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ARTICLE: by Geoff Pickle - Web Editor

Bank of Kansas City Mortgage opens Springfield branch

Bank of Kansas City Mortgage, a subsidiary of publicly traded Tulsa, Okla.-based BOK Financial Corp. (Nasdaq: BOKF), on Feb. 3 held a softopening for its first Springfield branch at 1906 E. Battlefield St. in Georgetown Square. Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce officials will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 12.

Ross Murray, vice president of R.B. Murray Co., brokered the lease of the more than 5,000-square-foot location, which is owned by Murney Associates Realtor Nancy Jester via Properties of Distinction Inc.

Bank of Kansas City Mortgage Branch Manager Alan Noe said the property was chosen because it's a high-traffic area close to the intersection of Glenstone Avenue and Battlefield Road.

"This is a very highly visible location right here," he said.

Noe said the office, which employs seven, offers a full range of mortgage services, including fixed-rate mortgages and adjustable-rate mortgages. He noted the branch is still in hiring mode and is looking for mortgage loan officers.

The office is open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment Saturday and Sunday.

"Springfield has always been a good market for the mortgage business," Noe said. "We have a lot of Realtors in Springfield looking for a good mortgage lender."

Noe, who has worked in Springfield mortgage businesses for 20 years, most recently as sales manager for Bank of America, also launched a Lebanon office of Bank of Kansas City Mortgage March 1.

As of 11:51 a.m., shares of BOK Financial Corp. were trading at \$55.86, compared to its 52-week range of \$43.77 to \$59.59.