

Chamber remains an ally to area business growth

For an organization that was formed by just a handful of individuals 30 years ago, the Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce has come a long way.

"Our purpose at that time was to represent ourselves at the state level on legislative issues affecting our businesses," said John Anhalt, owner of the historic Botsford Inn, on the first program of the "Chamber Perspectives" series.

Over the years, the chamber has remained active as the voice of local business. It is so today, under the direction of chamber president Jon Grant.

GRANT RECENTLY represented the Detroit region as a state delegate during the Governor's Conference on Small Business. Working cooperatively, the delegates developed a list of the top 20 issues of most concern to Michigan's small-business community.

The top three issues included mandated employee benefits, privatization and single business tax reform. "We are confident that the govern-

chamber perspectives

nor will take action on these issues," Grant said. "Unless we persist in our efforts, we will be jeopardizing the future of every new or existing Michigan-based business."

THE Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce offers a range of programs and services that benefit both the member and non-member, officials said.

"Our annual Founder's Festival coming up in July is a definite highlight — and many people don't realize that our chamber sponsors this event," said Jody Soronen, executive director with the chamber.

Mary Bush, first vice president, agrees.

"Everyone works so hard to make the event a success, and the proof of that shows by the numbers of people who come from all around metropolitan Detroit to participate."

It still isn't too late to buy tickets for the 1988 Corvette drawing, which

represents just one of the many activities tied to festival weekend, Bush said. Interested ticket buyers may contact Jody Soronen at 474-3440 for additional information.

During the second program of "Chamber Perspectives," Dick Poehlman, chamber secretary, and Beverly Papal, treasurer of the chamber, discussed additional programs and services the chamber now offers to its members — as well as its plans for the future.

If you've missed either segment, watch for the following program dates and times:

PROGRAM SCHEDULE — ALL ABOUT THE CHAMBER, PART I AND II

- 7:30 p.m. May 31, Part I (repeat)
- 2 p.m. June 2, Part I (repeat)
- 7:30 p.m. June 7, Part II (repeat)
- 2 p.m. June 9, Part II (repeat)

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Hills resident wins 1st in 'All-Michigan Meal' cooking competition

Farmington Hills resident Betty Sice won first place in the amateur division of the "All-Michigan Meal" Contest.

Winners in the fourth annual contest, sponsored by the Michigan Restaurant Association, the Greater Michigan Foundation and Michigan Living Magazine, each received a \$500 check in ceremonies at Schuler's in Marshall May 20. The event, including a luncheon, served as a salute to Michigan Week, May 20-28.

The winning meals judged on the basis of creativity, simplicity and best use of Michigan agricultural products, were saluted in a House Concurrent Resolution by the Michigan Legislature. The resolution,

presented at the luncheon, acknowledged "great pride in Michigan's unique agricultural heritage."

Sice, a mother of five as well as a grandmother of five, has enjoyed creative cooking as a lifelong hobby. Her four-course feast includes Posen potato and wild leek soup, grilled pork chops with Michigan morel mushrooms and corn fritters, baked tomatoes with fresh basil and upside-down apple-blueberry tart with vanilla walnut cream.

The preliminary judging panel included Bob Zernke, hospitality chair, Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. Final judging was done by a panel of Michigan food and dining critics.

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