

PRESS RELEASE

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Southern Independent Bank Readies For Construction of New Opp Office.



Guests, Directors and officers present at the SIB Opp ground breaking ceremony included: from left: Tonitta Sauls, Wesley Laird, Brett Ballard, Opp Mayor H.D. Edgar, Opp City Councilman Jim Bradley, Butch Youmans, General Contractor Sandy Hammer, City Councilman Mickey Crew, Charley Cope, City Councilman Jimmy Rogers, John Adams, Steve Sexton, Norman Hobson, SIB Chairman Johnny Jackson, Dr. Steve Boothe, Micah Garner, Dr. Bill Tillman, SIB CEO Buddy Wilkes.

OPP – Almost exactly one day to a year from first opening its doors for business, Southern Independent Bank conducted a ground-breaking ceremony on December 3 to begin construction on its new Opp Office.

Directors, guests and officers gathered at the site of the new facility, to be located at 503 North Main Street in Opp, with symbolic shovels and unbridled enthusiasm to signal the start of construction of the bank building. It will also be home to its Operations Center upon completion. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2008, and will run concurrent with the construction of the bank's Andalusia Office at 1417 Dr. Martin

Luther King Parkway, according to Southern Independent Bank Chairman Johnny Jackson. Hammer LGC of Samson Alabama has been named General Contractor for both the Opp and Andalusia projects. The architect for the projects is PHJ, Montgomery.

“In naming our general contractor, we are especially pleased to know that Hammer LGC will utilize local subcontractors for virtually all aspects of construction,” Wilkes explained. “It was important to each of us, as true community bankers in Opp and Andalusia, to hire local craftsmen whose skills will be showcased in these buildings.”

Jackson detailed the architectural plans in noting that the new Opp Office will be home to four drive-in banking lanes, along with a dedicated drive-up ATM on the opposite end of the facility. The interior will provide spacious and comfortable accommodations for banking transactions along with private offices for loan and administrative personnel. The handicapped accessible office will also have a Night Depository and offices for bookkeeping, audit, and other operations functions.

Brett Ballard, who serves as Senior Vice President in Opp, added that the construction “is a clear indication of the growth and progress we’ve achieved in our first year. Southern Independent Bank opened on December 4, 2006 with a commitment to providing a unique and fresh band of solutions-driven, relationship-based banking. Our commitment to independence and the way we do business has attracted many consumer and business customers into our temporary quarters. I believe our customers will enjoy the new Office immensely.”

Wilkes said that the bank’s customers are invited to watch the construction progress throughout 2008, “but the building will largely speak for itself as it goes up. We hope our friends and neighbors throughout the community enjoy its progress as we build facilities to house the power of independence.”



Architect's rendering of the new Southern Independent Bank Office, under construction at 503 N. Main St., Opp