



For Immediate Release
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**GEORGE SEARLE JOINS YADKIN VALLEY BANK
AS SOUTHERN REGIONAL PRESIDENT**

ELKIN, NC, March 29, 2012— Yadkin Valley Bank proudly announces the addition of George Searle as Southern Regional President. In his new role, Searle will oversee all retail and commercial operations in the Bank's Southern Region which includes 16 branches throughout Mecklenburg, Union, Durham, Orange and Granville Counties in North Carolina, and Cherokee and York Counties in South Carolina. Nine City or Market Executives will report directly to Searle, and he will be based in the Charlotte South Park office of American Community Bank.

Searle comes to Yadkin Valley following 32 years with Wells Fargo, formerly Wachovia Bank, where he served in several management positions in retail and commercial banking. Searle is also active in the Cornelius community, serving with Habitat for Humanity and Room In the Inn.

"We are glad to welcome George to the Bank. His years of experience and expertise in North and South Carolina will ensure that we continue to offer superior service to our customers in the Southern Region," said Rick Patterson, Yadkin Valley's Chief Banking Officer.

A native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Searle is a graduate of Brevard College with a degree in business administration. He lives in Cornelius with his wife and children.

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About the Yadkin Valley Financial Family

Yadkin Valley Financial Corporation is the holding company for Yadkin Valley Bank and Trust Company, a full-service community bank providing services in 34 branches throughout its two regions in North Carolina and South Carolina. The Western Region serves Avery, Watauga, Ashe, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Iredell Counties. The Southern Region serves Durham, Orange, Granville, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties in North Carolina, and Cherokee and York Counties in South Carolina. The Bank provides mortgage-lending services through its subsidiary, Sidus Financial, LLC, headquartered in Greensboro, NC. Securities brokerage services are provided by Main Street Investment Services, Inc., a Bank subsidiary with four offices located in the branch network. Yadkin Valley Financial Corporation's website is www.yadkinvalleybank.com. Yadkin Valley shares are traded on NASDAQ under the symbol YAVY.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this news release contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities litigation Reform Act of 1995, such as statements relating to future plans and expectations, and are thus prospective. Factors that could cause our results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in our reports (such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K) filed with the SEC and available at the SEC's Internet site (www.sec.gov). All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning Yadkin Valley or any person acting on its behalf is expressly qualified in its entirety by the cautionary statements above. We do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.