

# Cable Comments

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This was the first year that politicians took advantage of the advertising opportunities avail-

able through cable television. Unfortunately it was difficult to follow the issues and to know exactly where the candidates stood. Nevertheless, the election process has drawn attention to the political arena beyond each of our districts.

Many politicians avoid discussing the issues by declaring that the general public is not knowledgeable on such matters. I think that tolerance of ignorance perpetuates this kind of thinking. Television has the ability, if used correctly to increase the knowledge of individual viewers. The print media could contribute to the effort to raise the knowledge level of the electorate by raising the quality level of its writing and encouraging its readers to participate in the system and to seek more knowledge.



Suzie Heinz

At the local level Township Supervisors, Township Board of Trustees, City managers and City Councils are beginning to understand the importance of TV.



Jack Faxon

The cities of Northville and Farmington Hills cablecast their weekly meetings. The City of Novi is gearing up to do the same.

Farmington Hills has a program entitled "Viewpoint" hosted by the Mayor (Jean Fox) and City Manager (Bill Costick).

Farmington has a program called "Farmington Focus" hosted a city resident named Sandy Inch and City Manager (Bob Deadman).

Novi has a program entitled "Inside Novi City Hall" hosted by City Manager Ed Kriewall.

Political Office holders who host informative programs throughout the year are: Wayne County Commissioner Suzie Heinz; House Representatives Jan Dolan and Bill Bullard and Senator Jack Faxon.

Suzie Heinz produces a show entitled "County Impact." Starting her third term she tapes a program every two weeks. The program has been running for 4 years. She shares the planning with volunteer Dorothy Gaul who coordinates the crew and guests while John Martin of Omnicom directs the show. The format is a 30 minute forum discussing difficult subjects and opposing viewpoints. Suzie believes that because they are not afraid to delve into tough issues,

they have been able to create and maintain a loyal audience. She does hear from the people and she encourages comments, saying, "It's really a lot of fun!"

House Reps Jan Dolan and Bill Bullard host "Lansing Connection." This is produced by The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission with Executive Producer Donnell Conway. They let us know what is going on in Lansing and they carefully



Jan Dolan

explain how the legislation affects each of us. This monthly 30 minute program may be seen on the MetroVision Cable System on Thursday nights at 9:30 p.m. Jan Dolan also appears on other television programs including "Viewpoint" and "Women On the Move." Her philosophy is to be direct and conscientious.

Senator Jack Faxon hosts the "Capitol Report." It is also a monthly 30 minute program. On this program, one topic is discussed with two guests in order to get different viewpoints. Faxon has also appeared on art shows and children's programming. His approach to television acknowledges the diversity that exists among the population.

Each month will see more of our elected representatives as they become comfortable with Community Cable Television.