



Official Proclamation

City of Hastings, Michigan

HCB 135th Anniversary of Community Banking

- Whereas:** Highpoint Community Bank, formerly Hastings City Bank, was founded in 1886 when 35 investors provided the initial capital of \$50,000. The bank's first office was at the southeast corner of State and Jefferson Streets. Capital increased to \$75,000 in 1899; and
- Whereas:** In 1913 the office was razed to make room for a new two-story structure. The bank occupied the first floor and basement and rented the second floor to others. During the lowest point of the depression deposits dwindled from \$1,200,000.00 to slightly more than \$500,000.00; and
- Whereas:** By 1947, the bank had ten employees and total resources of \$4,000,000.00. The bank purchased the property at Court and Church Streets in 1955, which included a one-story building 84' by 134', which was rented to others until construction on the new bank began in May 1958. On November 6, 1958 an open house was held to celebrate the new location. The building provided 11,000 square feet of space, compared to only 2,500 square feet in the location on State Street. The new home office offered two drive-in teller windows at the rear of the facility and the first teller counters in Michigan that provided maximum privacy for business transactions. In addition to regular banking services, a trust department was established in 1964; and
- Whereas:** By 1973, the new building was inadequate to serve the growing needs of the institution. A second major project increased the number of drive-in units and added a 40' by 70' area for customer and loan activity. In April 1975, the merger with Farmers State Bank of Middleville was consummated and in 1977, the Middleville office moved into its new 4,000 square foot building on M-37 in Middleville; and
- Whereas:** At the 100-year anniversary, in 1986, the bank had grown to a capital position of \$7,000,000 and total assets of \$75,000,000.00. In 1987, the bank purchased the Nashville and Bellevue offices from Comerica Bank. In 1989 the Caledonia branch opened. In 1991 the Wayland office was purchased from First Savings Bank of Three Rivers; and
- Whereas:** On October 26, 2004, the bank celebrated its 118th Anniversary. On Saturday, November 6, 2004, exactly 46 years to the date of the last grand opening event at the new building at the corner of Church and Court Streets. HCB dedicated its new main office building is twice the size of the bank's former building, accommodating current needs and allowing future growth. Designed to blend with the downtown area, it is a traditional design in brick with arched windows and warm wood tones throughout. Working with the Hastings Downtown Development Authority, the bank designed a streetscape that compliments existing brick walkways in the area. An outdoor replica

of the clock from the 1913 home of Hastings City Bank graces the front entrance. Careful consideration was given to the 118-year history of the bank and the heritage it represents in the Barry County community. Treasured pieces were kept and moved to the new building; and

- Whereas:** The new Highpoint Community Bank building allows for increased customer convenience with two-way video screens in the drive-thru areas. With these screens a customer has a full color view of the teller, which enables direct conversation; and
- Whereas:** Highpoint Community Bank opened the Marshall Branch in January 2014 in a historic building located in downtown Marshall. Rehabilitation to the building has benefited the entire downtown community. Recent investments in technology provide interactive Teller Machines and Highpoint Connect video banking, as well as many online banking services; and
- Whereas:** Highpoint Community Bank has made a significant investment in the future of our Barry County youth as the financial partner of the KickStart to Career Program. Every year, approximately 600 new kindergarten students receive an education savings account at Highpoint Community Bank, funded by the Barry Community Foundation. In addition to managing these accounts at no charge, HCB provides financial literacy to these students to encourage a pattern of saving for the future; and
- Whereas:** Highpoint Community Bank currently has a staff of 94 located in seven conveniently located offices in Bellevue, Caledonia, Hastings, Marshall, Middleville, Nashville, and Wayland. Assets have grown to \$430,000,000.00. This is the only bank headquartered in downtown Hastings, Michigan. Highpoint Community Bank has consistently been recognized as a 5-Star Superior Bank as rated by the independent bank rating firm Bauer Financial, Inc.

Now Therefore, I, Mayor David J. Tossava, on behalf of the City of Hastings and the Hastings City Council, do hereby wish the Highpoint Community Bank a happy 135th Anniversary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Hastings, Michigan, to be affixed this the 26th day of October 2021.


David J. Tossava, Mayor