

Sever seeks 19th District county seat

With Donn Wolf stepping down, a candidate has stepped forward for the open seat on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners while others are making stutler steps.

Terry Sever, a longtime Farmington Hills councilman, will seek the 19th District seat. The primary is Tuesday, Aug. 4.



Sever

Commissioner Donn Wolf announced he won't run for reelection after nine years representing the district, which includes Farmington, the southern tier of Farmington Hills and a precinct in Southfield.

Wolf, who served on Farmington Hills City Council 1980-88 including a term as mayor in 1981 - is stepping down to spend more time with his family.

That's inspired Sever to run. Another Hills city council alum, Ben Marks, is also considering a bid for the 19th District seat.

Sever, 48, is in his 13th year on city council and is looking for

a new challenge. There's still a lot to learn about county politics, Sever said.

"I do think people will know I'll fight hard, especially when I believe in something and put the other stuff aside," Sever said. "I'll be in there trying to do what's best for both communities."

In 1996, Sever ran unsuccessfully for both the state Senate and House. Some pegged the owner of T L Printing to seek the mayor's post when Aldo Vagozzi's term expires in two years.

The mayor's position requires considerable volunteer time, which Sever doesn't have available due to family commitments.

"It doesn't really fit with everything else," Sever said. "With the commissioner's job,

I'm still not sure how it fits or how it works out.

"I want to do it because I like public service and like working towards the betterment of my community."

Commissioner David Moffitt, who presents the 19th District that includes the north portion of Farmington Hills, could face a challenge from Farmington Hills businesswoman Linda Jolicœur.

On Wednesday, Jolicœur said she hasn't decided yet. The filing deadline is Tuesday.

Jolicœur, who owns Target Equipment Leasing, finished behind Andrew Raczkowski, Cathy Webb and Sever in the 1996 Republican primary for 37th District House seat.

Two issues - namely the 911 system and community mental

Please see SEAT, A1

Sound check

New site for high school graduations ready for Farmington invasion June 7

Farmington Public Schools officials are confident that the graduation ceremony woes experienced last year at the Compuware Sports Arena by another Oakland County district won't be repeated.

And so, Farmington, Harrison and North high schools will all hold commencements on Sunday, June 7, at the Plymouth Township facility. Scheduling problems at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor, where graduations took place in recent years, forced the district to look for a new venue.

"Compuware has had problems with the sound system and they have fixed that," said North principal Deborah Clarke. "The facility is closer for us (than Crisler), it has the parking and space we need."

And they assured us the sound system has been addressed."

Kathy Peake of Compuware said arena management has "changed the entire sound system in the last year ... The sound was pretty poor."

According to Farmington Board of Education Vice President Cathy Webb, a Farmington High School parent, the decision to go to Compuware was not made until officials visited the site and were given guarantees about the sound system.

Last year, graduation ceremonies for Walled Lake Central and Western high schools were so marred by a warbled, echoey sound system that graduates on the floor and family members in the seats wondered what was being said at the podium.

"We heard from the onset that Compuware had major

sound problems last year," Webb said. "Don Cowan (executive director for K-12 instruction and student services) went out there and he was given assurances that the corrections were made. We're confident everything has been rectified since last year."

After all, said Clarke, "We have to have a good sound system."

Adequate seating for entire families of graduates is the primary reason the district wants to hold the ceremonies in large facilities such as Crisler or Compuware, and not at the high schools.

"We really think it's very important for students to bring their entire families and friends with them," Clarke said.

The graduations on June 7 will start with North's at 1 p.m., followed by Harrison and Farmington at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., respectively.

Webb is looking forward to handing out the diplomas, even though the triple duty makes for "a long day, but it's one of the pleasures of being on the school board."

For Webb, the demanding schedule won't let up until at least Tuesday, June 9. Immediately following the graduations, she will be at the FHHS all-night graduation party (which she and her husband are co-chairing).

"I'll be there until 5:30 a.m., and then the polls open at 7 a.m." for the school board election, said Webb, one of five candidates seeking two four-year terms.

Other candidates include incumbent Jack Inch and challengers Jackie Katz, Melody Jaske and Anwar Mahmood.

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Gunman robs pizza shop

A masked man waving a gun robbed Hungry Howie's Pizza on Farmington Road shortly after midnight Sunday.

No one was injured during the holdup. Employees said the man walked in holding the gun and demanded money. After taking the cash - believed to be \$200 - the man ran outside north toward Meadow Party Store.

The robber was described as a white male, 6-foot tall and weighing 165 pounds. He was wearing a white mask with an open area around the eyes, which is similar to those worn by race car drivers.

The man was also wearing a black Hard Rock Cafe sweatshirt and blue jeans.

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