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FIFTY CENTS

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Wanted: 1 superintendent



By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The search is on. . . In the next few weeks, members of the Farmington Board of Education will be drawing up what amounts to their own want ad for the superintendent's job. They have three months to fill the spot.

Michael Flanagan announced he's leaving effective Jan. 1 to become the superintendent of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency. "I'm confident we can accomplish

this in three months," said board president Cathleen Webb. "I'm certain we can hit the ground running and I'm confident we will come up with a quality candidate."

Several are expected to apply. It's not certain, though, how many of those will be from within the district. "The Farmington superintendent's job is appealing for a number of reasons."

With 11,000 students and a staff of 1,400, it's one of the largest districts in the state. Also, it's relatively stable financially.

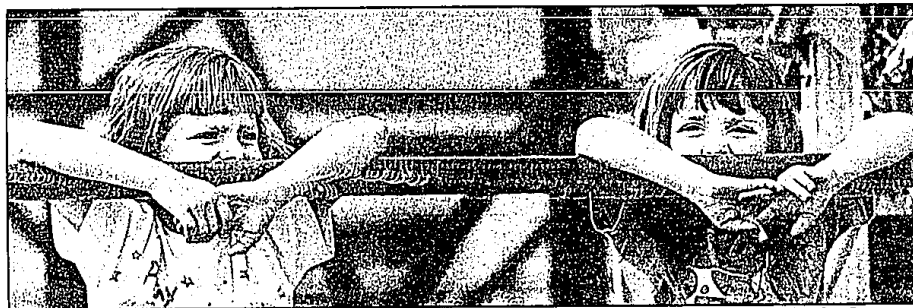
The job pays well, too. Flanagan earns \$118,285 a year. The superintendent is provided with a car, a life insurance policy as well as medical, dental and vision care.

As a result, there may be as many as 100 applicants. That doesn't make the task any easier for the board.

At Tuesday's meeting, the board decided to use the Michigan Association of School Boards to assist with the search.

See SUPERINTENDENT, 8A

Football Saturday in Farmington



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clos encounter: Elizabeth (left) and Christy Clos of Farmington came to Farmington High School Saturday to see the Falcons play rival North Farmington. They came because they like the cheerleaders, according to their father, Bob Clos. Clos, his daughters and son Robby have been in the stands for Farmington games for the past few years. It's the school the kids eventually will attend. North Farmington won Saturday's game, 14-7. For more on high school sports, see the Observer sports Section.

Bush brings extensive local resume to race

Mary Bush is one of four candidates, including two incumbents, running for the Farmington City Council. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Mary Bush sees herself as a natural for the Farmington City Council. After all, she grew up in the Farmington area, attended Farmington Schools K-12, graduated from North Farmington High, and has worked all her life here.

Civic involvement has included being the former president of the Chamber of the Commerce, working on the planning committee for the 125th Anniversary Celebration and being a member of the Board of Review.

Bush knows the city; the city



knows her.

"I'm running because I feel I can make a difference," said Bush, 40, who lives in Pinewood Condominiums. "I'm very anxious to serve the community."

Making a difference, though, sounds a bit paradoxical. After all, Farmington is a community more into self-preservation.

Bush is one of the first to say Farmington is well-run. The only burning issue of recent times has been a debate over a 28-foot clock tower.

The city's main selling point — a vibrant in an economic climate that is daunting at best. As a result, issues such as new businesses, parking problems and sign ordinances continually find their way before the council.

Bush said she'll listen. Her job as an associate broker for Thompson-Brown realtors in Farmington Hills has taught her how to mediate and negotiate.

The job has also offered her a keen insight to downtown development. She helped negotiate the sale of the house downtown for the new tea room scheduled to open.

Bush was also involved in negotiations with downtown businesses as



Mary Bush

See BUSH, 8A

Area congressmen react to health plan

By DONO FUNKIE
STAFF WRITER



HEALING OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The president proposes, the Congress disposes. Keep that in mind as President Bill Clinton's national healthcare reform plan wends its way through the legislative

process. What you heard last night is only a starting point, members of Congress emphasize, a focus to begin a great debate on an issue that touches every American. What you see in now isn't necessarily what you get in the end.

"I think it's going to be a longtime," said Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Hills, whose district includes Birmingham, Bloomfield, Farmington, Redford and most of Southfield and Livonia.

"I expect nothing in '93 at all, perhaps something very limited in '94. There's just too many sides on this," he said.

At least five other bills addressing health care have been proposed in Congress, Knollenberg said.

"I think what that says is nobody is really happy with what they see



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bedside manner: Registered nurse Barb Haudon of Farmington Hills, working in Botsford Hospital's ambulatory section, gives post-operation instructions to Kathy Harkins of Livonia, who recently underwent foot surgery.

coming down from the administration and want to offer alternatives," he said.

The health care task force chaired by Hillary Rodham Clinton set two broad goals — to make basic health care services available to every American and to get a handle on spiraling medical costs.

Dale Kildee, D-Flint, who represents the Rochester area, says the mood in Congress is to get something done.

"I think never before has so much thought gone into legislation, experts brought in, as in this," he said. "The mood here among Democrats and Republicans is let's do it."

As was the case in the president's deficit reduction/economic recovery plan, the devil will be in the details.

"This is going to be a truly democratic process in the sense of a lot of inputs, a lot of debate and significant change," said Sander Levin, D-Southfield, who represents a small

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part of that community and Troy. Like Kildee, Levin anticipates much more bipartisan political consensus on this issue than Clinton's economic proposals.

"The health issue cuts across party lines, geographic lines, income lines," Levin said.

"I think the president is right moving this along, trying to break the status quo. We've got to address this issue; the feeling of insecurity whether health care will be available," Levin said.

He expects to be right in the middle of the fray as a member of the powerful, tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee and as vice chairman of its health subcommittee.