

Zoom in on special moments with video cameras



CABLE CONNECTION
MARY LINDA CALDERONE

Birthday parties, weddings, graduation ceremonies, vacations: It's wonderful to be able to capture these special moments in our lives for years to come. And many of us do this with our home video cameras.

For any of these treasured times, one thing is for sure, you'll want to shoot the best video possible. How then do you perfect your skills? I contacted an expert on the subject, Joan Lillie, production specialist at MetroVision and professional videographer.

Her first recommendation is to start watching TV, carefully and critically. It's the best video around. You may as well learn from the pros. Make notes. Notice where a wide shot, medium shot and close-up comes in; whether panning or zooming is used. From watching TV, you'll see that every camera move has a reason. Indiscriminate pans and zooms are avoided. You'll also see how a slight move or tilt of the camera can enhance the framing of a shot as well as discover how the camera can be used to produce a series of shots that look as if they could have been taken with more than 2 or 3 cameras. In viewing a documentary video, you'll probably learn how much better it is to have natural action rather than staged moves.

Here are some of Lillie's tips:

1. Try to tell a story with your video. If you are taking your camera on vacation, start the video with packing the car at home or boarding the airplane. Be creative.

2. Plan in advance, take a spare battery along. It's frustrating to run out of power before you've finished shooting. Don't forget extra videotape. You certainly don't want to run out of tape before your son goes to bat on little league and scores a home run.

3. Even though your camera may have low lux capability (which means it can shoot in the dark) pay attention to lighting. To get optimum color quality and image sharpness, you may want to buy a portable, battery-operated light.

4. Since editing equipment still carries a hefty price tag, try to edit as you shoot. For instance, at a child's birthday party, start out with a wide shot of the kids around the table with the cake. Proceed to a medium shot of the birthday child and the cake. Shoot a close-up of the cake alone.

5. Don't be a mover and shaker. You don't need to move the camera a lot, panning right and left, zooming in and out. Let the action in front of the camera provide the motion. Oftentimes the novice video maker tries too hard to follow what is happening. It's OK to let the subject run out of the picture.

6. Shaky pictures are no fun to watch either. Whenever possible use a tripod. Remember, never leave a camera on a tripod unattended in a crowd. Someone is sure to trip on the tripod's legs causing the camera to fall. If it's not practical to take a tripod, support yourself against a wall or tree. Resting your elbows on a wall can be helpful. Sometimes you can set the camera on a flat surface like a rock or a table.

7. Pay close attention to sound. When narrating from behind the camera, speak in low tones. Besides you don't have to talk throughout the whole video. Let the picture tell some of the story.

If you like what you've read so far, you won't want to miss Lillie's class on home camcorders at MetroVision from 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25. The only prerequisite is you must be a community access TV workshop graduate. By the way, community access TV producers, are you aware that you can even use your home camcorders to enhance your Channel 12 TV productions? All you have to do is shoot video, transfer it onto three-quarter inch tape (the kind MetroVision uses) and incorporate it into your programs.

Seating is limited for the home camcorder workshop. So call Lillie for reservations at 553-7303, Ext. 251. Turn those home videos into Hollywood productions.

- Future of the family: bicycle/beach/boat safety**
— 5 p.m.
1993 Farmington Hills Beautification
— 6 p.m.
Travelin' on: Pacific Northwest
— 6:30 p.m.
Bagels and talk with Tracy and Phil
— 7 p.m.
Farmington Garden Walk
— 7:30 p.m.
Adventures with Pirate Pete
— 8 p.m.
Impact video
— 8:30 p.m.
Black tie optional
— 9 p.m.
City of Farmington Public Safety
— 9:30 p.m.
Groove Session.
- Tuesday, June 14**
10 a.m. — Drawing men to Christ
11 a.m. — Happiest people alive
11:30 a.m. — Money talks
Noon — Adventures with Pirate Pete
12:30 p.m. — Spontaneous seniors
1:30 p.m. — Senior spotlight: dental tips
2 p.m. — Salon glamour and etiquette with Gloria: nail art
3 p.m. — Cosmic Connection: biomagnetic therapy
4 p.m. — Seniors on parade
5 p.m. — Lansing Connection
- Channel 12**
Monday, June 13
10 a.m.
Travel with Kay: Galapagos Islands
— 10:30 a.m.
Women on the Move: H.A.V.E.N.
— 11 a.m.
Coffee and conversation: parenting skills
— Noon
Farmington Hills Police Department Journal
— 12:30 p.m.
Dollars and Sense with J.R. Bob Meltzer
— 1 p.m.
Seniors on the move: Richard Lyt
— 1:30 p.m.
The word of life: Bring in the harvest
— 2 p.m.
Multicultural/multiracial community council race relations
— 3 p.m.
North American Indian Journal
— 4 p.m.

- 5:30 p.m. — Living with your addictions**
6 p.m. — Jr. Japanese Lesson 31
6:30 p.m. — Business and residential news
7 p.m. — Cash talks
7:30 p.m. — Farmington Hills Police Journal
8 p.m. — Salon glamour and etiquette with Gloria: nail art
9 p.m. — Let's talk with Ben Marks
9:30 p.m. — Farmington School board candidates.
- Wednesday, June 15**
10 a.m. — Legislative forum
10:30 a.m. — The Job Show
11 a.m. — Study in scripture
11:30 a.m. — Oakland Press perspective
Noon — The way the truth and the life
12:30 p.m. — Abundant life Arable ministries
1 p.m. — Good health: diabetes
2 p.m. — Without consent: rape
3 p.m. — Farmington/Farmington Hills Founders Festival
3:30 p.m. — D.A.S.H. Dakota fire safety
4 p.m. — Crisis in the modern family: retired teachers
5 p.m. — Home for life: tree trimming
5:30 p.m. — Groove session
6 p.m. — Spontaneous Seniors
7 p.m. — D.A.R.E. graduation
8 p.m. — My vote counts
8:30 p.m. — North American Indian Journal
- 9:30 p.m. — Police Memorial Day.**
- Thursday, June 16**
10 a.m. — Senior messenger
11 a.m. — Complementary health therapies: aroma therapy
11:30 a.m. — Bagels and talk with Tracy and Phil
Noon — Cash talks
12:30 p.m. — Novi talkin' history: No. VI on the trail
1 p.m. — Native American series: buffalo
2 p.m. — My vote counts
2:30 p.m. — Chi-aerobics: Lesson 11
3 p.m. — Business and residential news
3:30 p.m. — Viewpoint
4 p.m. — Driving is a privilege
4:30 p.m. — Dickerman Dance: steppin out
6 p.m. — Coffee and conversation: parenting skills
7 p.m. — Travel with Kay: Galapagos Islands
7:30 p.m. — Dollars and sense with J.R. Bob Meltzer
8 p.m. — Novi news week
8:30 p.m. — John Akouri live
9:30 p.m. — Music Box: two guitars.
- Friday, June 17**
— Request your favorite community access program to be broadcast on Friday between 3 and 9 p.m. Call MetroVision at 553-7303.

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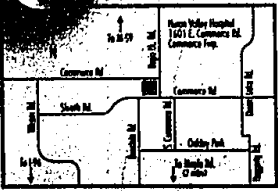
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