

New M&F president selected

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

James H. Sills III, the secretary of the Department of Technology and Chief Information Officer for the State of Delaware, has been named president and CEO of Durham-based Mechanics and Farmers Bank.

Effective Sept. 1, Sills will succeed Kim Saunders, the outgoing president and CEO and James Sansom, the interim president.

"The future of community banking is in the technology arena; and Jim has been driving innovation at the intersection of banking and IT for more than 20 years," said M&F Board of Directors Chairman James A. Stewart. "Jim has an impressive track record of success in executive leadership roles, and we are confident that his enthusiasm and insight will enable us to deliver even greater business value to customers across North Carolina and enhance shareholder value."

In 2009, Sills was appointed by Delaware Gov. Jack Markell to his cabinet. In this role, he oversaw the department's information technol-



State of Delaware Photo
James H. Sills III

ogy budget, implemented numerous enterprise technology projects and led the department's Technology Investment Council in executing IT governance and consolidation initiatives for the State of Delaware.

Sills has served in multiple senior leadership positions, including ones at First Tuskegee Bank and Memphis First Community Bank

(now Landmark Bank). He holds a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College, a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh and a graduate degree in retail bank management from the University of Wisconsin. He is married to Launice Sills, and they have three adult daughters.

Sills has strong family ties to North Carolina. His father was born and raised in Wake County. He has other family members from the Henderson and Louisburg area. Sills' grandmother graduated from Shaw University.

"I am honored to be selected to lead Mechanics & Farmers Bank. This institution has great history, great customers and experienced and dedicated associates," he said. "We plan to continue to build on the successes of the founders, current board of directors and associates to take it to the next level. We are committed to delivering new products, services and technologies to the communities we serve. I look forward to this exciting opportunity and working with our existing and new customers."



Photos by Todd Luck

One of several rooms at the Warehouse filled with an assortment of donated supplies.

Warehouse

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16 classrooms behind Diggs Latham Elementary School. Materials for different subjects are kept in separate rooms. There is also a craft room with donated wares from Jo Ann Fabric and Craft Store. Chandler is constantly looking for donations of supplies and money from individuals and companies to keep the shelves full. Office supplies that companies no longer need are often donated. Items embossed with the Wachovia Bank logo were donated when Wachovia became part of Wells Fargo.

Though the Warehouse now has its first employee, part time manager Becky Seay, it still depends on community volunteers to keep it afloat.

Teens in the Crosby Scholars program have been regular volunteers. One of them, Jordan Jarvis, applied for and received a \$500 Disney Friends for Change Youth Grant that was awarded to the Warehouse.

Others, like Chandler, are longtime educational advocates who have been volunteering at schools and with PTAs for years. Aleta Bitting is the treasurer and a past president of the county PTA Council. She's a regular weekend volunteer at the Warehouse and believes the service is essential because North Carolina teachers are among the lowest paid in the nation.

"Each year, it becomes a little more difficult with budget cuts and things that are happening," Bitting, a former member of the North Carolina PTA Board, said of teachers' plight.

The Warehouse has made the "shopping" experience easier for teachers and volunteers with two new laptops and a barcode scanner donated by the BB&T Lighthouse Project. Forsyth Education Association Co-President Susan Tague helped get

the system working earlier this week ahead of the fall quarter's opening day.

She said the first day, during which only new teachers are allowed in to get supplies, are emotional.

"You see a brand new teacher who's overwhelmed with a new job and all the things she has to do and all the things she wants to do," she said. "And then comes in here and is given the opportu-

nity to get a lot of the items she's going to need and she's not going to be charged for it. And they get emotional, which makes me emotional."

The Warehouse will be open from August 14-16. After that, it opens for three hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays and two Saturdays a month through May 2015.

There will be a school supply drive for the Warehouse at tonight's 6 p.m. outdoor concert at Bethabara Park; at the Winston-Salem Open on Aug. 16 and Aug. 20; and at the Aug. 22 Winston-

Salem Dash game at the BB&T Ballpark at 7 p.m.

For more information on donating, contact Chandler at 336-659-6165 or email kchandler3@msn.com.



Bitting



Susan Tague helps prepare for the opening.

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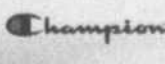



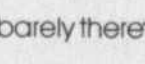
SOLD

Dates: **Tues., Aug. 19** (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
Wed., Aug. 20 (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
Thurs., Aug. 21 (8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
Fri., Aug. 22 (8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
Sat., Aug. 23 (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

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