

PTA Council to host candidate forum

BY SUE BUCK
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The Farmington Area PTA Council will host a school board candidate forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23 at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Center located at 32500 Shinawase, just east of Farmington Road.

Incumbents R. Jack Inch and Cathleen M. Webb are running for re-election to the two, four-year terms which are open.

Inch has served continuously since 1978; Webb since 1990.

The school election is Monday, June 10. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"We're looking at the issues of the day," said Kim Heath, PTA

Who? Farmington School Board incumbents Cathleen Webb and Jack Inch.

What? Farmington Area PTA Council candidate forum.

When? 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 23.

Where? Lewis B. Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shinawase in Farmington.

Council president, "We want to find out what they have done in the past, what they are doing now and what they plan to do in the future."

Candidates will be asked broad questions including:

- What do you believe the main legislative issues should be for public education?

■ What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Board of Education?

■ What areas do you believe Farmington Public Schools should improve upon?

■ We live in an era of choice and options. As a board member how should you balance fiscal responsibility with offering quality educational choices to students?

Candidates will make closing remarks. The audience can also ask questions, Heath said.

The forum will be taped and shown on Cable Channel TV-10.

Community Forum

The Farmington Area PTA Council and School Community

Forum hosts its last meeting of the year at 7 p.m. Monday, May 20 at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street, north of Grand River. The group meets five times a year.

"We will celebrate the end of the year," Heath said.

Heath hopes to show a Senior Project video filmed in another state. The Farmington Public School district recently approved a Senior Project in its graduation requirements. Development of a senior project is still in the planning stages with an indefinite timeline.

Also on Heath's to-do list is hosting a Michigan PTA representative with the topic to be determined.

CSX helps save pieces of interurban history

BY JONI HUBRED
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Thanks to CSX railroad workers, a bit of Farmington history is now on its way to being carefully preserved.

The Livonia/Plymouth-based company volunteered time and equipment to slice up a section of trolley or "interurban" car rail unearthed during the reconstruction of Farmington Road. Interurban cars provided rail transportation throughout the metropolitan area; the uncovered line belonged to a section that looped around behind what is now a city parking lot on the west side of Farmington Road.

As the sparks flew, local historian Brian Golden talked about how a passer-by (John Yargerlemer of Farmington) has spotted the rail and then passed on his discovery to Marilyn Smith of the Farmington Community Library.

She, in turn, contacted Golden who set about trying to preserve the line, which was likely covered over in the 1930s. Workers found a date on the steel that indicated it had been forged in 1882.

Golden first called the City of Farmington, hoping the public safety or public works departments might have a saw that could cut the rail. But not even the Road Commission of Oakland County, which is overseeing the Farmington Road project, had the right equipment.

Then Golden tapped his group of model railroad enthusiasts.

"Someone suggested I call CSX out of Plymouth, and the overwhelming response was 'Sure!'," he said just before the cutters began working. "They have been so generous and so kind. Their saw should cut through this like butter."

It went a little bit slower than that, but the approximately one-foot sections were sliced up in relatively short order, as onlookers from the City of Farmington, Farmington City Council and local residents watched. Also on hand was Tom Drake, CSX's state relations manager, who works out of Livonia.

He said Golden's first call had gone to Don Strine, Assistant Division Engineer, who pitched it to his boss.

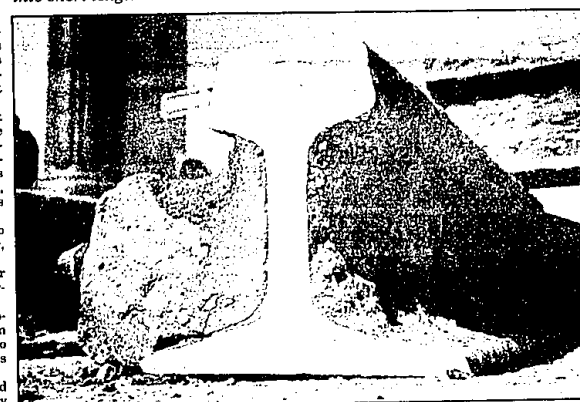
"(Division Engineer) Lynn Houser thought this was a great idea, a good opportunity to help the community," Drake said.

The largest railroad east of the Mississippi, CSX maintains 23,000 track miles from Montreal to Chicago to New Orleans to Miami. Drake said the rail cutting, as far as he knew, was unique.

"This is the first time we've had this kind of request," he said. "It's a part of history most people don't know anything about. It's almost a shame we lost those interurbans. I think they'd be very beneficial to society today."



Slice of history: CSX employees Mark Scafidii and George Mitts cut the rail into short lengths.



Edgy: The freshly-cut steel rail was forged in 1882. Although it looks large, the rail is much lighter than rail used today.

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A few examples at the Troy location:

Diamonds		Regular	Sale
Marquise	.24ct H/VS2	\$626	\$187
Round	.50ct J/SI1	\$1,496	\$448
Pear Shape	.72ct F/SI2	\$4,994	\$1,997
Round	1.14ct I/SI2	\$7,362	\$4,049
Radiant	1.25ct F/VS2	\$13,828	\$6,222
Round	2.00ct I/VVS2	\$34,000	\$17,000
Princess Cut	4.13ct K/SI1	\$41,197	\$20,598

Fine Jewelry	Regular	Sale
14kt YG Diamond Stud Earrings .2ctw	\$390	\$156
14kt WG Baguette Dia. Heart Pendant .25ctw	\$391	\$270
14kt YG Dia. Engagement Set, 1 Rd. .60ct	\$1,625	\$487
14kt WG Baguette Dia. Ring 1.48ctw	\$1,215	\$850
14kt YG Pearl & Diamond Earrings	\$3,090	\$1,545
14kt WG Diamond Necklace 9.45ctw	\$3,942	\$2,759
14kt YG Dia. Bezel Set Pendant, 1 Rd. 1.08ct	\$5,747	\$3,448
14kt YG Diamond Studs 2.12ctw	\$12,134	\$6,067

A few examples at the Lake Orion location:

Diamonds		Regular	Sale
Round	.41ct H/I2	\$564	\$169
Pear Shape	.41ct D/SI2	\$1,615	\$646
Round	.74ct K/VS2	\$3,114	\$1,401
Oval	1.04ct G/SI1	\$7,699	\$3,079
Pear Shape	1.93ct G/I1	\$11,580	\$4,632
Marquise	1.08ct H/VS2	\$10,260	\$5,130
Emerald Cut	2.03ct J/VVS2	\$21,315	\$10,657

Fine Jewelry	Regular	Sale
Honora Fresh Water Pearl & Blue Topaz Bracelet	\$65	\$39
14kt YG Diamond Pendant	\$379	\$190
14kt YG Dia. Stud Earrings 2 Rds. .41ctw	\$718	\$359
14kt YG Diamond Studs 1.00ctw	\$1,988	\$795
Tahitian Pearl Necklace 14.6 x 10.0mm	\$3,720	\$2,232
18kt WG Diamond Pavé Pin 2.62ctw	\$3,840	\$2,688
18kt WG Black & White Diamond Earrings 2.42ctw	\$5,670	\$1,701

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Fine Jewelry	Regular	Sale
14kt YG Ruby & Dia. Pendant .60ctw	\$783	\$235
14kt WG Diamond Ring 1 Oval 1.13ct & 2 Baguettes	\$4,375	\$1,313
14kt YG Pavé Dia. Earrings 140 Dia.	\$12,678	\$5,071
14kt YG Bezel Set Diamond Pendant 1 Round 5.46ct	\$45,005	\$18,000

Many items are one-of-a-kind and subject to prior sale. Certain designer lines excluded.

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