

Sever and family play ball when they can

BY BILL COLTANT
STAFF WRITER

From the first crack of the bat in spring until the autumn rains soak the leaf-covered fields, Terry Sever thinks about baseball.

The Farmington Hills City Council candidate has played or coached since his youth, including summer leagues, American Legion ball, and a stint at shortstop for Oakland Community College. His love of the game hasn't been lost on his children, either.

Sever's daughter Jennifer was an all-area performer in softball at Farmington High before putting up the glove and going to Central Michigan University.

Aaron, 14, has played well in the South Farmington baseball organization, batting .395 this year. He'll try football this fall but hopes to parlay his baseball talents beyond high school.

"I would like to play college ball," Aaron Sever said.

His dad, who is now marketing a "Baseball Bucket" that helps improve hitting, has enjoyed coaching his son without putting too much pressure on him.

"We get along real well," Terry Sever said. "My son has never needed me to encourage him to play. He likes to play."

Terry Sever said he enjoys seeing young players develop skills and learn the game.

For Sever's daughter Melissa, 17, well, one had to be different. "She's a competitive equestrian," he said.



SHARON LESMUR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Non-political pitch: Farmington Hills Councilman Terry Sever pitches to a kid who lives near Founders Park. Terry enlisted Dylan Neil, 10, to help shag balls that son, Aaron, hit. To return the favor, they let Neil hit a few on his own.

Between his printing business, the many hours he spends at City Council functions and meetings, and the time he can spend with his children, time is precious for Terry Sever.

"But I make a point of having dinner at home with my family," he said.

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we don't have a full-time fire department," he said.

The 1-mill tax for 10 years would provide for a fifth fire station that would be manned 24 hours by full-time firefighters. The city's current system includes full-time firefighters during the day and paid on-call volunteers at night.

"Both departments are efficient," he said, adding the increase in medical runs and manpower needs will catch up with the city if improvements aren't made.

"They're (residents) going to end up spending it sooner or later," he said. "We were able to push for more police in the neigh-

berhoods in 1989."

Sever called City Manager Bill Costick one of the best in the country and said the city operates efficiently. The city's sound government has allowed it to borrow money at good rates because of its strong credit rating.

Sever has been a strong advocate of a directly elected mayor in Farmington Hills. This fall's election will feature the first such contest between Aldo Vagnozzi and Paul Sowerby.

"I think the mayor will set the tone and play an important role in the council's relationship with the residents," he said.

Sever said the city's decision to acquire park land and other property has paid off and will continue

to do so. He would like to see the city buy other land whenever possible.

"There's value in the city acquiring land in its natural state and leaving it," he said, adding that it increases in value and gives the city more options.

Improvements on the Grand River corridor and other older areas in the city will continue to help the city remain a desirable place to live and work, he said.

Recreation issues, such as the possibility of a public swimming pool, will continue to be important. Sever also sees the Northwestern, 14 Mile and Orchard Lake area as a development challenge for the city.

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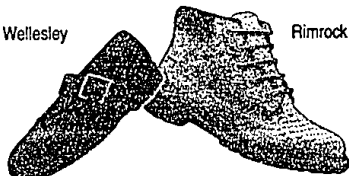
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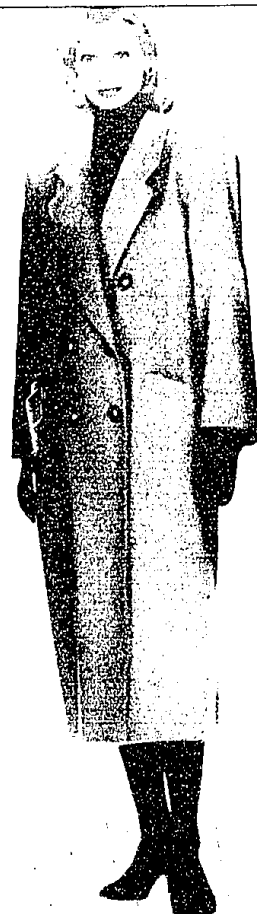
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