



Being an executive requires a different image for Jamil (Jim) Akhtar, who spent 20 years as a Wayne County Sheriff's deputy.



Hair stylist Marlene Malo designs a conservative look for Lorrie Thomson, who is moving from her role as Livonia homemaker to part-time work.

Taking on a new style



Jobs used to last lifetimes. For teachers, it was often 40 years in a classroom — sometimes even in the same school building. And once a patrolman donned a blue uniform, that could be his garb until retirement.

Today, though, jobs and lifestyles come and go.

School closings leave districts overloaded with teachers, reduced sales mean staff cutbacks and divorce leads women back to work after years of homemaking.

And more and more employees are deciding mid-career to take up another line of work.

Whether moving out of the home into a business environment or tackling a whole new vocation, transition is tricky.

For three area residents — Linda Smith of Birmingham, Lorrie Thomson of Livonia and Jim Akhtar of Plymouth Township — making life changes calls for new ways of looking at themselves. And in the process, a different look.

This spring's many fashion choices help make their transitions a little easier.



At Scissors hair salon in Rochester, Linda Smith gets a new style to better suit her new lifestyle.



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