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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Senate race: Candidates in the state 15th District GOP primary express their views on issues./A3

Museum gem: City of Farmington has started a study to look into how to maintain the glamour of the Warner Mansion./A3

OPINION

Welsh in: We make our endorsements on the Farmington library millage, 15th state Senate and 19th District county commission races./A10

COMMUNITY LIFE

Driving passion: A Farmington Hills man is displaying his 1958 Buick Riviera Limited at the Concours d'Elegance this Sunday./B1

SPORTS

Grid kid: Harrison High's Brian Lewis will be playing in the Michigan High School All-Star football game Saturday./C1

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Sever seeks seat without party favors

In county circles, partisan politics is the muck in which even the four-wheel drive of issues can get mired in.

So says Terry Sever, who is running for the Republican nomination in the 19th District of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Aug. 4. The Farmington Hills councilman is up against Ben Marks and JoAnne Molin in the GOP runoff.

The 19th District includes all of Farmington and a southern portion Farmington Hills.

"I think all too often issues get stuck in the mud because everyone is looking to add partisan position on it," Sever said. "Everyone needs to put a twist on it so the other party doesn't get credit for it."

"My goal would be to go there and look for the best answers and work with everyone, no matter what party they're in."

The 13-year council veteran is seeking the commission seat held by Donn Wolf, who is stepping down. Four of his Farmington Hills City Council colleagues and four or five Farmington's council have endorsed him in this race, Sever said. They encouraged him to run.

Sever, who said he isn't going to seek another council term, is ready to take the

Please see SEVER, A2

Brock: New city manager



Farmington Hills City Council members won't be leafing through rooms of resumes. They want Steve Brock as the next city manager. The council appointed the assistant city manager to replace Dan Hobbs.

For Steve Brock, the "I" in city manager doesn't mean interim.

Farmington Hills City Council members plan to promote the assistant city manager as the successor to Dan Hobbs, who is leaving Aug. 7 to become city manager of West Covina, Calif.

Council members will likely make Brock's appointment official at the Aug. 10 regular meeting. During a

study session meeting Monday, the talk started on finding an interim but ended with the Appleton, Wis., native getting the job permanently.

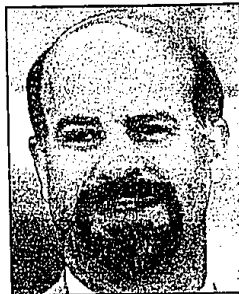
"I'm pleased with the show of support," Brock said. "I think it will be good for everybody. It will be a smooth transition... I will not let them down."

Brock, 38, will become city manager of the largest Oakland County commu-

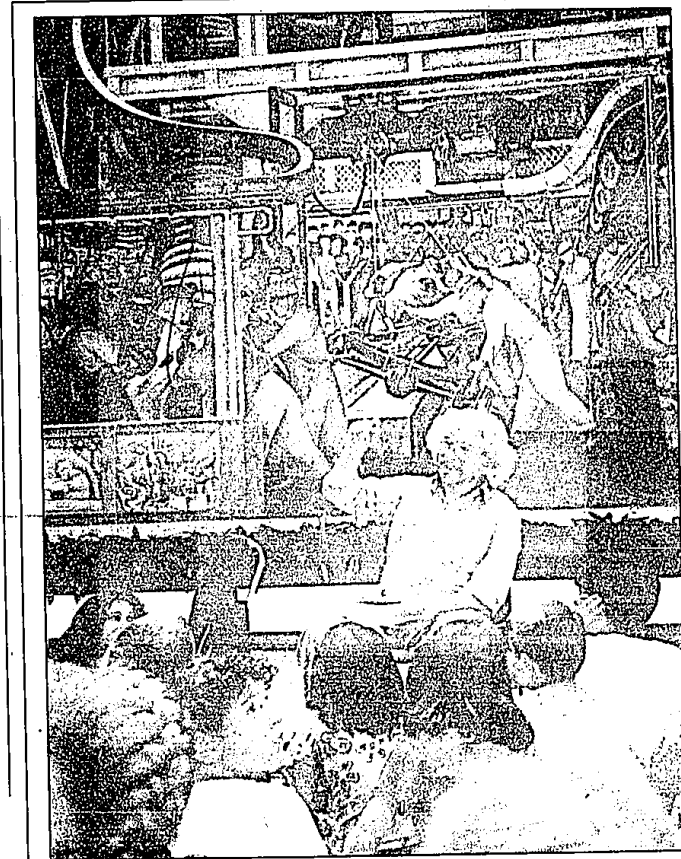
nity under a one-year contract. Aside from the council's resounding vote of confidence, the appointment will allow Brock to fill immediate vacancies for a Special Services director and assistant city manager, council members said.

The year timetable also allows council members to see how Brock performs. He'll be reviewed after six months.

"When you stick 'interim' on someone, you're undermining them a little," said Councilman Jerry Ellis, who suggested bringing in Brock immediately on a one-year deal opposed to an inter-



Please see BROCK, A2 Steve Brock



Looking up: Pablo Steve Davis tells his story working with Diego Rivera while Neitha Odeh, Dunya Najm and others take in the mural as part "Celebrate Learning at Summer School" program at Hillside Elementary School.

Artist shares his muse with eager students

This hero stuff is going full circle for Pablo Steve Davis — an irony for someone who teaches children how to use the "beautiful line" technique of artistic expression.

When he was a teenager, Davis received the thrill of a lifetime some 67 years ago, when he (and other young artists) worked with his own hero, artist Diego Rivera. What resulted was the now-famous Detroit Institute of Art fresco mural, "The Age of Industry," a work visited by people from all over the world.

Years later, at age 83, Pablo is the hero, to many children in grades three-five who attended the recent "Celebrate Learning at Summer School" program at Hillside Elementary School.

Just consider the following lyrics of a song, written by the students and performed at the recent open house at Hillside. The performances concluded a successful summer session, attended by children mostly in the bilingual education program.

"Pablo told a story of his life at the DIA... He worked with Diego Rivera to make a masterpiece... We love the DIA. We love the DIA. We love the DIA. We love the DIA."

The DIA is cool! OK. Those lyrics might seem simplistic and they don't even rhyme. But as far as Pablo is concerned, they are powerful words that should make an impact on an entire community and persuade people to visit a place that many have forgotten about.

"I was extremely moved and very thrilled" to hear the song at the open house, Davis said later. "... They do love the DIA. And that's such an important song for communities in this area."

"I wish it (the song) became known throughout the metropolitan area. They make a real contribution to society with the song and they stuck me in it. So I feel honored and privileged."

The feeling was mutual. Davis, recruited for the program by his friend and Wood Creek Elementary School principal Barro Ravitz, touched canvases and young hearts with his enthusiastic instruction during the summer program. Not to mention a special field trip to the DIA, to see and discuss the famous Rivera mural — etched into the museum wall.

Young stars "The kids were the stars" of the program, said one of the teachers, Rosheen Kilano, who is a faculty member at Wood Creek during the regular school year. "But Pablo was the spark."

The districtwide program helped bilingual stu-

Please see ART, A4

Group plans Mongolian eatery in Hills

Owners of Farmington Hills billiards bar want to open a Mongolian style barbecue eatery on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake.

The site of the proposed eatery would be in the former Zia's spot, which is a few doors down from Roosevelt's Bar and Grill. G&G Entertainment — the company behind the restaurant concept — owns Roosevelt's.

"There are probably quite a number of 500 Mongolian style restaurants in the country. We have been looking at the concept for a couple of years now," said Duane Gmerek, G&G president. "As with billiards a few years ago, we saw

the trend coming on and we wanted to be out in front of it."

In Mongolian-style barbecue restaurants, patrons pick their meats, fish, vegetables, sauces and spices to create a meal.

They are able to watch as the meal is cooked on a flat-top grill in the dining room.

In keeping with the artistry theme, the restaurant would be called Van Gogh's Improv Grill.

Customers would carry their plates and bowls through the buffet line on specially designed palettes.

Lunch prices would be \$9.95 for one

bowl. Unlimited "Masterpiece Meals" with salad bar will run \$10.95.

The interior will include a portrait of the renegade artist, who sliced off his ear.

His famous sunflower will be depicted in a large umbrella over the ceiling while a mural "Cafe in Paris under a Starry Night" will be seen from the entrance.

Farmington Hills City Council members are not brushing over the concept, just disputing the transfer of the Class C liquor license.

Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer recommended that the transfer

be denied, citing three liquor control commission violations at Roosevelt's since 1993. On June 4, police ticketed Roosevelt's for selling to an underage drinker.

The city council has tabled the transfer until its next meeting Monday, Aug. 10.

"We do everything in our power to prevent (sales to minors)," said Gmerek, noting that staff are certified in alcohol server awareness classes.

If the restaurant gets its liquor license, Van Gogh's Improv Cafe is expected to open in mid-September.

Family Day planned

Families can frolic during the sixth annual Family Day in the Park noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2, at Heritage Park on Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile. The day will feature a giant slide, stego acts, petting zoo, moon walk and hydrides. Refreshments will be sold for a small fee. The event is sponsored by the Commission on Children, Youth and Families and Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation.

Program merits mention

The Center for Joint Public Services has awarded the city of Farmington Hills an honorable mention as an outstanding project for its Youth and Family Services Decentralized Youth Program.

FARMINGTON FOCUS

The award honors local governments, school districts and private or non-profit organizations who work together in providing outstanding services within southeast Michigan.

The Youth and Family Services Decentralized Youth Program was recognized for its collaboration between Farmington, Farmington Hills and the Farmington Public Schools to offer middle school children a place to engage in positive activities after school.

The immediate goal of the program is to discourage negative behavior such as drug use, vandalism, and teen pregnancy that usually occur during the

unsupervised hours of 2-6 p.m.

More than 1,300 area kids frequent the four after-school youth centers created by the program, and partake in activities ranging from sports to field trips, as well as education on the devastating effects of illegal drugs and alcohol.

Check it out

Boy Scout Troop No. 110 from Our Lady of Sorrows Church has a window display at the Corner Barber Shop on Grand River and Farmington Road through Aug. 8. The display highlights three Eagle Scout community projects, which included painting a house for a disabled woman, digging ditches for a convent and planting a vegetable garden at an assisted living center.



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