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als, art shows and tutorial camps. Marks also hopes to encourage businesses to use the Longacre House. "It's a natural setting for business meetings," he said. "We are going to fill a niche in the community that needs to be filled," he said. About 25 years ago, the Longacre House was the only place in town, Marks said. But now, the city, the library, schools and the Y are competing with the house. The house has to find its own arena, he said, and he's only just started. He came on board in March 1994 and has started by changing the duties for some of the people who work there. Laura Collins, marketing director, is in charge of volunteers. But when Marks came, "Laura was doing 17 million things other than what she was hired for," he said. Collins sees the Longacre House's niche as a more cultural one. But the house also sponsors an annual rummage sale, a fashion show, and is open to many weddings, anniversary parties, and Christmas parties. Collins, who has a background in marketing and advertising, came to the Longacre House two years ago. Susan Haight came on board as program director in January. She has plans for many programs beginning in the fall, including children's and adult dance, painting classes, seminars on business etiquette and proper business attire and a wellness series.

Along with the name change, the house is playing on its historic past. Built in 1869 by Palmer Sherman, a farmer, it was originally a small six-room Victorian house, according to a history of the house written by Phyllis Welch. Sherman moved to Farmington from Southfield Township. He bought 101 acres of land from his father-in-law, Isaiah Ward, an original settler in the area. In 1869, Sherman built the square, two-story Victorian house which included the present dining room, office and pantry portion of the Longacre House. The house consisted of a parlor, dining room and kitchen on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor. The front entrance faced Farmington Road.

When Goodenough bought it, he used it as a summer home for his wife and three small children. He and his family moved in permanently in 1918. Marcus Burrows, an architect, was retained to redesign and expand the home into a 20-room, Georgian style manor house. The house included three porches, a greenhouse and a library. Because of the shape of the property, the home was named Longacres. Final remodeling was completed in 1930 when the library was added to replace a patio. After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Goodenough, their surviving children, Eleanor Spicer, Daniel Goodenough and Elizabeth Schemm, donated the home and

five acres of land to the residents of the area in 1968. The property was to be used as a community center provided that area residents were able to raise money for operating expenses. By 1969, the community center opened its door to the public. In 1979, the Michigan Historical Commission designated the center as a state historical site. A marker is located along Farmington Road near the gate in the stone wall. The house operates as a non-profit organization and is supported by an annual fund drive, classes, space rental and special events. Marks says he feels very close to the Longacre House. He raised money several years ago for re-

modelling at the house. Now he's in the process of raising money to redo the parking lot. He says turning the house around is like turning a boat around. "It's just starting to turn around," he said. But there's a long way to go, he said. But he sees the excitement of people working toward a goal as attractive to others. "People, if they see folks working toward a goal, not only appreciate it, they want to be part of it," he said. He expects to be "halfway home" by the end of this year. "But we're cracking cement hardened for 25 years."

The Longacre House is at 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

Lions honor Farmington Hills woman for commitment

Marion Prover of Farmington Hills has been named a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions Clubs International Foundation, in recognition of her commitment to serving the world community. Named for the founder of Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones, the fellowship is the foundation's highest honor. It is a recognition of a commitment to humanitarian service. Prover is a member of the

Farmington Area Lions Club. She recently received a finely crafted plaque and lapel pin acknowledging her dedication to the foundation's humanitarian goals. As a

Melvin Jones Fellow, Prover becomes part of a growing network of individuals who are committed to improving the quality of life for people locally and in communi-

ties around the world. Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organization, numbering more than 1.4 million members. As the charita-

ble arm of the association, Lions Clubs International Foundation acts as steward of the financial resources that are disbursed for humanitarian causes.

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