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BUSINESS

CITIZENS BANK OPENS FIRST LI BRANCH. Citizens Bank said it has opened its first Long Island branch in a Stop & Shop in West Hempstead and will open six more by the end of 2007 in Nassau County. The Providence-based bank, owned by The Royal Bank of Scotland, announced in 2006 that it planned to open 40 branches in Stop & Shop markets on Long Island in the next three years. A spokeswoman for Citizens, Amanda Lecce, said the bank also recently opened a training center in Great River for branch employees. She said the center has about five employees, but that its staff will grow as the Long Island branch network expands.

— SUSAN HARRIGAN