

# Full circle

## Architect's job takes her back to school

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"IT'S INTERESTING how it comes full circle," said Longacre principal William Smith. "The woman who taught her (Ingalls) measurement and mathematics is now the recipient of her talents."

"She's going to redesign the very room she studied in." Ingalls attended William Grace in kindergarten, then came to Longacre for six years, went over to Powers for two years and graduated from Farmington High School. She was in

the first class of district ninth graders to go to Farmington High, and eventually received her college degree from the University of Michigan.

Butler is in her 29th year of teaching, with most of her career spent at Longacre with the Farmington Public Schools. She said although many of the teaching tools remain in the room, like the blackboard and other displays, teaching students today is a lot more visual. She is happy to occasionally run into a previous student, like Ingalls.

"It's nice to see that your efforts each year pay off," she said. "I only see part of their life, so this is nice."

INGALLS THOUGHT perhaps someday she would return to Longacre as a parent with children in the school district. "That's the only way I thought I would come back," she said. "I never thought I would come back here to work."

Not only is the Farmington resident working in her former elementary, but she is living her dream. "All my life, I wanted to be an archi-

tect — my father is an architect," she said. Having worked for another architectural firm for six years which dealt with contractors, her past year working for a firm specializing in school districts has been a delight, she said.

Ingalls remembers Butler fondly, though the teacher considers herself a traditional educator and rather demanding. "I consider myself strict," she said. "I try to have the understanding and let them know the limits. I don't give up that easily."

# Court expansion still a possibility

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Despite the defeat in 1991 of the court's \$1.8 million bond proposal request for an expansion and renovation of the court to make room for a third judge, it's likely voters will be going to the polls again in August.

If that happens, only Farmington Hills voters would go to the polls. Farmington voters supported the court expansion bond proposal in 1991. Their vote stands, Harris said.

Farmington voters cast 1,042 votes for the bond proposal, 839, against. Farmington Hills voters cast 5,688 votes against the proposal, and 4,956 in favor.

"I'm absolutely convinced that once voters understand the proposal, it will pass. We really only have to move about 400 votes," Harris said. Before talk on a new proposal takes form, how-

ever, Harris and 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer — who will retire this year — have their work cut out for them.

The Farmington Hills City Council has asked the judges for information before they agree to again put a bond proposal on the ballot. The council wants a marketing plan from the judges. In other words, how will they publicize the need for the expansion. In 1991, campaigning for the bond proposal began late in the season, not too long before the November election.

THE COUNCIL also wants numbers, including estimated revenue a new judge will bring in from court fees and fines, for example. "We want to be comfortable that this won't be spending any tax money," Farmington Hills Mayor Jonathan Grant said.

The council also asked for a "plan B." That's in case voters defeat a second proposal. "The plan B will be, this is what we will do (space-wise) with a third judge," Grant said.

Whether a ballot proposal passes or not, the judges believe it's time to bring a third judge on board. According to court records, the 47th District Court caseload grew from 22,399 in 1983 to 37,340 in 1990. According to Dolan, the 47th District Court — with its current caseload — should really have 3.5 judges now.

Harris said the judges expect to meet the council in February to discuss the ins and outs of expansion and a third judge. Then the council must agree to put the issue on the ballot. The ballot language, when developed, will then have to be approved by the council.

# Hills homeowner pleads guilty to gambling charge

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ling house and conspiracy to keep a gambling house, both five-year felonies. Only Abro pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge.

MAROGI PLEADED guilty to keeping and maintaining a gambling house for gain, a two-year high misdemeanor, and a second count of resisting and obstructing a police officer, which is a misdemeanor, punishable by two-years in prison and \$1,000 fine.

At their preliminary examination in May 1991, Farmington Hills Det. Patrick Monti described his attempts to apprehend Marogi. "He kept running and his shirt stayed with me," Monti said. Halfway up the basement stairs, Monti grabbed Marogi's pants. "The pants came right down to his ankles."

Marogi's attorney James Thomas said, "It was our position he wasn't part of the conspiracy. It was our position he would plead to the misdemeanor and the resisting charge."

Samouma pleaded guilty to frequenting a gambling house, a mis-

demeanor punishable by a maximum 90 days in jail or \$100 fine. In exchange for the guilty plea, the conspiracy plea was dropped. "My client pleaded guilty to being present and gambling. He did not have anything to do with the game. He was nothing more than a participant in a crap game," said Samouma's attorney, James Feinberg.

Nash, whom police believed was the gambling operation's doorman, pleaded guilty to frequenting a gambling house, a misdemeanor. In exchange for the plea, the conspiracy charge was dropped.

"I'm gratified the prosecution finally offered us a misdemeanor. I fully believe his story. He was hired to clean up. He only had \$60 in his pocket. He was the only black man there. And he has no record. To try to make him a doorman is unfair."

Twenty-five others who were at the Abro house when it was raided were charged with frequenting a gambling house, a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum 90 days in jail or \$100 fine. All the cases have been completed in 47th District Court, Farmington.

### clarification

Correction: An article titled "Teacher pleads on exposure charge" and published in the Farmington Observer Jan. 30 contained incorrect information. The article should have stated that probation, personal counseling and an order to stay away from Hines

Park are the terms recommended by the probation department for the sentencing of Charles Donald Sheer, based on his plea of guilty to the charge of disorderly conduct/indecent exposure before the 45th District Court in Plymouth. Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 13.

# Rezoning request sparks disagreement

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ites and is really feeling the pinch in the current economic climate.

Board member and local attorney Ron Oglesby said he could see where a large expansion at Mulrwood with possible grocery anchor could have an adverse impact. "I can't see where it would be positive," he said.

"We want to be comfortable that this won't be spending any tax money," Farmington Hills Mayor Jonathan Grant said.

Board member Robert Fitzpatrick, a DDA board member who represents residential interests, said he would not support a proposal to oppose the Mulrwood rezoning, and said it is up to city officials, merchants, and landlords to keep the

downtown viable. "It comes down to how are you going to compete?" he said. "If it's not Mulrwood, it's going to be somebody else."

"I understand it's a dog-eat-dog world. Everybody's facing the challenge. How does downtown compete to keep them here? How does it become the viable competitor?"

BETZAK is proposing to rezone 2.4 acres off of Drake road on the north side of the complex to multi-family zoning, rezone about 6 acres west of the center to business zoning, and to rezone one acre currently zoned parking on the center's western border to business. The changes

### A public hearing to consider the rezoning request is scheduled for March 19.

would give the developer a net gain of about three and a half commercial acres.

If the rezoning is approved, Betzak reportedly plans to demolish 30,000 square feet of retail space in the western portion of the center and adding 80,000 square feet of new business space making a new center of 105,000 square feet. It is hoped

40,000 of that space will be a grocery store.

The Kroger Co. recently closed a store just one mile to the west, at Halsted and Grand River.

Betzak originally proposed rezoning the property and expanding the center in 1989 and, after much debate, the rezoning was denied.

A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 19 before the Farmington Hills Planning Commission, which will consider the rezoning as a land use request. More details on the proposal are expected at that time.

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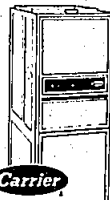
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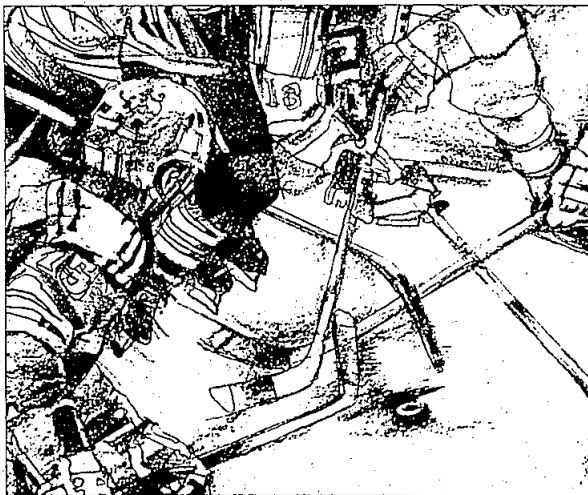


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