

Alkateeb quits cable post

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The effect of a new federal cable TV law on local government is one Alkateeb's reasons for resigning from the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commis-

alon (SWOCC) after only one year. "With the recent federal legislation I felt it was a waste of time," Alkateeb said. "I felt my time would be better served in other endeavors for the city."

Lack of time was the second reason given by Alkateeb for his resignation. Farmington Hills Councilman Ben

Marks will replace Alkateeb on the six-member board. The board is comprised of representatives from the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi. SWOCC monitors the 15-year cable franchise held by the MetroVision cable company.

THE FEDERAL 1984 Cable Com-

munications Act, which became law on Dec. 23, 1984, "in no way took away the jurisdiction of local government," SWOCC executive director Lark Samouelian said.

"It only deregulated the rates, not the ordinance," Samouelian said. "They (MetroVision) still must be the very best they can be for the community," Samouelian said.

Under the new law, communities maintain control over cable rates for two years. After that, rates are set solely by the cable operators.

Although considered a compromise between government and the cable industry, the law maintains the integrity of local cable franchises, Samouelian said.

Alkateeb sees it from another perspective. "WE DON'T have much control," he said.

Besides his feelings about the new cable law, Alkateeb said he resigned because the commission post "was taking too much of my limited time."

Alkateeb's lack of time for the job because of his professional engineering work was given as the official reason for his resignation, Samouelian said.

Samouelian said that, particularly with the new federal law, the commission has been pretty busy.

Women's seminar set

"Hitting Your Stride," a three-session workshop for women in their midshop leaders.

Topics for discussion include menopause, the empty nest syndrome, being part of the sandwich generation, and director of the Continuum Center of other myths and realities of middle Oakland University, and counselor-age.

Mayor pro tem picked

Continued from Page 1

of two reasons why the mayor pro tem election should be postponed.

"There's not that much of a rush," Wolf said, asking council to wait for a decision from Oakland Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert on the recount. Sever's attorney is claiming that the punch card voting system is unconstitutional.

Wolf also asked for a postponement because of Councilman Charles Williams' absence Monday.

"My main concern is that it's not a full council and it's a pretty important decision," Wolf said. "I'm just saying it's not too flattering to the council if the mayor pro tem is done this way."

But Councilwoman Joan Dudley said that "Mr. Williams knew this would be on the agenda. He's in Acapulco. I believe this trip was necessary for some time."

minding council that the positions of mayor and mayor pro tem are honorary and to be passed down the line as new people are elected to council.

"Joe Alkateeb is past due the honorary position of mayor. But we here tonight can put Joe once again in line for the top spot by acting in a statesman-like manner."

By passing on the job of mayor and mayor pro tem to those next in line, Marks said, "personalities and politics" can be eliminated from the process.

Dolan, also mayor in 1974, told council the would step down from her post to allow those who have not recently held one of the honorary offices to have their turn.

"I feel that I innocently and unwittingly created the problem we are having tonight," she said.

Dolan indicated that all council members except Alkateeb and Dudley, who were on council in the city's early years, have not had a recent chance at serving in the honorary positions.

"I just feel very badly being the re-pent mayor," Dolan said.

But Dudley put an end to talk of Dolan's stepping down.

"I don't think you created a problem," she said. "I don't want you to step down."

"I have to say I too think Joe (Alkateeb) deserves this honor," Dudley said, echoing Dolan's support for the councilman.

In touting Alkateeb's qualifications, Marks said that with five years on council under his belt, "he has grown in knowledge of the city and its problems, grown in the ability to see himself and his duties as an open-minded representative of all the people, and he has demonstrated that he can see the many sides of a question."

"... he has emerged as a person who can admit his errors and go on with getting the job done — a quality we can all recognize as necessary in an effective council member."

And third, Alkateeb "has already proved he can be an able chairman for council meetings," in Dolan's absence, Marks said.

designed to relieve the city from liability.

Developers must indemnify the city for damage resulting from any flooding at the apartment complex.

The apartment lease agreements must indicate that the parking area is susceptible to flooding.

Permanent signs must be installed in the parking areas indicating the area may flood.

When council expressed more concern about potential property damage future residents of the complex might suffer, Layne agreed to investigate the chances of getting insurance for residents' vehicles.

Approval from the planning commission and city engineering department will be required before Brooks and Layne receive a building permit for the complex.

Flood plain project OK'd

Continued from Page 1

"It's not our job on council to engineer," said Mayor Pro Tem Joe Alkateeb. "Basically I don't think we are in a position to deny."

Although some council members indicated they wanted to postpone approval, Sandy Layne told council members he needed a decision because of financial reasons.

"The property has been zoned and it's a good use of the property," said Councilman Ben Marks, adding Brooks & Layne is willing to meet the strict codes of building in a floodplain.

"The man is entitled to get his permit..." Marks said.

In approving the preliminary site plan, council added several stipulations

COUNCIL DEFEATED Wolf's attempt to postpone the election as well as his nomination of Soronen.

Marks offered three reasons for nominating Alkateeb as mayor pro tem.

"First, it's his turn," Marks said, re-

DOLAN WAS elected as mayor pro tem shortly after both Alkateeb and Dudley were re-elected more than a year ago.

She learns to book trains

Sue Pierce of Farmington Hills, a world travel counselor at the Automobile Club of Michigan's Detroit West branch, recently attended a rail booking procedures seminar and familiarization tour at the Amtrak Reservation Center in Chicago.

Pierce was among 60 AAA counselors who learned about rail schedules, booking procedures and other aspects of rail travel in the daylong seminar. Two Amtrak trains transported the group to Chicago from various locations in Michigan.

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