

Article posted: 5/21/2012 6:00 AM

## Scott Wehrli pioneers a new generation of banking

By Anna Marie Kukec

Scott Wehrli's family was among the pioneers of Naperville. So that initiative was in his blood when he decided to be among the first investors to establish the First Community Bank — Naperville in 2008.

Since the bank has outgrown its current space on Naperville's south side, Wehrli and other bank officials have secured a new site that doubles the size of First Community. It will be in a renovated storefront in the Naperville Plaza, which was actually home to the Washington Bank & Trust in the 1970s founded by another generation of investors that included Scott's father, Dick Wehrli. Both Wehrlis invested their own money so those funds could be loaned to local businesses to spark growth in the community.

"Just when you think you know a lot about the business of banking, the industry changes that and opens your eyes on how to help people," Scott Wehrli said.

The Naperville bank opened just as the recession hit. But they held on tight, watched transactions closely and scrutinized the balance sheets of businesses seeking loans.

"Those were interesting times, since we didn't expect the recession when we started it," Wehrli said. "But we were growing by gaining business from banks that were going out of business or treating their customers in such a way that drove them to us."

While the FDIC-insured bank, a branch of the First Community Bank of Joliet, will expand, it also will upgrade its retail space and add a drive-through lane around the building.

In the meantime, Wehrli will continue on the advisory committee that is guiding the bank to the future. This work is in addition to his full-time job as secretary-treasurer for Naperville-based DuKane PreCast Inc., a company owned by his father.

"The interesting thing about what I do is I've always been involved with the family business and with the community," Wehrli said. "It's been a balancing act."



Scott Wehrli