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**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BANK ACKNOWLEDGED AS LEADING USDA
COMMUNITY FACILITY LENDER NATION-WIDE FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW**

Franklin, Bellingham, Foxborough, Medfield, Milford, Newtonville, Waltham, Sutton, Worcester, Northern Rhode Island, Greater Boston MA – In May 2006, the USDA announced that Benjamin Franklin Bank, headquartered in Franklin MA with additional branch locations in Bellingham, Foxborough, Medfield, Milford, Newtonville and Waltham, is the leading *nation-wide* Lender of USDA Community Facility Loans for the second year in a row. The Bank lends in all cities & towns of Massachusetts and Northern Rhode Island.

Community Facility (CF) Loans are loans made by local institutions to communities and nonprofit organizations for equipment, construction or improvements that are guaranteed by USDA Rural Development.

“In 2005, we were the number one CF loan lender nationwide, and this year we’re building on that achievement,” says Sutton MA resident, Blain Marchand, VP Commercial Lending and SBA/C&I Lending Manager for Benjamin Franklin Bank. “Our success with these types of loans comes from our ability to tap into programs that other banks aren’t familiar with. We can often provide rates and terms that other banks can’t because we look at the loans from many different perspectives and utilize different enhancements to the program. They are so valuable because they encourage development in smaller communities,” Marchand adds.

According to Daniel Beaudette, USDA Rural Development’s Director of Community and Business Programs, recent projects funded by Benjamin Franklin Bank include a \$4.5 million 16-field indoor soccer facility for the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, Inc. to benefit all youth soccer leagues in the state and “Alternatives Unlimited Inc.” a \$5.2 million mill complex conversion in Whitinsville, MA to provide residential and commercial opportunities for

physically and developmentally disabled clients, amongst others. “We’re particularly encouraged by Benjamin Franklin’s success in working with our programs to benefit the local communities,” says Beaudette.

Thomas R. Venables, Chairman of the Board of the Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation, adds, “We are proud of our record of working with organizations in communities throughout the state to help them fund their projects with these affordable loans. We are also proud to be to be the leading lender of CF loans nationwide for the second year in a row.”



Shown above, Blain Marchand, VP Commercial Lending and SBA/C&I Lending Manager for Benjamin Franklin Bank

BOILERPLATE: Benjamin Franklin Bank is a subsidiary of the Benjamin Franklin Bancorp, Inc. The Bank is a full-service community bank originally chartered in 1871 with nine branch locations: 58 Main Street, Franklin, MA 02038 and 231 East Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038; 4 North Main Street, Bellingham, MA 02019; 1 Mechanic Street, Foxborough, MA 02035; 76 North Street, Medfield, MA 02052; 221 Main Street, Milford, MA 01757; 40 Austin Street, Newtonville, MA 02460; 75 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02451 and 1290 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02453. For more information about Benjamin Franklin Bank, please contact Mariane E. Broadhurst, SVP Retail Banking of Benjamin Franklin Bank at (508) 528-7000 ext. 360 or mbroadhurst@benfranklinbank.com.

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