

# Michigan National opens Hills headquarters

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

What was once "a gleam in your eye" is now the \$31-million corporate headquarters in Farmington Hills for Michigan's third-largest bank holding company.

"All we had were pictures a couple years ago. Now we're real proud to show off the accomplished fact," said Robert Mylod, chairman and chief executive officer of Michigan National Corp. at a public dedication for the new facility on 25 wooded acres at I-696 and Inkster.

Before the four 2 1/2-story, interconnected buildings were developed around two landscaped brick courtyards, Michigan National offices were scattered in eight suburban Detroit locations.

"We decided to get everybody to-

gether to not only eliminate travel time and telephone tag, but also foster the concept of teamwork, so very necessary in today's competitive world of banking," Mylod told 650 government, business and civic leaders attending the dedication June 25.

The colonial Williamsburg design, by the Birmingham architectural firm of Luckenbach/Ziegelman and Partners, is intended to "promote the spirit of independence, which is part of our great American heritage," Mylod said.

Visits to New England and the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills provided architectural ideas. But while "there's a sense and feel of colonial spirit, this is very much a modern building," Mylod said.

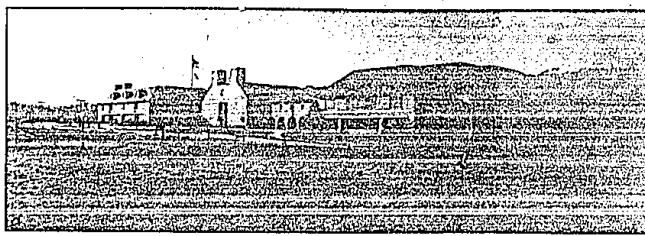
HOME TO 1,100 of the corpora-

tion's 4,300 employees, the 283,000-square-foot, five-level headquarters boasts a 336-seat dining hall, a 250-seat auditorium, an 18,000-square-foot athletic facility, a 9,000-square-foot investment trading floor and a sundries shop. A timber bridge, spanning Pebble Creek, connects the site to Inkster.

The Rev. Bill Cunningham of Detroit-based Focus: HOPE, a Michigan National beneficiary, gave the invocation at the dedication.

In the past six months, Michigan National has filled 19 hourly jobs with graduates of Focus: HOPE's Fast Track program. The pilot program hones the math, English and computer skills of metro high school graduates in hopes of preparing them for careers in technology. Some participants choose other fields, like banking.

The Fast Track graduates who Michigan National hires also can have their tuition and books paid for



Michigan National's new corporate headquarters is at Inkster and I-696 in Farmington Hills.

by the bank if they decide to attend community college part time. "That provides very-well-trained, loyal employees," Cunningham said.

The bank paid \$110,000 of the \$300,000 cost of Fast Track's computer hardware — reflecting "an eager spirit to help," Cunningham said.

ARTWORK IN the new bank headquarters — paintings, prints and photographs of Michigan rural landscapes, shoreline views, still life and cityscapes — represents 123 Michigan artists, including state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

Farmington Hills resident Fred Romanoff, retired bank vice chairman, donated several of his photographs.

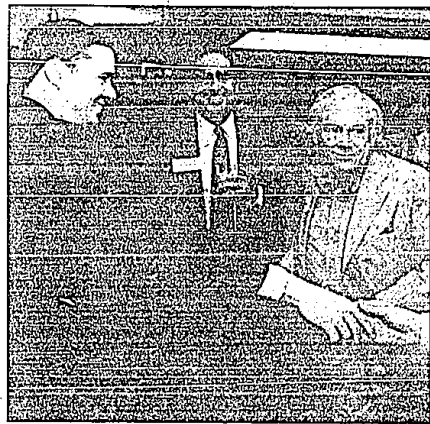
At a staff dedication of the bank headquarters June 25, Mylod and corporate president Peter Thomsen placed 20 items, reflecting the com-

pany's history, in a time capsule to be opened in 50 years. Mylod applied the final trowel of cement to the building cornerstone.

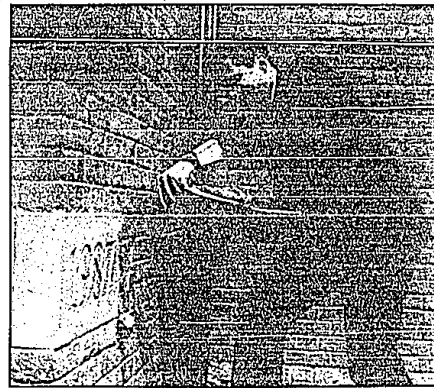
Jonna Construction of Farmington Hills was the builder for the construction project. Johnson, Johnson & Roy of Ann Arbor was the landscape architect.

The Construction Association of Michigan has honored the building's design and craftsmanship.

Michigan National has 21 subsidiaries, 276 branches and assets of \$7.6 billion.



Michigan National chairman Robert Mylod (left) and architects Robert Ziegelman and Carl Luckenbach greet visitors at a public dedication of the new bank headquarters June 25.



Robert Mylod, Michigan National chairman, applies the final trowel to the cornerstone at a staff dedication for the new headquarters June 24.

The Rev. William Cunningham of Focus: HOPE (right) gives the invocation at a public dedication of the new Michigan National headquarters June 25.



## Residents vow to fight for improved drainage

Related opinion, 10A

By Joanne Mellezowski  
staff writer

Farmington Hills residents have no intention of letting city officials off the hook regarding their promises to improve drainage and sewage systems, made after the June 21 downpour wreaked havoc on property in the city.

"This time we want promises completed to action," Westbrook Manor subdivision resident Joanne Graves said.

Graves and other residents of Westbrook Manor and its neighbor, the Kendallwood subdivision, east of Farmington Road and north of 12 Mile, are joining forces to ensure that city officials make necessary improvements to prevent future flooding and damage.

A committee of the concerned residents will mail a questionnaire to the 900 households in the two neighborhoods to detail damage and other effects of the 2.5-inch rainfall on June 21. The flooding — storm water and sanitary sewage — caused structural damage and the loss of personal property, Graves said.

"We want to reinforce the urgency with the council of solving drainage problems," she added.

THE RESULTS of the questionnaire will be available to city officials and other residents by August, when the committee will meet again. City manager William Costick and Mayor Terry Sever are expected to attend. A week ago, city officials asked residents in neighborhoods hardest hit by flooding to get together and compile information.

"We're getting organized with all the various subdivisions. We want to keep on track with what we have to do and make sure the residents understand what we're doing. I intend to work with the groups and stay on top of this thing," Costick said.

Graves said residents in Colony Park and Kendallwood I, all west of Farmington Road and north of 12 Mile, will also be invited to participate in the questionnaire. Residents of Canterbury Commons, east of Farmington Road and north of 13 Mile, will be invited as well.

Among neighborhoods hardest hit by the June 21 downpour were the Kendallwoods (east and west of Farmington Road), Westbrook Manor, Lindenhurst, Franklin Knolls, Franklin Ravines, Noblebrook Farms and Meadowbrook Farms.

Residents demanded action from city officials, who, they claimed, have long failed to address drainage and flooding problems in the city.

CITY OFFICIALS said June 26 that they are committed to improving sewage and drainage systems to prevent, as best as possible, the type of damage sustained in the June 21 downpour.

City manager William Costick promised residents before the city council last week that within 45 days, he will have a plan of action to improve storm and sanitary sewer systems and improve drainage, particularly during storms.

Improvements are expected to be made on sanitary and storm sewers. Officials may also investigate the possibility of working with West Bloomfield Township to develop drainage measures. Some of the flooding problem is attributable to water traveling at high speed from the township into the city, Costick said.

Costick estimated storm sewer improvements will cost between \$10 million and \$15 million. Some sanitary sewer improvements are part of the long-planned \$65 million Evergreen-Farmington sewer system project, the first phase of which is scheduled to begin next year.

Improvements include rebuilding sanitary sewers in the Kendallwood and Westbrook Manor subdivisions. Storm water enters the deteriorating sewers there and causes backup and flooding.

## Rivlin eyes doctor to pull plug

Continued from Page 1

If a physician is found willing to perform the procedure but would like the court to rule on the matter, Rosin has 30 days to amend his motion, Gage said.

DR. ED BLUMBERG, owner of the Care Centers of Michigan, parent company of the Farmington nursing home, told Rosin he would not allow the disconnection procedure to be done in the nursing home, even though he does not object to Rivlin's request, Rosin said. The attorney said he wasn't sure whether Blumberg would perform the procedure for Rivlin elsewhere.

"Maybe then (if Blumberg or another physician refuses) you have a controversy. But you sure don't plead it (in the existing petition)," Gage said.

Rosin said he probably would not sue Blumberg to perform the procedure, even though Gage suggested such action.

Rivlin, paralyzed from the neck down, became a quadriplegic 18

years ago when his spinal cord was severed in a surfing accident in Huntington Beach, Calif. The former Oak Park resident returned to Detroit following his injury because he believed he could get better medical treatment here.

Rivlin's condition worsened in 1985 when he had an aneurysm and a resulting operation on his spinal cord. At that time, Rivlin became bedridden and was forced to be connected to the ventilator to help him breathe.

"He's completely helpless as far as any physical activity," Rosin told Gage. "He has determined the kind of life he has had the last 18 years is not good for himself or the public. He has absolutely no future. He's unable to do anybody any good."

GAGE TOLD Rosin she is troubled with Rivlin's request for sedatives prior to the ventilator being disconnected. "That's asking me to affirmatively order medical treatment," she said.

Interpreting her opinions later, Rosin said it appears Gage has misgivings about the power Rivlin's request puts in her hands.

"What if the sedatives are given (for removing the ventilator) and he remains alive?" Gage asked. "That's a chance he's willing to take," Rosin responded.

Rivlin is determined in his resolve to die. "He didn't come by his decision frivolously," Gorbelin-Melton said of her nephew.

Rivlin said in May he has nothing to live for. He will never have the wife and family he wanted. And his parents are dead. He is tired of the ventilator and fears living in an institution for another 20 years.

"I'm just tired of being hooked up. It's artificial. I've hated it from the beginning. I've tried to live with it. But I can't," Rivlin told the Observer.

Rivlin is the third right-to-die request in Oakland County in the last two years.

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