



# Farmington Observer

Volume 95 Number 103

Thursday, October 4, 1984

Farmington, Michigan

62 Pages

Twenty-five cents

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## Cable stardom has dim side for volunteers

By Diane Gale  
staff writer

The glitter of television stardom via local cable access could turn into a legal nightmare for volunteer participants.

Public-access channels offered by cable companies provide the public with all the equipment, and even some instruction on how to send their ideas out through the cable lines. Presto: Joe the plumber and Don the doctor be-

come TV producers and stars.

"The responsibility of the production is really that of the producer," according to Tom Bjorklund, MetroVision vice president.

"IF THE producer is sued for libel, then the producer is solely responsible," Bjorklund said.

Congress is presently considering the Telecommunications Act, which eliminates liability against the cable company.

"One of the provisions is that the cable operator shall not incur any liabilities carried on any channel for public, educational and governmental use," according to Jim McElveen, National Cable Television Association, director of public affairs.

MetroVision, the cable franchise servicing Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, screens programs before they are televised. But, the process of eliminating libelous elements in the show is difficult.

"SOMETHING THAT's libelous isn't a black or white concern, because there is no libel until someone claims that there is," Bjorklund said. "You can't look through a program for libel like you can look for a swear word."

Bjorklund considers screening the programs "affirmative action on our part for the best interest of the producer and the people they play the show about."

The FCC (Federal Communications Commission), however, limits cable

companies from screening by citing free speech and First Amendment rights. FCC guidelines restricting cable are even more broad.

"WE DON'T really have too many rules, except everyone should have the same access to the channels, concerning public access, because it was ruled beyond our jurisdiction," according to Robert Whitehill, FCC lawyer.

The FCC restrictions were cut short by a United States Supreme Court rul-

ing in FCC vs. Midwest Video in 1979, which "said access requirements exceeded our jurisdiction," Whitehill added.

However, city employees, or appointees' court costs or legal fees are covered if a suit is filed against them, according to MetroVision's franchise agreement.

"YOU HAVE freedom of speech and

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TOM DAER/Staff photographer

### Waiting game

Mercy High tennis players Kristin Orlandoni (left) and Susan Kang do some homework while waiting for their matches to come up in a meet at Oakland Community College Monday. Mercy beat In-

ster Cherry Hill, 7-0. A story and more photos may be found on Page 1C

## Lethal defect checked in time by hospital

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Botsford General Hospital is replacing three Foregger 705 anesthesia machines. The brand, manufactured during the 1970s by Puritan-Bennett Corp., has been linked to the deaths of four persons who died in a two-month period last year.

Two deaths occurred in a Denver, Colo., hospital, one in a hospital in Mississippi and one, that of a Livonia woman, in Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit. All who died did so shortly after receiving anesthesia from a Foregger 705 anesthesia machine, according to various accounts.

The Livonia woman's husband has filed a \$3-million lawsuit against Mt. Carmel Hospital and its personnel. Steve Faine, a Botsford assistant administrator, said that while there were no injuries or deaths resulting from the use of the Foregger anesthesia ma-

chines, the three Botsford will be replaced by December.

THE HOSPITAL plans to purchase three new machines from the Draeger Co., Faine said.

Faine said publicity surrounding the Puritan-Bennett machines was a factor in the hospital's decision to replace those at Botsford. The age of two of the machines and Botsford's move toward standardizing hospital equipment also figured into the decision, he said.

The federal Food and Drug Administration has ordered Puritan-Bennett to ensure that an estimated 600 Foregger units in hospitals around the country are safe, according to a FDA spokesman.

The corporation no longer manufactures the Foregger machines.

Faine said that Botsford personnel discovered that the Foregger machines

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## Hills braces for biggest complex yet

By Joanne Maliszewski  
staff writer

Running through rain, sleet or snow to the lunchtime rush of any nearby restaurant will be an aggravation of the past for future tenants and employees of the planned Arboretum Office Park in Farmington Hills.

Once employees begin their work day in one of the proposed six three-story buildings, they have no need to leave until the day is done.

Eating establishments, stores and banking facilities will offer employees and tenants of the proposed Arboretum a convenient atmosphere in which to work.

"It will be a totally contained environment," said Ronald Hughes, one of three partners in the Arboretum Office Park, developed by Abbey Associates.

Hughes and partners Robert Katzman and Peter Burton are developing the office park with the concept of providing convenience and atmosphere. Upon completion, it will be the largest

office complex in the city. Located on the one-quarter mile strip between 12 Mile Road and I-696, the \$70 million office park will offer flexible space-planning offices in a park-like atmosphere.

WORK RECENTLY was started on the first of the series of office buildings that will offer atriums in every building and connecting glassed-in walkways.

"You will be able to walk from one end of the development to the other," Katzman said.

The center of each building will be an atrium bisected with walkways on the first floor. Offices on the second and third floors will overlook the central atrium.

A cafeteria will be located in each building. But the office park would also offer restaurants for fine dining. A liquor license has already been obtained for the office park. Other restaurants would also be located outside of the office buildings themselves in the main

boulevards, surrounding the park, Katzman said.

In the glassed-in corridors which Hughes and Katzman call "commercial corridors" — connecting each of the six buildings — retail and service shops will be located.

"It will have that full-service capability," Hughes said.

Jewelers, drug stores, banking facilities and greeting card shops are some of the services being considered.

Situated in more than 50 acres between Farmington and Drake roads, the office park would be landscaped with trees, shrubs, benches and decorative pools along the outdoor walks of the site.

"This is the first true office park in Michigan," Katzman said.

ALTHOUGH THE Bingham Center on Telegraph in Bloomfield Township has been called a "prototype," in office centers, the Abbey Associates are taking the concept further.

"We had the flexibility to do it right because of the size (of the site)," Katzman said.

Giving an idea of the size Arboretum

will be when completed, Hughes said Bingham Center provides 880,000 square feet on approximately 25 acres. The Arboretum will provide more than 1 million square feet on 50 acres.

Although the more than 50 acres would have allowed Abbey Associates to build more buildings to provide more square footage, the "natural beauty areas" would not have been possible.

The self-contained and aesthetically pleasing environment offered in the Arboretum Office Park is considered by its creators to be a big draw for tenants. But the Abbey Associates are also banking on the Arboretum's prime location along I-696 and the 12 Mile corridor — in the heart of suburbia's office growth area.

"Because of the I-696 exposure and the demand of that location, I think we will have a lot of Fortune 500 (firms as potential tenants)," Hughes said.

TO BACK up that statement, Hughes and Katzman pointed to the accessibility from Arboretum's site to

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## Observer & Eccentric

Annual Color Photo Contest  
Autumn action

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Camera \_\_\_\_\_ Film \_\_\_\_\_ Lens \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

When, where taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of subject(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Slides become the property of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and cannot be returned

Mail to: Photo contest  
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
36251 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150

## Action is theme in photo contest

It's time to get that camera into full gear. The Observer & Eccentric annual color photo contest is here.

This year's theme is "Autumn Action" — people in action.

Sure, the summer is over. But that's just the beginning of a new season of activities. We'd like to see how you, your family and friends keep active in the fall.

This year's first-prize winner will be awarded \$100 in cash and two nights at the Holiday Inn-Livonia West/Holidays, plus \$25 in Holiday cash to use at all the Inn for food and beverages. The winner will have full use of the indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, exercise room and putting green.

Second-place prize will be \$49 and third place will be \$25.

Rules for entering the contest are:

Nov. 8. Use the accompanying coupon to enter.

• Entries should be submitted to Color Photo Contest, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

• Color slide film must be used.

• Location can be of your choosing, but must be identifiable as a fall setting. Please.

• Contestants must be amateur photographers. Observer & Eccentric employees or their relatives are ineligible to compete.

• Entries will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Observer & Eccentric will not be responsible for any loss or damaged slides.

• Mark each slide with your name, address and phone number.

### oral quarrel

## Will life be rosy for future seniors?

There are now more people older than 65 than teen-agers, and the margin will increase to more than 2 to 1 by the year 2025, according to a study prepared by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

The elderly population, the study said, has increased from 4 percent in 1900 to more than 11 percent — or 26 million people — last year. The number of people older than 65 is expected to increase to 40 million by 2010 due to

longer lifespans caused by accelerated medical technology.

Today's Oral Quarrel question is:

What will life be like for the great numbers of senior citizens in the next century?

To answer this question, call 477-5498 any time before 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5. To see how your neighbors feel about this issue, please look in Monday's Farmington Observer.

### what's inside

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