurants.

Regan has spent his career in community banking and is an outspoken advocate about the advantages of community banks over big banks. "Today's technology has completely evened the playing field when it comes to products and security. We have the same products that people want and need to use today, like remote deposit and mobile and online banking, using smartphones, tablets, and computers. All the conveniences the big banks offer, we absolutely have."

Regan stresses how Town Center Bank benefits business owners. "We are truly a community bank. Our decisions are made right here, in New Lenox and Frankfort. Our decision-makers are out in our community; they are meeting business owners face-to-face and understanding their product and their goals. As a community bank, we feel more compelled to loan to our neighborhood businesses. It's our job and it's our neighborhood too."

An Economic Study published by The Brookings Institute in December of 2015 confirms the importance of community banks in developing and supporting neighborhood small businesses. "[Community banks] service key segments of the commercial bank lending marketing, including agriculture, real estate and small business loans. Because of these banks' close relationship with small businesses, they can drive an important segment of economic growth. They devote the greatest share of their assets to small business loans."

Brookings also noted, "They have specialized knowledge and expertise of their communities and customers," which is another area Regan is positively passionate about. "Town Center Bank doesn't just talk the "community bank" talk. We are constantly looking for ways to help our neighbors and be a real part of the community."

Town Center Bank has a strong history of supporting community organizations and neighbors in need. Both Bank locations are collection sites for local food pantries. The Bank provides

scholarships through an essay contest to seniors at Lincoln-Way High Schools each year and promotes those students to the state-wide CBAI scholarship contest as well. The Bank sponsors events through both the Frankfort and New Lenox Park Districts. Donation drives have been held for Lion's Club, PAWS, the Crisis Center of South Suburbia and LWSRA, filling the lobbies with dozens of bags and boxes for struggling families.

When Regan says Bank staff is involved in the community, he really means involved. This year, both Regan and Chairman of the Board Mike Perry worked to unload an entire truckload of school supplies and clothing for local schools. "Kathy Bentz, one of our customers, donated an enormous amount of goods. When an office supply store went out of business, Kathy was there buying up boxes and bags full of items, thinking about the supply drive we host every summer. She stored it all and then came with an entire truck full of supplies. With her donation, the Lion's Club efforts, and the customers' generous donations, the amount we were able to provide to these schools was amazing."

Also amazing is the response Town Center Bank has had to becoming Little Free Library™ locations. Little Free Libraries are built on the premise of exchanging free books, with a "take a book, leave a book" philosophy that has expanded worldwide. Town Center Banks' busy Libraries hold children's books, young adult literature, cookbooks, fiction and non-fiction. "We thought it would be kind of a nice thing to invite the community in, as it closely aligns with our mission, but we had no idea how it would take off," Regan smiled.

The Celebration will begin at 10 am and end at 2 pm on Saturday, September 10th at Town Center Bank's Frankfort location, 20181 S LaGrange Road, at the corner of LaGrange and St. Francis Road.

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