New director appointed for Farmington chamber

third largest in the greater Detroit area.
Flaharty will replace Maria Esposito, who accepted a position as director of lifelong learning at the Grosse Feinte War Memorial. Esposito's last day was April 2s.
"This is a good opportunity professionally for me. It's larger organization with 720 members and a larger staff (of yee). Flaharty said.
"The Farmington area has tremendous diversity in its business community. Farmington being home to many family-based businesses and

Carleigh Flaharty will be the new president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. Flaharty, 26, has been executive director of the Canton Chamber of Commerce since July of 1996. She begins her duties June 1 at the Farmington area chamber, which is the third largeat in the greater Detroit area. Flaharty will replace Maria Esposito, who accepted a position as director of life life long learning at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Esposito's last day was April 28.

"This is a good opportunity professionally for me, It's a planting a career in education when she became a thing was April 28.

"This is a good opportunity professionally for me, It's a dedded I wanted to work with business," she said.

business," she said.
Flaharty served as community and government relations manager for the Southwest King County Chamber of Commerce, which served a suburners, which served a suburnity are outside of Scattle. She also served as interim general manager before leaving for Michigan.

Historical commission goes from 7 to 9

Are role of the Governor Warner mansion is expanding and so to – more than likely – is the Farmington Historical Com-mission that has a hand in run-

mission that has a hand in run-ling it.

During last Monday night's

Farmington City Council meet-ing, a resolution was introduced
to expand the commission from
seven to nine members. The res-olution was approved and proba-bly will be officially approved at
one of the council's upcoming
monlings.

meetings.
According to Farmington City
Manager Frank Lauhoff, having Manager Frank Launon, naving an expanded commission in place makes good sense, particu-larly now, after a long list of rec-ommendations for the historic house was presented by the His-torical Museum Development

Committee.

Among those recommendations – designed to promote the Warner home as an educational and community anchor for

Farmington and Farmington Hills — is changing the Grand River building's name to "The Governor Warner Mansion ... home of Farmington history." The city council is currently deciding whether to implement any of those recommendations during fiscal year 1998-99.

"As more things come along to do and more work is involved down there," said Lauhoff following Monday's meeting, "a fow more people would always be helpful."

helpfal."
Several people have already
expressed interest in joining the
commission, Lauhoff said.
Longtime commission member
Dick Carvell, who was also part
of the Historical Museum Develof the Historical Museum Devel-opment Committee, sounded cautious about whether a nine-member commission would help to better operate the mansion on a day-to-day basis. "There's been times we've needed the extra help," Carveli

said. "Whether this is going to get it for us, I'm not sure. Theoretically, if you get more people and more thents, it should help. We shall see."

Whenever the council decides:

on a specific plan of action for the museum, there should be some revenue to support it com-ing in from the Mobil gas station at Grand River-Drake.

at Grand River-Drake.

At Monday night's meeting, gas station owner Jack Staszak presented his plan to earmark one penny per every galion sold on one Tuesday each month to the Warner Mansion.

On other Tuesdays of the month, that money goes to Longare Elementary School in the Farmington district.

"I'll be steady income," Staszak said to council members. "It won't be a fortune. But it should help."

Mayor Mary Bush applauded Staszak, who is planning a May

30 customer appreciation day at the gas station.

"I think it's wonderful that businesses give back to the com-munity," Bush said. "That's what it's all about."

The council intends to put the money into a fund for special, specific projects, so that it is not frittered away.

"It's a great contribution,"
Lauhoff said. "It's nice to see ...
This is the tip of the iceberg as
far as the ability of the community to fund things that are
important to the community,
here are boritage, the muse

nity to fund things that are important to the community, such as our heritage, the museum.

Lauhoff said he thinks other local businesses will step up, after the council decides how to proceed with the committee's recommendations.

"It's a nice gesture on their part," Carvoll said about Mobil, "if they (city officials) earmark it for something special."

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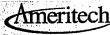
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accident one block wost of Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills emergency vehicles would have to travel ais miles to Telegraph and loop back.

"With that solid barrier, you cannot turn around," said Farmington Hills fire Chief Richard Marinucci. "Southfield has the same problem."

Two years ago, the city of Southfield worked with the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments and MDOT to put a justification report together, which was approved by the Federal Highway Administration.

That would allow for a "half interchange" where motorists would exit eastbound at

Franklin and enter onto west-bound I-696, said Don Gross, Southfield Community Develop-

Southfield Community Development director.

"Since then we've been trying to work with MDOT and they haven't been too responsive in proceeding, whether it's due to a lack of funds or having too much on their plate," Gross said.

For years, there has been talk of an additional exit on 1-696. One long since scrapped idea included having one between Drake and Farmington roads.

"Sometimes it's just that, just thetoric," said Lt. Dennis Green, Farmington Hills police Traffic Bureau. "Meanwhile, the problem keeps growing at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake."

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Farmington Observer

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