### McIntosh enters plea in murder-for-hire

BY TIM SMITH BTAFF WRITER

imithee-homecomm.net

Tape-recorded evidence
against Lisa Melntosh in a murder-for-hire case apparently was
key in her plea of no contest, a
prosecuting attorney said. Meintash entered her plea to the single felony count on March 12,
before Oakland County Circuit
Judge Rae Lee Chabot.

Sentencing is scheduled for
1:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17.
Melntosh could receive up to life
in prison for her January 2000
attempt, in Farmington, to hire
whom she thought was a hit
man to kill her allegedly abusive
boyfriend.

According to a tape-recorded
conversation and testimony

According to a tape-recorded conversation and testimony from the February 2000 preliminary examination in 47th District Court, McIntosh met someone in the parking let of the Farmington Big Boy on Farmigton Road north of Eight Mile. She then discussed killing her live-in boyfriend and paid a sum of cash.

But the "hit man" turned out But the "hit man" turned out to be an undercover detective for the Michigan State Police, who had previously been made aware that McIntosh wanted to have her boyfriend killed.

"It was on tape," said Gregory Townsend, the assistant prosecutor assigned to the case, about what was the main reason for the defendant's plea this month.

Townsend was referring to the parking lot conversation between McIntosh and the detective.

detective.

That tape also was a crucial factor in why McIntosh was driginally bound over for trial by 47th District Judge Fred Harris more than a year ago.

McIntosh defense attorneys Stephen Boak and Arthur Butler could not be reached for comment.

After the no contest plea was entered. Chabot granted a request to modify McIntosh's bond.

bond.

Although the Westland woman will remain attached to 4n electronic tether, she no longer will be required to report on a daily basis to 35th District Court in Plymouth, said a court derk.



Partners in Progress: Farmington Hills Youth and Famly Services Director Todd Lipa and Meijer's Mike Lipa and Meier's Mike Massey talk about the new community partnership as they take a stroll through the store, located on Eight Mile Road, Meijer will assist the after-school youth program for middle school students, as well as other community programs programs.

# Volunteer connects Meijer, youth programs

It happened almost by accident that the Meijer store at Haggerty-Eight Mile roads is hooking up with the Farmington Hills After School Program and other community initiatives.

ton Hills Accountity intra-tives.

But for both Meijer store director Mike Massey and pro-gram director Todd Lipa, it is the happiest of accidental unions. Both met Friday at the Northville-based Meijer store and intend to soon hammer out details about how Meijer can help the program and the 3,200 middle schoolers who partici-

pate in it.
"Officially, we're committed,"
Massey said, "The specifics of
what we do is what we have to
work on next. What do you
need? What are you looking at?
... The question is, what's best
for kids?"

for kids?"
According to Massey, one of
the more than 600 employees
at his store is Ginny Morris—
one of the most active volunteer
advocates for youth in the
Farmington-Farmington Hills
area.

area.

Massey explained to Morris
how much he wanted his store
to become better-connected
with the Farmington-Farmington Hills communities, which

make up a significant chunk of the store's customer base. In turn, she said another major sponsor was being sought for the after-school pro-gram, overseen by Farmington Hills Youth and Family Ser-vices.

Giving back

Giving back
"We got to talking about my
store, about how I want to get
it out into the community and
give back," said Massey, sitting
in the Meljer cafetoria with
Lipa. "Ginny contacted Todd
and the connection was made.
We're real excited about it."
Examples of how the store
can help out youngsters are

through efforts such as making out certificates for being solid citizens or accomplishing academic goals. Teens could also perhaps garner jobs at Massey's store, as long as the combination of school and work hours do not exceed the state maximum of 48.

"This fits in perfectly with the initiatives that are being pushed in Farmington and Farmington Hills, "add Lips, referring to the 40 developmental assets developed by the Search Institute of Minneepolls. "Those are talking about respect and dignity – that all builds up kids' self-esteem.

This fits (the Meijer partnership) is off they do the right thing they differ they can make yet they can work and served. Massey said he also wants to fow turn with expression of the community Foundation for work and Farmington Founders Feature 1 assets developed by the Search Institute of Minneepolls. "Those are talking about Please see PARINERS, AB

## Baker Street Draperies owner gets permission for smaller sign

Baker Street Draperies owner Shelley Raymond hurdled a far-less contentious obstacle Mon-day night than she did during

day night than she did during her previous visit to a Farming-ton City Council meeting. Raymond's request to put a ground sign up in front of her Oakland Street building was approved, although she will need to put up a smaller sign than the one she first asked for.

A balance had to be struck between the owner's need for a sign to 'say it all' to potential customers driving past along Grand River (as well as Oakland) and the council's desire that whatever sign Raymond installs will be done tastefully and not detract from the aesthetics of the historic downtown region.

The larger the sign, the more commercial it makes that area

region.
"The larger the sign, the more commercial it makes that area look," explained city councilwoman JoAnne McShane. "I'd

Gill from page A1

lusioned and even angry par-

ents.
Parents suggested putting the program, located in a wing of raditional Gill Elementary, on hiatus until enrollment could be built to a desirable level.

Not enough

Not enough:
But Maxfield emphasized that
she lack of upper elementary
enrollment would lead to split
dasses in three grades, which is
stot considered acceptable from a
learning standpoint. And, due to
that low enrollment, it would not
be controlled to the control of the controlled to the controlled

be cost-effective to continue the brogram, he added.
After the meeting, he said it would cost about \$200,000 in would cost about \$200,000 in additional costs to maintain the program. That would include 4bout \$55,000 for non-classroom support services during late June and July, the period when Gill Year-Round remains open after other schools close for the

after other achools close for the fear. Among support services are programs such as art, music and physical education. 'The district wanted 40 new Rindergartners to sign up, to feasure two sections; but only 23 earolled. The total enrollment projected for 2001-02 was 108, including just 10 students in third grade, 15 in fourth and 11 in fifth. (Seventy-four current students are signed up to contin-uc.)

Atudents are signed up to continin. Materials distributed to parents at the meeting showed that
only 35 new students enrolled so
far for 2001-02, including 23
slated for kindergarten and nine
for first grade. There were no
new students recruited into the
program in grades 3-5.
- I don't think too many people
are going to uproot their kids in
third, fourth and fifth grades,
homented parent Donna Lapinsky.

### Tough sell

Others talked about how it was more difficult to recruit families after it became publicized that the program could end after the true of true of the true of true

that the program could end and this year.

""We've been under a black cloud, with a lot of negative beadlines, that we have had to turn around and make positive,"

■ 'No one's ever fleured out why it never took off in the middle schools and high schools.

Bob Maxfield Superintendent of schools

said Pam Prezieso, one of the parents actively involved in the high-octane publicity campaign launched in December.

She also chanized planning for the Feb. 6 "safari" open house which attracted representatives from about 50 families to take a closer look at what Gill Year-Round was all about.

That campaign began in earnest following a November meeting with Maxfield, when he said the program was in jeopardy unless an enrollment drive brought in enough new students. Given a March deadline, the task was daunting.

"I don't think I'm surprised," Heffron said. "The superintendent was pretty candid at the meeting we had back in November...As people commented this evening, the type of increases they were looking for were not do-able in a short period of time."

Drawing the line

#### Drawing the line

Drawing the line

Zimmere had estimated that
there would have to be at least
120 students enrolled for 200102. Factoring in about 20 fifth
graders leaving the building this
apring, that would mean an
influx of about 40 students (the
2000-01 enrollment is almost
100 students).

But with not enough new

But, with not enough new But, with not enough new kindergartners signing up for the ninth-year program, coupled with extremely low upper elementary registration and rising operational costs, the districuld not wait any longer.

"You have to say there's a line, we have foughetary planning to do," said Maxfield, following the meeting in the Gill media center. "We extended it (the decision) about three weeks longer than we wanted to."

The drup in enrollment from

we wanted to.

The drop in enrollment from

137 in 1997-98 puzzled Maxfield and others, who had hoped that the innovative school-of-choice program launched by former Principal Mike Duff would grow large enough where it could take over an entire school building. Working against the program is the year-round calendar nover expanded into the middle school and high school levels. "It never grew the way Mike Duff envisioned it." Maxfield said. "... And no one's ever figured out why it never took off in the middle schools and high schools."

Chance to stick together
Somewhat of a silver lining for
parents is Maxfield's assurances
that any student now enrolled in
the year-round program would
be able to continue at traditional
Gill next year and that efforts
would be made to try to keep
together as many of the core of
students and teachers that comprise the program as possible.
Meanwhile, Farmington
schools will fund transportation
for those who live outside of the
Gill attendance area, but the
offer is only good for next year.
Maxfield also said the Gill
staff will be reduced by two, but
he added both deletions were
likely to be by teacher retirements.
"One of my goals is for them

he added both detections were likely to be by teacher retirements.

One of my goals is for them (her children) to stay here, said parent volunteer Lynn Halton, also very active in the campaign to save the program. "... I love Gill, I love Gayle Zimmerer, the teachers are wonderful. I'm thrilled the teachers are wonderful. I'm thrilled the teachers are wonderful. Prometication of the same number of instructional days (183) and receive the same curriculum as do those in traditional elementary school. But, with two-week intersession breaks in November, February and May, classes extend until late July.

Proponents maintain that families are still able to cnjoy a six-week aummer vacation and that, when students return in late August, they have better retention due to the shorter gap between school years.

between school years

7.75%

A Bank One representative will help you get a low rate on a home equity loan. Kind of like a personal trainer for borrowing.

At Bank One, we'll work with you to get a great rate on a home equity loan. And with personalized service, you'll get the right loan for your needs. What's more, you'll have just one low monthly payment, and the interest may even be tax-deductible. Stop by, log on, or call 1-800-800-LOAN today. So you can get rid of that flabby high interest debt and develop the firm bottom line you've always wanted.



