The South Middlesex Opportunity Council will be moving to 7 Bishop St. Current tenant Dennison, which has been in Framingham for 115 years, will move its last workers to Westborough.

FRAMINGHAM — After nearly 115 years in Framingham, the last remains of Dennison Manufacturing will exit the town this summer.

The 7 Bishop St. building, which became the global headquarters for Avery Dennison Retail Branding and Information Solutions after the Avery Company purchased Dennison in 1990, will be the new home of the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) after Avery Dennison moves its 100 Framingham employees to Westborough in August, according to Director of Global Corporate Communications Jeanne Romano.

A move into more suitable office space has been in the works for some time, Romano said.

Framingham Town Assessor’s records show Avery Dennison transferred ownership of the property to SMOC in June 2012 for $2 million – a non-arm’s length sale since SMOC is a nonprofit organization.

"Avery long ago started to disengage with Framingham," SMOC Executive Director Jim Cuddy said.

The transfer includes the two-story office building, decommissioned power plant and 8,000-square-foot garage located on the property, Cuddy said.
Romano confirmed Avery Dennison will be moving into leased space in Westborough in August, but would not say where exactly since she was unsure of whether or not the lease has been finalized.

Westborough Town Manager Jim Malloy could not be reached for comment before press time.

Romano noted that the company looked for a new office in Framingham, but was unable to find anything that matched its requirements.

"This space (in Framingham) no longer suits our needs," Romano said.

Cuddy said Avery Dennison requested a 14-month occupancy so it could remain in the Bishop Street office until a new location was determined.

He said SMOC plans to move its current operations at its 300 Howard St. office less than 0.2 miles to the Bishop Street location before next winter.

"It gives us a permanent home in downtown Framingham, which is what we wanted," Cuddy said.

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