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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2016

Century Savings Bank Offers Home Buying Tips to Consumers:

Five Ways to Boost Your Credit Report

VINELAND, NJ (June 17, 2016) – In recognition of June as American Housing Month, Century Savings Bank is reminding customers of the importance of their credit history when looking for a home.

“Whether you’re renting or buying, your credit history is significant,” said Megan Lore, Vice President of Mortgage and Consumer Lending. “It is important for you to responsibly manage your debt levels and maintain good credit reports so that you are more attractive to leasing agents and mortgage lenders.”

- 1. Request a copy of your credit report** – and make sure it is correct. Your credit report illustrates your credit performance, and it needs to be accurate so that you can apply for other loans – such as a mortgage. Everyone is entitled to receive a free copy of his or her credit report annually from each of the three credit reporting agencies, but you must go through the Federal Trade Commission’s website at www.annualcreditreport.com, or call 1-877-322-8228.
- 2. Set up automatic bill pay.** The longer you pay your bills on time, the better your credit history. Avoid missed payments by setting as many of your bills to automatic payment as possible.

- 3. Keep balances low on credit cards and ‘revolving credit.’** Racking up big balances can hurt your credit, regardless of whether you pay your bills in full each month. You often can improve your credit by limiting charges to 30 percent or less of a card’s limit.
- 4. Apply for and open new credit accounts only as needed.** Keep this in mind the next time a retailer offers you 10 percent off if you open an account. However, if you need a new line of credit, do not jump at the first appealing offer; compare rates and fees offered through mail solicitation, on the Internet or at your local bank.
- 5. Talk to credit counselors if you are in trouble.** Using legitimate, non-profit credit counseling can help you manage your debt. For more information on debt management, contact the National Foundation for Consumer Credit (www.nfcc.org).

About Century Savings Bank

Based on strong, traditional values and local decision-making, Century Savings Bank is dedicated to being the premier financial services provider in the area, focused on the changing needs of people and business in our communities by providing the highest level of quality service. Century Savings Bank began as a small mortgage association in downtown Bridgeton in 1865.

As one of America’s oldest banks, Century Savings Bank has served South Jersey for over 150 years. Along with its headquarters in Vineland, the Bank maintains branches in Upper Deerfield, Vineland (two offices), Elmer, Mullica Hill, and Gibbstown. Century Savings Bank offers a full line of products and services, including online banking and bill pay, mobile banking, and cash management services to meet all of your consumer and commercial banking needs.

For more information on Century Savings Bank and Community Banking *Plus*, visit www.centurysb.com

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