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BOOMING BUSINESS

LOCAL FIRM RANKED AMONG FASTEST
GROWING BUILDING COMPANIES

By Mike Turner JOURNAL BUSINESS WRITER

The growth spurt that **Woodside Builders** has enjoyed in recent years is helping it build a national reputation.

The company, located at 7550 Miller Road, was ranked one of the fastest-growing home **builders** in the country in the September issue of **Builder** magazine, considered the industry's leading trade publication.

Woodside's 70 percent increase in revenue from 1996 to 1998 makes it the 59th fastest-growing home **builder** in the nation, according to the magazine.

Woodside, which employs 30 people, saw its revenues rise from \$4.7 million in 1996 to \$8 million last year.

The company also was one of only eight of the 75 **builders** on the magazine's list to be profiled in separate feature articles.

"Things are going really well and moving really fast for us," said Mark Nemer, 30, the family-owned company's vice president of operations.

Nemer and his brother, David, 29, joined the business after graduating from college. Their father, Kal, founded it in 1972.

The elder Nemer was a chemistry and math teacher at the former Dye Junior High School in Flint Township when he built a house for his family.

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That prompted requests from friends for him to help them build their homes. Nemer switched careers after determining that construction was potentially more lucrative than teaching.

Diversification has been a key to the company's recent growth, Mark Nemer said.

"We've tailored our developments to fit any buyer you can find at this point," he said. "We've got all spectrums."

The company, which does business only in Genesee County, offers a variety of housing through its various developments, including condominiums, starter homes and upscale houses.

The company plans to take a similar approach with a subdivision it hopes to develop on W. Bristol Road near S. Elms Road.

The development - a mix of condominiums, townhouses and single-family houses - would be based on the "new urbanism" concept, meaning houses would be built on small lots with garages and alleys in the back of houses.

Woodside has consistently ranked among the largest **builders** in Genesee County, said Barry S. Simon, executive vice president of the **Builders** Association of Metropolitan Flint.

The Swartz Creek company's inclusion in the magazine's rankings reflect well on the local housing market, he said.

"If we were still bogged down (with a sluggish housing market) ... they wouldn't have seen that type of growth," Simon said. "You have to somewhat take pride in what they've done."

Mike Turner covers business issues. He can be reached at (810) 766-6336.

CAPTION: Mike Spencer of Mayville puts bricks on a house at the Springbrook condo development in Swartz Creek. (HE CONSTRUCTION 1)

Mark, Kal, and David Nemer. (HO SUN BIZ) JOURNAL PHOTO / HENRIK EDSINIUS

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