

# Cable TV brings local government to people

## CABLE CONNECTION



MARY LINDA CALDERONE

How often have we heard Lincoln's famous words of "The Gettysburg Address" stating government is "of the people, by the people, for the people"? If Old Abe were still alive today, I think he might have added government to be "quite accessible to the people" as well.

This "accessibility" has been derived in part, with the advent of cable television in the 1980s and franchise agreements as with MetroVision, that provides residents with a TV channel allocated to local programming.

What I would like to see our founding fathers' faces if they were to turn on the television and view the plethora of government TV programs produced in Farmington, Novi and Farmington Hills.

Government television production is coordinated by Kevin Southern for the cities of Farmington and Novi. Cindy Stewart, Novi's Public Information director, assists Southern in his efforts to Novi. The Farmington Hills Video Division is headed by David Steinmeyer. Michael Clayton is his right-hand man.

Viewers may watch live city council meetings in Farmington Hills and Novi on Monday nights. Novi residents also have access to the zoning Board of Appeals meetings (the first Tuesday of every month) and Planning Commission meetings (the first and third Wednesday of every month). Candidate nights for city council and school board are also taped. Live local election night coverage is a regularly scheduled event.

Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick and Mayor Lawrence Lichtman bring residents "Viewpoint," a bi-monthly show discussing the latest happenings in Farmington Hills. Inside Novi City Hall, a monthly series, comes to us from Novi's City Manager Edward Kriewall and Planning Director James Wahl. Farmington's City Manager Frank Lauboff and Mayor Arnold Campbell will soon be highlighting city services and departments on "Farmington Focus."

If that isn't enough to keep you informed, know your local police department inside and out by watching Police Chief William Dwyer's Farmington Hills Police Journal. Senior programming is also abundant and informative on our channel. Senior Messenger is brought to you by senior adult services supervisor Loretta Conway and specialist Maggie Lortie. Novi seniors may tune into Senior

Spotlight hosted by Dr. Ellinor Holland. Pertinent voting issues are explored in My Vote Counts, sponsored by the Farmington Hills committee to increase voter participation. Our citizenry is even connected to Lansing as SWOCC's Donnell Conway produces Lansing Connection hosted by our state representatives, Jan Dolan and Bill Bullard.

All of the above are examples of fine government programming on a local level. Let's take it a step further. What about government TV programming on a state level?

It is no lark that Lark Samoulian (a person, near and dear to all of us, our past leader and executive director of the Cable Commission for 10 years) is up in Lansing. Her mission is to be project manager of such a network. The Michigan Government Television Network (MGTV) is touted as a distance learning project. In this case, education has gone way beyond the classroom, extending into our homes and businesses, as the distribution of educational and informational programs from governmental facilities in Lansing reach

citizens throughout the state. The most fascinating part about the network is its plans to become interactive. Here we go traveling on the information superhighway. Imagine going to a public, educational or government access studio in your community and speaking directly with our policy makers in Lansing.

We'll be able to watch, learn and respond. Talk about accessibility. I think Old Abe would have been proud. What about you? Stay tuned for further details. MGTV is slated to gear up in the early fall. Lark has promised to keep us posted.

**CHANNEL 12**  
Monday, June 20

**10 a.m.**

Travels with Kay: Turkey

— 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 Melitzer

— 1 p.m.

Seniors on the move: Richard

Lyt

— 1:30 p.m.

The word of life: Bring in the

harvest

— 2 p.m.

Live and let live: Salvation

Army

— 3 p.m.

North American Indian Jour-

nal

— 4 p.m.

Medical Update: multiple scle-

roses

— 4:30 p.m.

Positively: recovery

— 5 p.m.

Cash talks: fear of flying

— 6 p.m.

Democratic close-up: Debbie

Stabenow

— 6:30 p.m.

Bagels and talk with Tracy and

Phil

— 7 p.m.

Legally speaking

— 7:30 p.m.

Chl-aerobics: Lesson 12

— 8 p.m.

Cosmic Connection: biomag-

netic therapy

— 9 p.m.

Farmington garden walk

— 9:30 p.m.

Groove session.

**Tuesday, June 21**

10 a.m. — Summit University

11 a.m. — Praise, praise, praise

11:30 a.m. — Life matters

Noon — Adventures with Pirate

Pete

12:30 p.m. — Spontaneous sen-

iors

1:30 p.m. — Defensive tactics

2 p.m. — Salon glamour and et-

iquette with Gloria: mastering

barbering

3 p.m. — Cosmic Connection:

biomagnetic therapy

4 p.m. — Community kids

4:30 p.m. — Prescription for

your health: sinusitis

5 p.m. — Crime watch

5:30 p.m. — Living with your

addictions

6 p.m. — Seniors on the move:

Richard Lyt

6:30 p.m. — Business and res-

idential news

7 p.m. — Cash talks

7:30 p.m. — Viewpoint

8 p.m. — Salon glamour and et-  
quette with Gloria: mastering  
barbering  
9 p.m. — Let's talk with Ben  
Marks  
9:30 p.m. — Paws with a cause.

**Wednesday, June 22**

10 a.m. — Capitol Report

10:30 a.m. — Madonna maga-

sine

11 a.m. — Study in scripture

11:30 — Amvets

Noon — The way the truth and

the life

12:30 p.m. — That's Italian

1 p.m. — Foster care where do

you fit in

1:50 p.m. — Farmington's past

people and places: roads

2 p.m. — Sports yesterday/to-

day: talkin' baseball

2:30 p.m. — Michigan: skydiv-

ing

3 p.m. — The great escape: sail-

ing

4 p.m. — Crisis in the modern

family: retired teachers

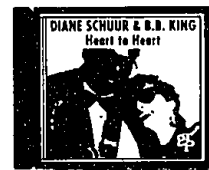
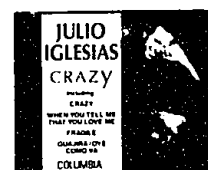
5 p.m. — Impact video

5:30 p.m. — Groove session

6 p.m. — Senior messenger

See CABLE, 24A

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