#### Outdoor water-use limits lifted

by Water and Sewerage Depart-ment Director Stephen F. Gorden at a meeting for water customers held that day. It was determined that because of favorable weather

conditions and the resumption of full water system operations, the restriction was no longer neces-sary.

Customers may now resume normal outdoor water use.





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Jody Saro nen, Chamber of Commerce director, seems happy with her new office.

# **In business**

## Chamber nears 1st year in new place, adds faces

By Larry O'Connor

The Farmington/Farmington
Hills Chamber of Commerce
moved shop, but a shift in the
economy is what has the director whistling a brighter tune

tor whistling a brighter tune these days.

Membership is up. So, too, is involvement on committees.

Since October, the chamber has added 25-30 new members to its fold, bringing the count to 550.

"That indicates to us people are interested in supporting business organizations," chamber director Jody Soromen said. "All in all, I can say we're doing pretty good."

The upbeat report is a contrast to previous years.

The upbest report is a contrast to previous years. A crippling recession left chambers of commerce, in general, crunched. When paring expenses, business memberahips are often the first to ge.

Farmington's chamber has merged from rough financial times with relatively few scratches.

Sorosen said there were a few months when the chamber "squeaked" through. Though she never missed a payroll, "There were times I thought In might," ahe said in an earlier interview.

While economic forces often dictate a chamber's success, a change in location has a hand in Farmington's upsurpo.

The chamber moved last October to the Farmington Training Center on Thomas Street. At the previous location on Grand River, the chamber was paying \$14.500 annually in rent.

Then Farmington Public Schools superintendent and chamber member Michael Flangan offered office speecing the following the following the following rentfree. The deal was too good to pass up.

pass up.

The exchange calls for the school district to receive a free chamber membership. There's

chamber membership. There's more, of course.

The chamber has been instrumental in developing highly coveted partnerships between the schools and businesses. Soronen serves on the district's Community Partnership Advisory Council.

"It's been been wonderful," said Betty Wolford, a spokes-woman in the School and Community Relations office.

"She (Goronen) brings in the chamber's viswpoint on things and acts as is lision with the schools and the business community."

munity."
The relationship has been

terrific, Scronen said. There are other pluses. The chamber has use of a specious conference center and access to training programs offered by the schools. In its move, the chamber exchanged viability for viability. The training center aits behind Dimitrie Restaurant on Grand River, somewhat obscured from the bub of downtown. That hean't but business, though

town. That hann't hurt business, though to giving 'How to get there' directions," Soronen said. "The schools just put a big sign out front."
Several signs point to the chamber being busy in the fu-

chamber being busy in the to-ture.

In addition to the Founders Festival, the chamber would like to sponsor trade above. Leaders wouldn't mind gatting involved in statewide legislative issues that affect businesses such as taxes and workers' com-pensation, Sorona said.

No staff increases are planned. The chamber runs with four people, including two who work part time.

"We get kind of harried when we have big activities going on, and we're pretty busy people," Soronen said. "We can pretty much bandle the work."

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