EDITORIAL

CHANGES ARE ON THE HORIZON

Grand Rapids Press Editorial Board

The rebirth of the former Grand Rapids Press site into a Michigan State University medical research center is a promising development for Grand Rapids and the region.

The planned MSU facility will propel Grand Rapids forward into the next 50 years.

Itself a product of urban renewal in the 1960s, the former Press building's 173,840 square feet dominated the corner of Monroe and Michigan for 50 years. It's where the Press, which a few years earlier became Grand Rapids' sole surviving newspaper, was printed since before the Calder came.

It was home base for generations of journalists whose work there spanned an era of transition, one that began with typewriters and ended with computers in the palms of their hands and, increasingly, the hands of their readers. It's where the important stories and truths of Grand Rapids were collected, written, photographed and told.

MSU bought the building for $32 million in 2012.

The same year, MLive moved its journalists and advertising and marketing staffs to 169 Monroe Ave. NE. The Press archives, with five semitrailer loads of materials dating back as far as 1840, are preserved at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

Whatever sadness bubbles up as the former Press building crashes down, we should not be reluctant to embrace the change as a symbol of our community's thriving future.

This evolution of downtown is a Grand Rapids-sized step forward.

Clearly, things continue to change in our community. That change often conjures up fond memories, and always presents new challenges.

But the falling walls of the former Press building don't mean the Grand Rapids we've come to know is crumbling.

It's more evidence that we're striving to find our way forward, making the best use of our land and resources to meet the challenges and opportunities before us.