

MERCANTILE BANKSHARES CORP  
Form 8-K  
April 27, 2004

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) April 26, 2004

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**MERCANTILE BANKSHARES CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Maryland**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**0-5127**  
(Commission File Number)

**52-0898572**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**Two Hopkins Plaza, P.O. Box 1477, Baltimore, Maryland 21203**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(410) 237-5900

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

(Former Name or Former Address, If Changed Since Last Report)

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**INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT**

**Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure**

This is an optional filing made to disclose the event reported below. It is not a filing required by Regulation FD.

Mercantile Bankshares Corporation (Nasdaq: MRBK), a Maryland corporation (the Company), today announced that its Board of Directors has determined that a significant majority, 14 of the 18 members of the Board, are independent under the Nasdaq Rules.

The Board of Directors of the Company determined, based on its review of director independence, that each of the following directors is independent under Nasdaq Rule 4200: Cynthia A. Archer, R. Carl Benna, William R. Brody, M.D., Eddie C. Brown, George L. Bunting, Jr., Anthony W. Deering, Darrell D. Friedman, Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, Jenny G. Morgan, Morton B. Plant, Christian H. Poindexter, Clayton S. Rose, James L. Shea and Donald J. Shepard. Moreover, each of the five members of the Board's Audit Committee, the four members of the Board's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the five members of the Board's Compensation Committee are independent under the listing standards of the Nasdaq National Market.

The above information was disclosed by the Company in a press release on April 26, 2004 which is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report and is incorporated into this Item 5 by reference.

**Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Statements, and Exhibits.**

(c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release, dated as of April 26, 2004, issued by Mercantile Bankshares Corporation

**Signatures**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Mercantile Bankshares Corporation  
(Registrant)

Date: April 26, 2004

By: /s/ Terry L. Troupe

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Terry L. Troupe  
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release