M (F)

SWAIM

"He loves manufacturing and technology" Swaim said of Mark. "He does everything on that end and I do everything on the business end." From her work experience, Swaim would bring organization and the ability to ask the right questions. "I'm a devil for detail," Swaim said. "If I don't understand something, I ask questions."

pated budget shortfalls, she'd prioritize and look at areas of

prioritize and look at areas of purchased services.

"I'd unge departments to do zero-based budgeting," śwaim said, explaining staff members should start with a zero badance and start their budget bullding with essentials. "The area we can't affort to cut is instruction and that includes paraprofessionals."

A GOOD FOUNDATION

She believes the best way to prevent problems is to start early. If the district focuses heavily on kindergarten through fitth grade to provide a good foundation, "repairs" won't be necessary later.

She'd also take a second look at the fund equity and find out how much is needed to offset state lag time in making pay-

state in missing pay-ments.
Swaim agrees with the phi-losophy that if you have the money on hand, you don't have to borrow from the bank. However, she wants to know. 'What's the minimum you have to have in there?' Budget balancing in her mind doesn't mean eliminating fine arts or athleties. 'That's like egining to a company sav-

nne arts or athletics. That's like going in to a company say-ing. Sales are down, we're going to cut out the quality control department. Swaim said. You have to have it, but scale it back. While it was touted as a way

to add revenues in a tight budget year. Swaim believes officials didn't think through the Section 103 out-of-district school of choice plan before money was put into the pilot plan at William Grace and Flanders elementaries, sched-uled for this fall.

"There were too many ques-

standards etemetrands, Sector lock for this fall.

"There were too many questions," Swalm said. I asked them to wait a year. The pliot is going to be. You don't devel on the policy from the pliot. Discussions at those public hearings and others have been passionate and entotional. Swaim believes she has a thick skin and wouldn't feel like she was under a personal attack. "Most people are pretty rea-

sonable," she said. "I'm always looking outside the box."
Swaim likes the idea of host-ing board meetings at different school buildings, to encourage more people to attend:
"Sometimes people are more comfortable volcting their opinions when they are on their own turf."

Swaim agrees with residents who were critical of Superintendent Bob Maxfield's raise last year, which brought his total compensation package to \$195,000 from \$1.09,356. Board members determined his salary was below market and wanted to

remain competitive.

"Large bonuses aren't a good idea during budget constraints," Swaim said.

Maxfield is expected to retire during the next four years, and Swaim would look for his replacement first from the ranks.

replacement first from the ranks.

On the issue of later start times, one of the district's interest topics of discussion lay year, Swaim doesn't see a need to start school later based on adolescent sleep time research. "Sometimes we look at studies and read too much into them," Swaim said.

Instead, she'd like to see students in a home room for their first hour, to give them time to come to terms with the school day.

"In real life, if you tell your employer, Tim sorry I can't be up and going until nine colock because that's my natural clock,' I don't know how many jobs you are going to get," cock, 1 don't know how many jobs you are going to get, Swaim said.

jobs you are going as gest.

Swaim said. A believer in "straight line communication," she said person-to-person contacts can get he same work done as committee, which take up a lot of time. Swaim would eventually like to see Farmington Schools receive the same exemplary award the Troy Public School District recently received from U.S. News & World Report for its two high schools.

RACKGROUND

Swaim expects to spend less than \$1,000 on the election and is managing her own campaign.

She graduated from the Spees Howard School of Broadcasting in Southfield and became a news broadcaster and news director in Ionia. While in hier early 20s, she went to Port Huron, where she was an evening news reporter. She holds a bachelor of sciper elegred in marketing and

economics and University.

"My brother, Mark, was into assigned education," Swaim and education," Swaim and the own vocational education, Swaim said. Today, he owns his own

business.

Swaim also did public relations work for United Way of St. Clair County. With that type of job, you are a kind of PR director for every nonprofit human service organization.

Swaim said.

human service organization,"
Swalin said.
She coordinated the first county Health-O-Rama project and was president of the Community Living Service Council made up of government, nonprofit and private agencies in the human service area. One workshop provided information to people who were out of work during the recession. Participants learned to write a resume, manage money, health care services and information about the local food bank.
Cheryl is married to Jed. They have two children, Jon, a sixth-grader at East Middle School, and Shannon, a third-grader at Beschview. Her stepdaughter, Danielle, is a Harrison High graduate, now married and living in Featon. She active in her children's school activities, Girl Scout and soccer, basketball and baschall programs.

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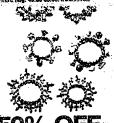




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