



Memories: Madeline Genolas (center) looks at a scrap book with her sister Mary Petriches (left) and Joan McGilincy at Madeline's retirement party.

Hills records clerk retires

BY KEVIN BROWN
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After 12 1/2 years as a recording secretary in the Farmington Hills City Clerk's office, Madeline Genolas shared cake, ice cream and memories with co-workers upon her retirement Friday.

Her main duty has been serving as recording secretary for the planning commission.

"It's been quite enlightening. I learned a lot about city government and legislative issues, and how very involved the people are in the government in Farmington Hills," Genolas said.

"We're going to miss her talent for organization, for writing, and her background in city matters," said Jim Vandenberg of the Farmington Hills consumer protection committee, for which Genolas also did minutes.

"She was a member of the committee as far as I was concerned," he said.

Bittersweet goodbyes

Several co-workers from different city departments joined Genolas on Friday afternoon in the city council chambers. A white frosted cake trimmed in yellow and purple had been laid out, along with strawberries, cubed fruit and soft drinks. She was given a book with photographs and messages from

coworkers.

"It's going to be kind of sad to leave everybody," she told Joan McGilincy, city of Farmington representative on the Commission for Children Youth and Families. "She managed to take down our nonsense and make some sense out of it," McGilincy said.

Over the years, Genolas has also helped answer phones, do birth and death announcements, helped with election work, and helped maintain the clerk's index of city council decisions.

"I'm not going to miss the phones - they seem to ring off the hook all the time," she said. "I will miss the people in the office and the people in general. You get to form nice relationships, it's been very pleasant."

"She just kept her cool while everyone was getting excited," said former Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi. "She made us look good many times."

A Detroit native, Genolas moved with her husband first to Chicago and then to Kansas City, Mo., before returning to the Detroit area to care for her brother and sister, who have lingering health problems. Genolas said she'll continue to care for her siblings, and will pursue her interest in gardening, along with atryp. "Maybe I'll do some traveling; I'd like to visit all 48 states eventually. I probably visited at least 8 to 10 of them already."

Carrier of the month



Cliff Craig

Cliff Craig has been named Farmington Observer's Carrier of the Month for June. He is an incoming freshman at Farmington High School and an honor roll student. His parents are Mark and B.J. Craig; he has two brothers, Charlie and Kevin, and a sister, Alexandra.

Cliff's favorite subjects in school are American history and science. He also enjoys collecting coins and playing hockey in his spare time.

What Cliff likes most about his route is the opportunity to be responsible and make money for himself.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

LAWYER HIRED AT DPT

Farmington Hills lawyer Mario Konikow was recently hired as general counsel for Detroit Public Television station. Konikow's list of responsibilities include management of the legal, regulatory, liability and risk activities of the station. Konikow left Joseph Conrad Smith and Associates, P.C. in Southfield to join the noncommercial public station.

HILLS MAN JOINS FIRM

Michael Bencheitrit of Farmington Hills recently joined Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsten & Loewy law firm. Bencheitrit left the Hills firm George Mann and Associates for the job in Troy. He joins the nation's largest law firm devoted to business immigration law. Bencheitrit has a wife, Sheri, and a son, Jacob.

NEW ATTORNEYS AT BUTZEL LONG

The law firm of Butzel Long, headquartered in Detroit, recently named six new associate attorneys, and on the list was Farmington Hills resident David Hisong. A lawyer handling business law, corporate matters and transaction issues for Butzel Long, Hisong has practiced commercial litigation and general business litigation in the past.

He is a member of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan and the Oakland County Bar Association.

Farmington Hills resident Keith James takes his litigation skills to Butzel Long law firm as a senior attorney in the Bloomfield Hills office. James specializes in the areas of labor and employment law and commercial litigation and also advises employers on union related matters and personnel policy.

TIA ANNOUNCES NEW CABINET

During a recent Transportation Lawyers Association meeting, Robert E. McFarland was named president-elect and will serve during the 2001-2002 term. McFarland comes from the firm of Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith, P.C. in Farmington Hills.

NEW GENERAL COUNSEL FOR DTE

DTE Energy Technologies is utilizing the skills of Farmington Hills lawyer Robert G. Harvey. Recently appointed the company's general counsel, Harvey will be responsible for developing and executing strategies relating to regulatory affairs affecting distributed generation technologies. He has been with DTE since 1997 and has 30 years of experience representing clients.

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Have fun "Clownin' Around" 12-2pm