



Founded in 1981, Lamar National Bank in Paris, Texas served its small rural trade area as a quintessential community bank. We operated as trusted advisors, and facilitators of dreams. We financed homes, cars, appliances, weddings, and small businesses. We aided our customers to buy farms, cattle, equipment and put their kids through college. We donated money for schools, non-profits, charities of every variety and we knew our customers well. In essence, we delivered “relationship banking at its best”.

In 2016, after years of compressing margins, oppressive regulatory burden and lending/financing competition from non-bank businesses, Lamar National Bank found itself at a crossroads. Do we remain independent or throw in the towel?

The board members around that table, represented the families and friends of the original ten businessmen who build a stalwart hometown bank. With this in mind, the board gave the management team the objectives of remaining independent and profitable. The only viable path forward to meet these objectives was to grow.

The core tenets of this strategy revolved around delivering excellence in relationship banking in communities where this quaint value proposition is a competitive advantage. After much research, we discovered Celina, Texas was a small town with big dreams that deserved a true hometown community bank. Located north of the explosive and dynamic Frisco, Texas, people began to push north seeking the small town feel with more affordable housing than now available in Frisco.

In 2018 we opened a small office in Celina, with the mission of letting the community get to know us and what it means to once again have a community, relationship bank. With no production goals in mind, we set out to find the best people to work for us, those who represent our culture and what it means to be a community banker.

The leader we chose for Celina is Market President Chad Anderson. Chad is a second-generation banker who has resided in Celina for almost two decades. A proud community and civic leader, he currently serves as Mayor Pro Tem on the Celina City Council and has served on countless boards including the Celina Chamber of Commerce.

Under his leadership, he has attracted a team and built a culture that completely embodies relationship banking at its best. Our support of the school district, the Chamber, the EDC, the city, the firemen, and every local event possible is reflected in our numerous awards and accolades such as Best New Business, Business of the Year, and Champion of the Independent School District.

Lamar National has been warmly accepted into the community and works closely with City leaders as well as the Celina EDC.

In response to the incredible reception Celina has given us, we reciprocated by building a truly monumental flagship bank. Designed by New Ground to reflect the best in banking trends and technology, the 8,000 square foot building is located on the major thoroughfare of Preston Road and Pecan Street - the entrance to the historic downtown.

Included in the design was a large, technologically advanced community room and office space for the Celina Chamber of Commerce. Through our tremendous partnership with the Chamber, the executive director is given complete control of scheduling the community room to make sure we provide access to as many community members and organizations as possible.

This flagship building is the new architectural anchor of Celina, Texas, a testament to the incredible power and value of community banking.