

CITY BANK OF HARTFORD



A LEGACY OF
TRUE COMMUNITY BANKING

In the early 1970s, Mr. Paul Kennedy and a group of Hartford businessmen came together with an idea. An idea that would positively impact the Wiregrass community for years to come.



Mr. Kennedy's strong commitment to the farming community, combined with the group's collective strong commitment to local neighbors and businesses, led to the formation of a new community bank; a bank that would embrace the principles of community banking and would provide exceptional financial services for generations. City Bank of Hartford enjoyed a magnificent history of true community banking from its first day of operation.

1975 – Organizers raise capital and submit application to open City Bank of Hartford

1975– The bank opens for business, with \$800,000 in capital

1976 – Bank moves into a permanent facility

1983 – Mr. Bill Kennedy joins the bank

2007 - City Bank opens its first branch in Newton



Organizers of the new bank included J.P. Kennedy, Jr (serving as Chairman of the Board), W.P. Morris, C.M. Hardwick, J.F. Reagan, Mark Donnell, Jr., and Joe W. Adams. Their application to establish the bank was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation on June 27, 1975. During its organization phase, Col. Edwin Pollard (Ret.) served as President of the fledgling institution. In total, the organizers collected \$800,000 in capital from its 200 shareholders.

customers. Joseph Sneed was the inaugural President of the bank. Operating out of a mobile facility that sat on what today is the Hartford location of Friend Bank, City Bank welcomed more than 1,200 friends and neighbors to the tiny office that day.



One year later, the bank once again welcomed customers and friends to the Grand Opening of its Main Office. An Open House was held on October 29, 1976 to

At 10 a.m. on October 1, 1975, City Bank of Hartford held a ceremonial Open House to welcome its new customers. The rain that day proved to be of little deterrent to the hospitality shown by the new bank or the interest of new

celebrate the permanent structure at 307 West Main Street in Hartford, expanding its facility to more than 5,000 square feet. True to its commitment, City Bank aggressively sought to establish new and more convenient services for its customers, leading

2009 - City Bank reaches \$50 million in Total Assets

2012 – Mr. Bill Kennedy retires

2014 – Mr. Bill Kennedy passes away

2014 – shareholders approve acquisition by Friend Bank

2015 – City Bank of Hartford becomes Friend Bank under the leadership of market present David Bailey

the way in its community as the first bank to offer both ATM service and On-Call 24-hour banking by phone. It also offered credit cards and, some years later, worldwide debit card services. Financial reports from October 1976 showed that the bank managed more than \$3.5 million in Total Assets. The facility also featured a Community Room that was made available to civic, charitable, social and school groups needing a place to meet. The gesture was a reflection of the bank's position as a true community bank.

He also was at the helm when City Bank opened a full-service branch in Newton in May, 2007, extending the bank's presence into Dale County. In 2000, a 25th Anniversary was held at City Bank. Geneva County students were asked to participate in an essay contest detailing events which took place during the bank's founding year of 1975.

Bill Kennedy retired in March, 2012 and passed away in 2014.

“The outlook for the Wiregrass area makes a need for this bank. We feel that Hartford can move forward.”

- Organizer J.F. Reagan

In 1983, Bill Kennedy joined the bank and under his watch City Bank of Hartford grew and expanded its capabilities. “Mr. Bill” was proud that City Bank was generally the first bank in Geneva County to offer new customer service technologies.

Throughout its tenure in the community, City Bank embraced the finest traditions of community banking. Each day, its employees worked diligently to provide superior, responsive service along with financial solutions designed to meet unique financial needs.



Additionally, City Bank of Hartford was an active corporate citizen. Both as a bank and as individual employees, resources were provided to countless civic, charitable, educational, and economic development organizations and endeavors.

In 2014, City Bank was financially sound and secure. However, new regulatory guidelines and expectations began to put undue pressure on community banks across the county, prompting banks to join together, share expertise, and spread costs. As such, on July 18, 2014, City Bank of Hartford entered into a Definitive Agreement to be acquired by Friend Bank in a merger transaction. Collectively, the City Bank family acknowledged a bit of sadness in the loss of the City Bank name and legacy, but at the same time acknowledged the benefit of blending assets into a bank with a long history of exceptional service, community

involvement, and dedication to relationship-based, friendly, and compassionate service. As of January 1, 2015, the combined bank managed in excess of \$125 million dollars and was well-positioned to serve the mutual communities for years to come.

Looking back, for many years, City Bank of Hartford successfully lived its mission of being “the only bank you’ll ever need” established in 1975 by Mr. Reagan. And looking forward, Friend Bank is honored to be the continuing story of City Bank Hartford, and looks forward to preserving the City Bank history for years to come.

