### Community Corner

This week's question:

If you could choose anyone to be would it be?

We asked this question at a Mercy High School softball game.





- Art Enstmon



'Paul Tagliabue. He's the commissioner for the NFL. I like the way he's created a common bond nally on a level all can relate to.

— Tim Thibodonu
Farmington Hills



the lob done Judy Thibodeau Farmington Hills



Nancy Borrigan



### 3 vie for 2 board seats

Continued from Page 1

Pration is married and has two children who graduated from the Farmington Public Schools.
Challenger DeVries, 42, is an engineer with Ford Motor Company. The married father of three has relideren in the district's clementary schools. He placed second in last year's three-way board race behind incumbent Susan Rennels.
DeVries plans to maintain his previous campaign philosophies, which included fiscal issue, and spending more money on fustruction, but said school improvement issues and curriculum changes are also key. His strengths, he said, are that he's "knowledgable," and "willing to work hard."

"We've got to make better use of the money we have," DeVries added. "With all we've got going for us, there's no resson we can't be the best."

SYOKE CAN be found in the au

best."
SYOKE CAN be found in the audence at nearly every school board meeting, which he called part of the "learning curve" he needed in order to run for office.

Currently a manager in the Southfield-based Devenir Corp., a computer consulting firm, the 48-year-old-has previous background in the manufacturing arena where he worked in a variety of areas including industrial engineering, purchasing, plant and facilities management and operations. He is married and has four children — two at East Middle School and two at Harrison High School — and calls education "an investment for Facing tough economic times in the business world has given Swoc experience he believes will, be, can aske those cuts and what a look at? He was the second of the second of the property of the second of the se

District includes all of the city of Farmington, most of Farmington Hills, and a small portion in south-east West Bloomfield Township. In order to vote in the June election, residents must register to vote by May 11 at 5 p.m, at the district's central office.

# DDA shifts promotions focus

By Casey Hans stall writer

stall writer

The resignation of the Downtown Development Authority's promotions coordinator has prompted the city board to review once again its focus on promotional activities.

The position from the Farmington agency effective March 27, it was announced at a DDA meeting Tuesday, No reason was given for her departure from the 20-hour-a-week fob which she had intid for it months.

The DDA has decided to Job out its promotions activities for the new itself year which began April 1. They will hire an intern to handle the successful 10-week "summer series" of downtown events which Neier coordinated for the first time last year, and will seek proposals from public relations and marketing firms for bandling the DDA's fall and traditional holiday promotion.

This is the third major change in the way the DDA has handled promotions during its six year history, as it works to fine tune such a program. The board has put much emphasis on promotions

this year.

IN 1989, the DDA hired the Farmington Hills-based Hermanoff & Assoc. to handle promotions, then worked with a second firm on several promotions. Finally, the board decided to move in-house and hired Neier in January of 1991. The most recent change will give the DDA a chance to field new ideas and get different perspectives on the promotions, executive different perspectives on the promotions, executive different perspectives of Sirip-Sittsamer said.

"I'm not suggesting we change programs—just the way we handle them," Sirip-Sittsamer said. "I'm looking at a way to increase federal said. "The bDA will use the \$1.2500 budgeted for the previous promotional coordinator's salary to pay rees to others to coordinate the promotions, it was decided this yeek.

Parents concerned with early school start date

ALSO ON TUESDAY, the DDA board approved

other plantings. The project will include:

Streetscape improvements for sections of Grand River, from the portion already completed east to School Street on the north side and, on the south side, to the rear of the building which houses

Sast to School the rear of the building which houses T.J. Maxx and other chain stores.

Simprovements to both the east and west sides of Grove Street—the street which runs south off of Grand River, along the front of the T.J. Maxx building.

Repairs to the library parking lot, which the DDA tore up while doing electrical work in the Top. May will also be spent to do some maintenance and repair work to previous phases of the project throughout town, as needed.

City planner Christopher Wzacny said the work in the Grand River/Grove area would cost be-tween \$120,000 and \$130,000 and the library and other maintenance would eat up the balance of the estimated budget.

#### 3 seats uncontested

There will be no competition in June for three seats on the Clarenceville Board of Education. In the Clarenceville School District, the decision by school board veteran-Richard Wood to step down means there will be no contest between the three candidates, incumbents Butch Bowdem and Gary Gasser and challenger Lisa Pure.

Gary Gasser one Communication of State of State

Wood is stepping down after 27

"That's a long time to be on a school board," Wood sald, "I no longer have children in school and you have more of a vested interest in school when you have children in school."

HOWEVER, WOOD said he will continue to serve on the district's renovation committee. Burn, a Maplewood Street resident, will take her seat after losing in two previous election attempts. "I take to feel I'm making a contribution to my kids education," she said. "If you want something done, you have to get Involved and do something."

Several parents of Farmington Public School students say they are upset with a tentative school calendar which would start the school year on Aug. 22 believe the starting date is too carry, and would conflict with summer family activities.

But school officials say the date is no earlier than in recent years, just that Labor Day falls on Sept. 7, later in September than normal. Superintendent Michael Flanagan, also stressed that the schedule is tentalive.

stressed that the schedure is centifive.

"Nothing that this school board has done has made me speak up like this before," said Diana Hichmond, a parent who has children at Forest Elementary, Warner Middle School, and North Farmington High School,

in a recent letter to the board. "Nor-mally, school has started the Tues-day of the week before Labor Day. This year, it is two weeks before La-bor Bay."

Richmond said the majority of parents with whom she has discussed the issue said they are opposed to the starting date. The tentative date was reached in early March when collec-tive bargaining groups and Farming-

ton Public School officials met and came to an agreement on the 1992-93 school calendar.

RICHMOND WROTE to the

School Board in increases.
Other parents have contacted the Observer to make similar complaints, Shelley Glass said the new schedule not only causes scheduling problems with family vacations and

summer camps, but a 'hardship' for parents: Another parent sald the starting date would cause "unneces-sary problems."

Ironleally, the Issue of the calendar was settled much earlier, in the year than usual. School officials wanted to advise parcents and students of dates, in advance so that they could plan vacations and other activities.

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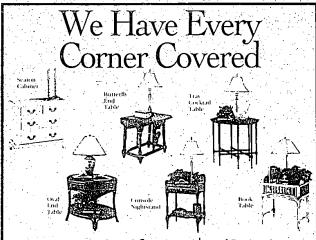
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