

Get in the act: Join the Cable Access Committee

The local access television community is thriving in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi. And SWOCC is taking steps to keep all active access users, as well as prospective users, informed on how to get and stay involved.

Are you looking for a way to stay involved with community access after you have taken all of the classes? Now there is a place you can go to share ideas, brainstorm program ideas and recruit crew.

Join the Cable Access Committee and SWOCC staff the first Tuesday of each month for Monthly Access Forums. These monthly meetings will take place at the SWOCC studio and will feature a variety of topics important to all access users.

Not involved with community access but want to know more

about it? Come to a forum and learn how community access can help you express yourself.

Nonprofit groups can get into the act as well. Most of these groups have small or non-existent public relations budgets, and community access television provides a free resource that helps each group reach 38,000 Time Warner subscribers in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Come to a monthly forum and learn how INFO TV-12 can help you reach and exceed your goals by taking these simple steps: Submit a message for the community bulletin board (Channel 3). Appear on Community Connection, a show that showcases nonprofit and charitable organizations. Produce your own show by scheduling a SWOCC Organizational Workshop for you and

your organization.

Just take the workshop, and let the professionals at SWOCC assist you in the planning and execution of your show.

Join us at a monthly forum and find out more about how you and your group can get the exposure you need to be noticed in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

Pat Iaham, chairwoman of the Cable Access Committee, sees the forums as a great thing for all access users. "We want to make these forums as informal as possible so that everyone will

feel comfortable, yet be able to get some valuable information as well," said Iaham.

Each forum will have a topic, but agendas will be loosely followed so the conversations and comments can remain spontaneous, yet informative. Veterans producers are especially welcome to share their own experiences and tips. Each session will offer an opportunity for participants to ask questions about production related issues, brainstorm ideas for productions and allow an opportunity for anyone seeking crew to recruit prime candidates.

Everyone involved in access is welcome as a participant or observer in the group.

There are no dues or membership fees. You may come to as many, or as few sessions as may interest you. Look for experts in

different areas of video production to appear and offer their tips and techniques to make your productions look and sound great.

In fact, watch for one of SWOCC's staff members to speak on the fine art of editing. Paul Muczynski is a freelance news and sports editor for WDIV (Channel 4) in Detroit and has some simple tips to share that can enhance any video production.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Access Forum dates: (all dates fall on the first Tuesday of the month) April 6, May 4, June 1, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7. Each session begins at 7 p.m. Some session topics include remote production tips, set design, talent tips, editing tips and special effects.

The first forum on April 6 will be a chance for you to tell us what sessions you would like to see, as well as an explanation of the mentoring program. It will also feature a question/answer period and crew call.

Remember, these forums are for you, so if you have a topic you would like to see featured, please call SWOCC at (248) 473-7286, or let us know at one of the sessions.

Melanie Young is the community relations specialist for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

The next SWOCC meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, at the Farmington City Hall.

The first Access Forum will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday April 6, at SWOCC.



MELANIE YOUNG

Clarenceville incumbents seek re-election to 4-year terms

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
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Two trustees now sitting on the Clarenceville Board of Edu-

cation - Matthew Bootcher and Ronald Silye - will seek another four-year term in a school election that could become controversial because of a tax increase request on the June 14 school ballot.

Candidates must file nominating petitions by 4 p.m. April 12,

just two weeks away.

For the Clarenceville board, petitions can be picked up and filed in room 138 of Clarenceville High School. At least 26 signatures required.

Incumbents Bootcher and Silye both support a proposed tax increase on the June 14

school ballot for Clarenceville schools. The extra money would be used to pay for building renovations.

In June, Clarenceville residents will be asked to approve a tax increase and to extend the current tax.

The two ballot questions will ask residents to:

■ Extend the current 0.75-mill "sinking fund" tax four years, through 2008.

■ Tack another 1.25 mills onto the current 0.75 mills, raising the tax to two mills.

Altogether, the bigger tax and extra time would raise an additional \$6.6 million until the tax expires in 2008.

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