Unopposed incumbents talk about issues

Farmington School Board incumbents Jack Inch and Cathy Webb are running without challenge for two, four-year terms in the Monday, June 10 election.

That could be why only a handful of people attended a half-hour candidate forum sponsored and hosted by the Farmington Area PTA Council. The Council includes representatives from all district schools.

The audience consisted of Kim Heath, PTA Council president, who introduced candidates, Suc Zurvalee, the district's assistant superintendent for staff and community services, Lasenia Jones, Wooddale Elementary principal and Farmington School Board Mombers Priscilla Brouil-lette and Pam Christian.

Michael Bridges of the PTA Council mederated the meeting, which will be shown on TV 10.

Inch, 71, a professor of eco-

nomics at Oakland Community College, has served on the board since 1978; Webb, 50, a partime advertising artist, since 1990.

If first ran for the board saying, 'Cathy Carea About Kida,' and nothing has changed,' said Webb, a 23-year Farmington Hills resident. She and husband Jim have two grown sens.

Inch, a 42-year Farmington resident, is married to Sandy, and has four grown children.

"I believe in what I have done," inch said. 'I have a straightforwardness and a consciousness that I represent all residents.'

Main Legislative issues

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Main legislative issues
"School aid revenue should be
the only issue the legislature
should focus on," Webb said.
"New policy makers will have to
adopt a strategic approach to
adjust Proposal A and step up to
the plate and fully fund the special education program they
have mandated. There's no tax-

payer control over state revenue. Enrollment drives school fund-

payer control over state revenue. Enrollment drives school funding.

Proposal A, adopted in 1994, was supposed to close the funding gap between school districts, she said.

However, in an economic downturn, the district sees an engative impact on its budget. She called school funding a "financial shell game," because the state and federal government don't contribute their fair share toward special education. Inch also said Proposal A doesn't finance the school district in the way it was intended almost 10 years ago. Consequently the district has to reduce spending elsewhere.

"Sencial set has been under "Sencial ed has been under "Sen

district num con-elsewhere.
"Special ed has been under-conded throughout the history of "Special ed has been under-funded throughout the history of the program," Inch said.

A more diverse school popula-tion has also necessitated increased spending on language training. "This is not a free lunch," he said. "The state talks

well but there seems to be a lack of understanding. Michigan is the most business-cycle-oriented state in the United States. When there's a turn down that is a mild fever in some states, in Michigan it becomes a convulsion as the funds drop off so quickly. Rainy day funds disappear."

Webb wants to expand dia-logue on education reforms. "A lot of education candidates cam-paign for more assessment tests

paign for more assessment tests and are running away from issues that are critical like professional development, staff time and class size, "she said.

She wants every child to have every opportunity and wants them to develop positive, respectful attitudes.

"I'd like to see our reading program become the best in the country," Inch said. "What I've noticed is the inability for students to really read and a reduction in the student's vector in the vector. I'd like a reading program which fits every student."

Student diversity makes it dif-ficult to assimilate and learning the English language isn't easy to do, he said. "Translation is not always a quick and easy thing to do for some people." Another "pet goal" for Inch is a designated science room in over elementary school. Funding makes this difficult, he said. We don't train enough scientists. Rooms that might have been used for science are now used to

nooms that might have been used for science are now used to accommodate the special education program, Inch said, "I feel like the Man of La Mancha on this. It's the impossible dream."

Areas to improve

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Webb targets improvement
within the organization. "We
have the finest staff in the said. "We
need to help teachers help studenta learn."
Inch wants a continuation of
what was started a number of
years ago — a customized program for each student. "We'ro
dealing with what for most people is their most precious commodity, their children, 'he said.
Taxpayers need some type of

Webb said. The school business office had the foresight to recommend setting aside a healthy fund equity, she said. "We had a cushion to fall back on."

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Inch personally favors a return
to the property tax. "I really
don't like sending money back to
Lansing because I'm not so sure
we get everything back," he said.
Michigan has both rural and

non-rural areas and differences

in economics, Inch said.

"Incomes in southeastern
Michigan are higher than the
rest of the state," he said. "There should be some kind of local

The forum will be shown at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 10 p.m. May 31; 7:30 a.m. June 3; 9 a.m. June 5; 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. June 7 and 10 a.m. June 10. Polls are open from 7 a.m. · 8 p.m. June 10. For more election information, call Judy Steinhebel at (248) 489-3341.

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Moffitt appointed to NACO committee

Oakland County Board of
Commissioners Vice-Chairman
David Moffitt (R-Farmington
Hills) has been appointed to the
National Association of Counties
Organization's Public Land
Steering Committee by NAC
President Javier Gonzalez.
Moffitt's focus will be on federally owned public lands including tax immunity problems, shared natural resource payments: Payments in Lieu of
Taxes and federal land management programs as a member of
the Public Land Steering Com-

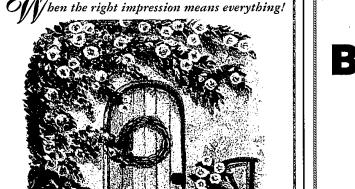
their presvation is a rare privilege, said Mofflit.
NACe has given county officials from across the country an active role and strong voice in the nation's capitel since 1935.
Each of NACe's 11 steering committees consists of 60-90 county officials, which form the policymaking arm of the association.
For more information, call Vice Chairman David Mofflit at (248) 644-0880 or NACe President Javier Gonzalez at (505) 986-6353.

Mayhem from page A1

"The parents are obviously disappointed by their son's decision and traumatized by the loss." Dwyer said. "They're still doing an inventory of what was taken." The city has an ordinance against anyone 17 years or older hosting a party where alcohol is provided to under-age guests.

Since that ordinance was enacted in the mid-1980s, house parties where underage drinking takes place have not been as common, Dwyer said.
"We are disappointed that there wasn't more parental responsibility," the chief said. "Parents should be more aware of where

their children are and checking them for alcohol or drugs." Dwyer said the department is offering a \$3,000 reward that leads to the recovery of the stolen items or the arrest of any-onor responsible for looting the home. Call the department at (248) 473-9600.



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