



CHESTER LIPA, manager of the new Michigan National Bank-West Metro branch at 34000 Seven Mile near Farmington Road, is proud of the building and its landscaping. (Staff photo by Ari Emanuel)

Michigan bank opens area branch building

Officials of Michigan National Bank-West Metro hope that the opening of their next two branches, to be completed within three months, don't have the problem experienced with the start of a new branch at 34000 Seven Mile, west of Farmington Road.

Everything for the Monday opening was proceeding according to schedule—with one minor exception. That exception was that the furniture ordered in May didn't arrive until last Friday, and then it was discovered that the legs were broken on three desks.

BUT BANK officials were happy nothing else marred the grand opening, attended by Livonia city officials and new customers.

The branch, sixth in the firm's Livonia chain, is managed by Chester Lipa, 54, of Northville, who has a varied background in banking, mortgage sales and real estate construction.

Lipa, whose assistant is William Yule, was in the real estate-building business for seven years before joining Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan for two years. He was promoted to manager of a branch and then joined Advance Mortgage Co. as a mortgage salesman.

Three years later, in 1967, Lipa joined his current employer as an assistant manager of the Middle Belt-Seven Mile branch opposite Livonia Mall. He was promoted to the management of the branch opposite Livonia City Hall in 1969 and the next year was moved to the same position in the new branch at Six Mile and Newburgh.

Lipa was then given the assignment of opening the new branch on Seven Mile west of Farmington in June 1974, when the bank was operating out of a

mobile home while the permanent building was under construction.

THE NEW branch represents an investment of \$272,000, of which \$162,000 is the building, \$40,000 is in site improvements and \$70,000 in land.

Lipa, Ed Lueke, assistant vice president, and Tom Lamsaling, senior vice president, were happy to talk about the new branch, which has 3,000 square feet of floor space, eight teller cages and two drive-in lanes with two more to be opened in the future.

The bank offers "91 services," the officials said. The drive-in windows open at 9 a.m.—a half-hour before any other banks in Livonia—and are open until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.


The drive-in branch on the northeast corner of Five Mile and Farmington Road has hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m., the bank officials said.

Lamsaling, a Livonia resident, said a bank is required to make an extensive market study and get U.S. government agency approval before building a new branch.

The market study of the northwest corner of Livonia showed that there was a need for another bank branch, he said.

THE OTHER two MNB branches

under construction and expected to be completed in the near future are Schooncraft and Surrey and Middle Belt at Puritan.



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League of Women Voters honored Sept. 15-19

League of Women Voters Week will be celebrated by the West Bloomfield-Farmington area unit with a brunch and general meeting Sept. 17.

It will be followed Sept. 24 by the first of three study meetings on the powers and terms of office of the U.S. presidency.

The Sept. 17 meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. at the Farmington Hills Library, 32737 West Twelve Mile Road.

Featured will be presentation of proclamations from Gov. William Milliken and local communities declaring Sept. 15-19 State League of Women Voters Week.

The meeting also will feature a short slidefilm presentation on International Women's Year, narrated by Mary Lazaraton of Farmington.

BONNIE OLDS of Farmington will give a preview of the league's September, October and November study of the executive branch of the federal government. Mrs. Olds is chairman of the representative government committee which is making the study.

The Sept. 24 general meeting on the study of the presidency will be at 9:30 a.m. in Room J-409 of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road.

Shown will be a CBS video documentary called "Five Presidents on the Presidency," covering the administrations of Harry Truman through Richard Nixon.

Mrs. Sarah Davis, OOC history professor and league member, will conduct a discussion following the film.

The representative government committee began preparation and study of the presidency in June in order to make the three-meeting presentation to members.

Future meetings will examine the powers and terms of office of the presidency and the vice presidency.

IN HIS PROCLAMATION, Gov. Milliken hailed the League of Women Voters as "a source of unbiased information on candidates and the issues" in Michigan and throughout the nation.

"It has also evidenced deep concern for the problems that plague our society through study and legislative action in many areas, including welfare, taxation, education and the preservation of our environment," the governor said.

He urged "all citizens to give appropriate recognition to the many significant contributions which the League of Women Voters has made toward responsible, effective and responsive government at the local, state and national levels."

All league meetings are open to the public.

Those wishing to become members or wishing to make babysitting reservations should call Maria Runk of Farmington.

Babysitting for the Sept. 17 meeting will be available at the Prince of Peace Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills, across the street from the library.



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