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The banking scene in Ozaukee County continues to be in a state of fluxwith the announcement last week that three branches of BMO Harris Bank are closing.

The bank closings are being made in October in conjunction with BMO Harris' decision to close 17 banks in Wisconsin in conjunction with the  acquisition of Mashall & Ilsley Corp.

Destined to close are the Harris Bank offices at 524 E. Green Bay Ave. in Saukville, 7955 Hwy. 60 in Cedarburg and 1425 W. Mequon Rd. in Mequon.

In April, Harris Bank closed offices in Port Washington, Grafton and Belgium, citing duplication of facilities following the acquisition of Ozaukee Bank and Grafton State Bank.

BMO Harris spokesman Jim Kappel said the selection of branches to closed was based on a variety of factors, including overlap of service areas, ease of access and operational costs.

Even with the closings, BMO Harris has branches at former M&I bank locations in each of the affected local communities. The Saukville location is at 859 E. Green Bay Rd. (Highway 33).

Kappel said the bank has had an 80% success rate at finding job placements for employees displaced by previous branch closings.

Image Information: BANK CONSOLIDATION WILL result in the closing of the Harris Bank branch office at 524 E. Green Bay Ave. in Saukville this fall.  Photo by Mark Jaeger