



## **F&M NAMES DARLENE BAXTER TO MAURY COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD**

COLUMBIA, Tenn. July 19, 2006 – Darlene Baxter, associate administrator of Maury Regional Hospital, has joined First Farmers & Merchants Bank’s Maury County Advisory Board of Directors, bank officials announced today.

Baxter has served more than 20 years in the Maury Regional Health Care system. She was recently appointed head of the newly-created Maury Regional Hospital Foundation. She was instrumental in Maury Regional Hospital being the first employer in the county to provide childcare services and worked on the development of the hospital into a healthcare system. She is involved in the operations of the Lewis Ambulatory Care Center, Wayne Medical Center and Marshall Medical Center. She represented Maury Regional Hospital during General Motor’s transition to Spring Hill, at which time the hospital developed an agreement to provide on-site healthcare services to GM employees. Last year, she led the development of a pilot night and weekend RN program with Columbia State.

Under her leadership, Maury Regional Hospital has received numerous awards including the 2004 Technology Center Business and Industry Partnership Award, four 2004 Prism awards for marketing, the 2001 Employer of the Year Award presented by Education Edge and has repeatedly been a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award for Supplier Quality from General Motors Spring Hill Manufacturing. Last November, the Tennessee Hospital Association presented her the Meritorious Service Award for Senior Executives.

Baxter is very active in the community. She is a member of the Maury Alliance Board of Directors, American Red Cross Board, Columbia State Community College Foundation Board, Girl Scouts Leadership Board and the Kiwanis Club. She is also a member of Riverside United Methodist Church.

A Maury County native, Baxter graduated *magna cum laude* from Western Kentucky University and earned a master's of science degree in health services administration from the College of Saint Francis in Joliet, Ill.

“Darlene’s dedication to serving Maury County is evident by the broad range of activities and organizations in which she is presently involved,” said T. Randy Stevens, F&M chairman and chief executive officer. “She is a very valuable asset to the entire community. I’m confident her role in F&M’s Maury County Advisory Board will be just as positive.”

Other members of F&M’s Maury County Advisory Board include Dr. Charles A. Ball, Medical Director and Chairman of the Board, The Hope Clinic of Middle Tennessee; James R. Hudson, farmer; H. Thomas Lucas, managing partner, Lucas Chevrolet Cadillac; Christa S. Martin, Assistant to the President for Minority Affairs, Columbia State Community College; Dr. Bill Thrasher, President, Columbia Academy.

Founded in 1909, First Farmers & Merchants Bank (Member FDIC) is one of the largest independent banks in Tennessee, with total assets over \$800 million and an additional \$2.5 billion in assets held by its Trust & Financial Management Department.

Headquartered in Columbia, the bank operates 19 offices in a seven-county area that includes Maury, Lawrence, Marshall, Hickman, Dickson, Giles 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.

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