

**NEWS FROM
BANK OF SANTA CLARITA**
(IN ORGANIZATION)

CONTACT: James D. Hicken
661.993.5350
jimhickenbosc@aol.com

Jeff Pollard
661.993.5350
jpollardbosc@aol.com

Bank of Santa Clarita Appoints Banking Veteran to its Team

SANTA CLARITA – Friday, October 1, 2004 – Bank of Santa Clarita (In Organization) today announced the appointment of Elizabeth Hopp as Senior Vice President and Director of Client Services. The announcement follows Bank of Santa Clarita's recent approval from both the California Department of Financial Institutions and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Bank of Santa Clarita also recently completed its successful initial public offering in which it raised approximately \$13.75 million.

“The appointment of Elizabeth Hopp to our veteran banking team further expands our wealth of banking and finance experience of the Bank of Santa Clarita,” said James D. Hicken, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Santa Clarita. “This addition further positions us to serve the needs of Santa Clarita's small to mid-sized businesses, owners and high net worth clients and make a profound impact on local business banking.”

Elizabeth Hopp brings over 33 years of experience in commercial banking to the Bank of Santa Clarita. Hopp most recently served as Vice President of the Santa Clarita office of City National Bank, where she managed the commercial banking operations. Hopp has held various senior banking positions in the Santa Clarita Valley and has been a resident for over 25 years.

As a member of the Bank of Santa Clarita team, Hopp will be responsible for client operations in the main office including loans, deposits and business development.

Bank of Santa Clarita will be a business-oriented financial institution whose plan is to offer a full range of banking, investment and wealth-management services to private and closely held small to medium-sized businesses, their executives and self employed professionals in Santa Clarita.

-more-

Bank of Santa Clarita Appoints Banking Veteran to its Team

Bank of Santa Clarita's board includes some of the most prominent leaders in Santa Clarita today. They include Robert King, Chairman of the Board, President King Bros, Inc.; Thomas J. Bulger, Owner, Scicon Technologies Corp.; David Finkelstein, President, F&W Food Service; Bruce C. Jay, Retired CPA and former bank President and CEO; Carl J. Kanowski, Attorney-At-Law; Margaret L. Lauffer, Director of Corporate Marketing and Public Relations, Newhall Land; Thomas Pelino, President, BizInc.com LLC; Thomas J. Phillips, Retired CPA and former bank Director and Vice Chairman; Steve S. Sansone, Regional Vice President Manulife Financial; Shawn C. Shambaugh, Physician, Private Practice; Sharon K. Skinner, former bank President and CEO.

Bank of Santa Clarita will be headquartered in ground floor "class A" high-rise office space in downtown Santa Clarita. The main office will be located at 27441 Tourney Road, Santa Clarita.

###