

Streetscape project set for review by DDA

Continued from Page 1

Most importantly, Strip-Sittsamer said, the person must be adept at working with volunteer groups and know a lot about promotions.

At least one DDA member cautioned that the new person should be willing to spend the majority of his or her time outside the office. "I

think the (promotional) successes we have had... have been due to the legwork," Hobbler said. "It's directly related to the contact with the businesses. I don't feel we need a person whose going to sit at a desk 15 hours a week."

STRIP-SITTSAMER may bring a recommendation for hiring to the

board as early as February. Tuesday's action follows what downtown merchants have called a successful holiday promotion, which cost individual merchants, the Downtown Farmington Business Association and the DDA more than \$15,000.

Meanwhile, a three-person DDA subcommittee will study the streetscape work done to date, and

see what needs to be done in future phases. City Manager Robert Deady, resident representative Robert Fitzpatrick and Bon Ton Shoppe owner and DDA president Harry Wingerter will study the overall

project and coordinate future DDA plans with other city projects.

"I can't believe we're into the fourth phase already," Wingerter

said. He has received many comments about the project's third phase, which included work in the large downtown parking lot.

Metrovision hiking price of basic cable TV service

Continued from Page 1

has had an increase of 35 percent in the rates charged by basic programming networks over the last year.

THE PERCENTAGE of the increase varies depending on the customer's level of service. The average increase, based on an average bill of about \$39.55, will be 4.7 percent.

Bjorklund said that Metrovision's premium service rates continue to be the lowest in the area. He gave examples of other local basic cable rates: \$19.90 in Plymouth; \$20.45 in Wall Lake; \$19.95 in Warren; \$18.45 in Birmingham; and \$17 in Detroit.

Lark Samoulian, executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission, could not be reached for comment about the rate increase.

Bjorklund said that during the past year, Metrovision has expanded its office hours and adopted a new set of customer service standards developed by the national Cable Television Association.

Among other things, the standards provide for maximum service problems and for efficiency in receiving phone calls. The company is pledged to meet the standards by July, Bjorklund said.

ALSO, METROVISION will be increasing its use of fiber optics this

year to minimize service interruptions.

Metrovision serves more than 29,500 of the area's 48,000 residences. Bjorklund was not able to provide subscriber numbers specifically for Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Metrovision has serviced customers in Oakland County since 1983.

The company also announced that a new channel has been added to its Oakland County basic channel lineup. The channel will combine Sports Channel America and the "E!" Entertainment Channel, which will feature an "Entertainment Tonight"-type format. These services will be on cable channel 52 at no added charge.

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