

Superintendent from page 1A

"Part of the MAB premise is the board does a lot of work itself with their assistance," Webb said.

The board also decided to have an interim superintendent serve until the permanent replacement is available. The interim person would be from the outside, more than likely a retired superintendent

who would serve in a caretaker role.

As part of search, board members also agreed a letter will go out to staff and leaders in the community, asking what qualifications they feel the next superintendent should possess.

Three trustees, R. Jack Inch,

Susan Lightner and Helen Prouty were on the board during the last search in 1988.

"I think it's just that with paper qualifications, a lot of people can look very good. When you interview, some people interview very well," Inch said. "It's sitting there and being able to judge and analyze, 'Does this person fit the

position that is open.' It may be an excellent person, but is this a person for this position?"

Board members agree Flanagan will be a tough act to follow. However, a carbon copy might not be what the district needs.

Flanagan agreed.

"I think they're going to want

someone different," Flanagan said. "I know they're satisfied with me. This may sound immodest, but in a lot of ways, I was the right person for the last five years with the combination of my skills and what needed to be done."

"I'm not so sure the next five years or longer that there isn't a different personality and skills

they would want to tap."

Said Webb: "A lot of the board and community would like to see someone similar to Mike's leadership and style. . . . We're definitely facing difficult times with downsizing a certainty."

"The next person is going to have to make some tough decisions."



A-hunting she did go: Mary Bush, candidate for the Farmington City Council, got what she came for on this hunting trip.

Traditional hunt provides recreation

Council candidate Mary Bush is taking her first shot at elected office. But, as a few deer would attest, she's usually on target when pulling the trigger.

Four years in a row, the Farmington City Council hopeful has bagged a buck on her annual deer-hunting expedition in the Upper Peninsula. Bush loves to hunt, which is something of a family tradition.

Her father, Harvey Bush, was an avid hunter and trapper. Bush

used to always go with her dad on a trap runs in what is now single-family residential land around the 13 Mile and Halsted area.

"I can remember him skinning muskrats," Bush said. "I don't know how to do it. It's pretty yucky to watch."

Pelts used to hang to dry in the basement, which used to get in her mother's way when trying to find a place for the laundry.

Bush, who is the oldest of six siblings, learned how to shoot a

gun at an early age. She said hunting allows her to escape the day-to-day office grind of being an associate broker.

She also enjoys antiques and going to craft shows. However, her hunting hobby draws the most reaction from people.

"I don't want to come across as being (Annie Oakley), but at the same time I don't want to come across as a fading violet either," Bush said. "If something needs to be done, I do it."

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Books for Less, Fun with Plaster and the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce offices. She was also on the ground floor with the Frank Milo office building on State Street.

"As far as attracting new businesses, I think we need to work in conjunction with the DDA as well as the local business owners and the local real estate brokers who are representing the building owners," Bush said. "I think it takes a combined effort from all three of those folks."

As a real estate broker, though, Bush said she would avoid any conflict of interest.

"I would certainly be very mindful of that if I'm successful in being elected," she said. "I don't feel it is a conflict if it is handled correctly. I would certainly look to my peers for their confirmation because I would not want that to be a conflict."

Solutions to downtown issues such as parking take a pragmatic approach. She suggests encouraging shoppers to use other available lots, possibly parking in the Masonic Temple lot.

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Mary Bush
Farmington council candidate

As for enforcing sign ordinances, Bush said she'll listen. She added, "I am aware, however, that ordinances are put into a place for a reason and they cannot be ignored or not enforced."

Activities such as being chairwoman for the 125th anniversary fund-raiser, Meadow Muffin Males, and being on the Board of Review has given her a chance to get to know the people who live in Farmington.

"(Board of Review) has been a very humbling experience in a way," she said. "It gave an insight into the people in Farmington

who are on very fixed, very limited incomes, specifically the senior citizens. It's been very educational and rewarding too."

Bush is one of two Pinewood Condominiums residents vying for city council seats. The other is Russell Byers.

She started at Thompson-Brown Realtors working part-time on the switchboard. She's been with the company for 22 years, where she holds several real estate designations. She's single.

Said Bush, "I'm anxious to get things going. I think it will be an interesting race."

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