



**Berkshire Bank Hires Experienced Mortgage Originator
to Strengthen Mortgage Availability in New York's Capital District**

PITTSFIELD, Mass., July 1, 2011 – Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting BankSM, today announced the newest member of its mortgage originations team with the appointment of Anne Dillenbeck as Mortgage Originator. Ms. Dillenbeck will be serving Saratoga County and the greater Capital Region where she will educate consumers and real estate professionals about Berkshire Bank's unique mortgage programs.

Ms. Dillenbeck has been a mortgage loan originator since 2003 when she began her mortgage career with Homestead Funding, where she was Rookie of the Year for 2003. After Homestead Funding, she joined Countrywide Home Loans, where she earned the designation of Top Producer two years in a row. Following the acquisition of Countrywide by Bank of America, she became a Bank of America Loan Officer, working out of the Latham and Saratoga Springs offices.

With expertise in mortgage sales, Dillenbeck will help Berkshire Bank extend the availability of its residential mortgage loan program in the greater Capital Region. She is a graduate of Cornell University and also holds a Master of Science degree from University of Michigan. She lives in Southern Saratoga County with her husband.

“We are excited to welcome Anne to our growing New York mortgage team,” said James A. Sherbo, 1st vice president of Retail Lending at Berkshire Bank. “Her experience and knowledge of the needs of our Capital Region customers will help us extend our presence as the most innovative and customer-centric mortgage bank in the region.”

In this role, Dillenbeck will be responsible for developing new mortgage business directly with consumers and through real estate and financial professionals.

To learn more about Berkshire Bank's mortgage programs, contact Anne Dillenbeck at (518) 391-8034. Ms. Dillenbeck is available to work with clients at Berkshire Bank branch locations and off-site.

BACKGROUND

Berkshire Hills Bancorp is the parent of Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting BankSM. The company has \$3.2 billion in assets and 48 full service branch offices in Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont. The company provides personal and business banking, insurance, and wealth management services. Berkshire Bank provides 100% deposit insurance protection for all deposit accounts, regardless of amount, based on a combination of FDIC insurance and the Depositors Insurance Fund (DIF). The company completed the acquisition of Rome Bancorp on April 1, 2011 and currently has a pending agreement to acquire Legacy Bancorp. For more information, visit www.berkshirebank.com or call 800-773-5601.

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