

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **FOREST COMMERCIAL BANK RECEIVES BAUER 5-STAR RATING FOR FINANCIAL STRENGTH**

**ASHEVILLE**—Forest Commercial Bank has been awarded a 5-star “Superior” rating by independent bank rating and research firm BauerFinancial, Inc. of Coral Gables, FL. The honor, the highest given by the firm, is based upon the financial condition of the bank and indicates that Forest Commercial “is one of the strongest banks in the country.” This was the first time the bank has been rated since it opened two years ago.

BauerFinancial analyzes the past and present financial condition of banks to ensure that taking care of depositors is a top priority. It also looks at numerous ratios and calculations based on regulatory reports filed by the bank each quarter to determine its relative strength. Ratings range from “Zero” (Troubled) to “5-Star” (Superior). Forest Commercial is one of only 26 banks in North Carolina to earn five stars and one of only three in Buncombe County.

“Since opening our doors, we’ve placed the highest priority on providing value for our customers while ensuring the strength of our institution,” said Forest Commercial President and CEO John D. Kimberly. “This rating validates our efforts, and we’re proud to be recognized in this manner.”

Currently located in downtown Asheville, Forest Commercial will open for business at its new banking facility at 1127 Hendersonville Road on August 9.

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