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the council's newest member, Jim Mitchell, who is 44.

Farmington is built up commercially and residentially. City officials will be occupied with the accompanying three R's: revitalization, reinvent and renovate, Hartsock said.

The city has recently revamped several ordinances and implemented one on aesthetics. How the council enforces those is a delicate balance.

One of the biggest tests came last year when the owner of the Farmington Road Big Boy wanted to put a statue in front of his restaurant. The Big Boy symbol would have encroached on the city's height and ground sign restrictions.

Hartsock voted no. The matter became contentious until a compromise was worked out. A smaller Big Boy statue went up instead.

"Businesses and residents come up with ideas and come before council and say, 'Work with me on this,'" said Hartsock, who is a partner with investment firm Roney & Co. "Then we have to say, 'OK this is what's on the

table, and does this fit into the bigger scheme of things?"

"I think we have to do our homework up front in developing and designing these ordinances. We can't just leave it there on the shelf and say, 'oomph!'"

The council tackles larger issues, too. The city passed a road improvement millage two years ago. The \$13 million sewer separation project — the city's largest capital undertaking — has been completed.

"The council had a hand in both. Another key, apparently, is knowing when not to get involved."

Contract negotiations between the city and its police union

reached a stalemate last year. Both went to arbitration to reach a settlement.

The council stayed out of the fray.

"I'm certain it's not our role," Hartsock said. "I think it's wrong for council or (an) individual council member to get involved in something like that."

Meetings are consumed largely by residents and businesses asking for variances or block parties. It's hardly the compelling stuff to entice aspiring politicians.

And it could explain why this is an uncontested election. Hartsock hopes it's not because people are turned off by public office.

"We're not three to say 'look at me.' Ours is to get the job done and encourage others to get involved in the community."

Farmington's council has its share of debates, sometimes heated. Hartsock has tried to be a moderate voice in such disputes.

Animosly doesn't carry over, he said. Council members tend to respect one another.

"We're working for a common goal for the city," he said. "They don't take themselves seriously, but they take the issues seriously."



SHARON LEMLEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Double digits: Chris Hartsock, 16, chose the same number his father, Bill, wore when he played football at Our Lady of Sorrows in the late 1960s. Chris is a junior wide receiver on the Birmingham Brother Rice football team this year.

Dad runs for post; son runs on gridiron

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER

While dad is running for a city post, his son is simply running a post and other pass patterns.

Bill Hartsock's son Chris is a wide receiver on the Birmingham Brother Rice football team. Bill turns out regularly at games to watch his son play.

While watching Chris run pass routes, it rekindles memories of another No. 60. Bill Hartsock was a receiver by the same number on the Our Lady of Sorrows football team.

They're similar in size: Dad is 6-foot-3 and 190 pounds while son is 6-foot and 160 pounds as a junior.

"He has good hands, but I'm still faster than he is at my age," said Bill, 45, who graduated from Sorrows in 1968. "I kept threatening to have a foot race with him."

Bill was also captain of Sorrows' track team and was third in the state in the 440-yard dash in his senior year. He also wrestled at the Farmington parochial school.

Bill coached Chris in Little League baseball. Like his parents, Bill didn't permit Chris to

play football until he reached high school.

In addition to playing football, Chris is an avid lacrosse player and wants to play the sport in college.

When not watching his son in action, Bill plays golf and this regularly. He's also involved with the American Heart Association.

His civic duties are not limited to council affairs. He's on the SouthWestern Oakland Cable Commission and a member of the Michigan Municipal League's legislative committee.

Hartsock's a certified public accountant and a partner in the Farmington Hills based investment firm Roney & Co. He has a bachelor's degree in finance from Eastern Michigan University.

He started as an accountant with Touche Ross and Co. before starting his own businesses. He was involved in a computer distribution outfit and helped start a long distance telephone company. The best number in Hartsock's life wasn't seven digits but two. And it was picked out by his son to wear on the football field.

"I was really proud when he selected that number," Hartsock said. "It was a surprise to me."

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