



Shoppers peruse a vast selection of produce and other goods Friday at the recently expanded Watsonville Certified Farmers' Market.

Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Expansion serves Watsonville Certified Farmers' Market well

Farmers' Market *RP 9.23.08*

Market to return to normal size in November

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The Watsonville Certified Farmers' Market has been bigger than ever since it expanded onto Union Street in April from its original location on Peck Street and Trafton Alley. It's going into its eighth year in Watsonville, and things appear to be on the brighter side for vendors and costumers alike.

Market manager Nancy Gammons, with her information table set up in the heart of the market, knew the location change was going to be a positive move.

"The market is booming more than ever," Gammons said with a smile.

Now, 32 booths feature everything from organic fruits and vegetables and "walking food" — such as Mexican roasted corn and kettle corn — to oysters on the half-shell, organic honey and loads of flowers.

Gammons said she believes grapes are the "best munchie food" for patrons perusing the market.

"We have the right number of fruits and plants," she said.

Starting Dec. 4, the market will carry holiday-themed gifts.

But Gammons said that finding a spot to sell in the market can be hard.

For some vendors, the market has proved to be a solid business staple.

"It's like finding a job at the newspaper," joked market-goer Ana Ruvalcaba, who owns a flower nursery with her family. "It's home. I feel very comfortable here."

Ruvalcaba, whose business sells more than 250 different kinds of flowers, has her work cut out for her. She runs her

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Zac Peixoto (left) sells several pounds of apples to customers at the Watsonville Certified Farmers' Market last year as the apple season got under way.

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business with help from her mother, father and children.

"It's a mom-and-dad place; all help with the work," she

said.

Gammons said that the expansion of the market to Union Street is temporary; the market will move back to Peck Street in November as it downsizes the seasonal vegetables and fruits. The market will expand again in the spring.