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For Immediate Release

F&M Bank Finances Montague Plaza Development, Supports Black-owned Businesses

Salisbury, NC, July 5, 2024 – F&M Bank is proud to support Montague Plaza, featuring 14 Black-owned businesses, with \$4 million in financing.

Opening in 2024 off Rock Quarry Road in southeast Raleigh, the 16,000-square-foot Montague Plaza will feature Black-owned businesses ranging from retail to professional services to educational programs for residents as well as students at adjacent Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School. The programs will include focus on math, science, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

Raleigh native and F7 Development International President James "Monte" Montague is behind the development, which will shape this community for generations.

"I wasn't looking for a national anchor chain. I was looking for people who are from the area, born and raised, that want to give back and sow back into the area — not just take money out of the community," said Montague. "Sometimes it's hard for kids from undeserved communities to see themselves pursuing STEM-based careers, especially when they might be the first person in their family to attend college. We want to make sure they have the confidence and support to build the future they want."

Change may be inevitable, but change for the better takes planning, passion and commitment. Thanks to Montague, who grew up directly across the street from the development, everything about Montague Plaza has been designed to inspire the next generation while creating concrete opportunities.

After learning about the project and the vision behind it, F&M Bank jumped on board to finance the \$4 million venture. With its focus on retaining talent, promoting local success and enhancing quality of life, Montague Plaza embodies everything F&M Bank believes about community involvement.

"It's been an honor to partner with Monte and watch his vision come to life," says F&M Bank Chairman & CEO Steve Fisher, "and we can't wait to witness the positive effects it will have on this community." For more information about F&M Bank's community initiatives, please visit fmbnc.com/connect/community-connection.

About F&M Bank

F&M Bank is a community bank established in 1909 and headquartered in Salisbury, NC. Operating throughout the Piedmont and the Research Triangle area, the bank has grown to over \$900 million in assets with 11 offices in Rowan, Cabarrus and Wake counties. Focused on providing personal attention and convenience for every client, the bank offers a complete range of financial services for individuals and businesses. F&M Bank has been voted the Best Bank in Rowan and Cabarrus counties for over a decade. F&M Bank is a Member FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender. For more information, visit us online at fmbnc.com.

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