

Comparison brings MetroVision rates into focus



CAREN COLLINS

in the Metro Detroit area. And here's what we found. As you can see in the chart on Page 5A, the rates we pay fall in line

with the 78 other communities surveyed. Since most cable subscribers sign up for both basic and expanded basic service as well as a converter box and remote control, these were the regulated rates we compared. Most cable viewers also subscribe to at least one premium channel (like HBO, Showtime, etc) so we took a look at these too.

Let's look at regulated rates first. The amount the cable operator charges is based on a complicated formula set forth by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) involving nine factors including the number of channels per tier (MetroVision

has 22 channels on the basic service and 28 on expanded basic) and median household income.

MetroVision's new basic and expanded basic rate of \$22.05 (reflecting a 3 percent increase from pre-July 14 prices), falls below the highest rate in the Metro area which is Ecorse with a \$22.88 bill, but is above the lowest charge, Roseville with \$17.84.

You now pay 13 cents more per month for a basic converter box. MetroVision of Oakland County's new 71-cent fee is higher than the 51 cents MacLean Hunter charges in Garden City. But this falls well below Detroit's rate of \$2.27.

In Livingston and Washtenaw counties, Columbia Cable charges 40 cents per month for a handheld remote. On the low end of the scale, Dearborn Heights residents pay 11 cents. And with MetroVision's recent three-cent increase, we pay 21 cents.

Now, here's where we luck out. Premium channels are not regulated. In other words, cable operators are free to charge whatever the market bears for whatever they can get. But MetroVision charges a relatively low fee for HBO. Only Omnicon charges less in Romulus with a rate of \$7.57. We pay \$7.95. And pity the folks

in Grosse Pointe who must pay \$14.75 to view HBO.

Caren Collins is the executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

CHANNEL 12

Monday, Sept. 5

No programming today.

Tuesday, Sept. 6

10 a.m. — Drawing men to Christ

11 a.m. — The happiest people alive

11:30 a.m. — Money talks

Noon — Adventures with Pirate Pete

12:30 p.m. — Spontaneous seniors
1:30 p.m. — Home for life: electrical
2 p.m. — Salon glamour and etiquette with Gloria: fall trends
3 p.m. — Animal awareness
3:30 p.m. — Community kids
4 p.m. — Exotic evening: Middle Eastern dance
5 p.m. — Lansing connection
6:30 p.m. — Living with your addictions
8 p.m. — Jr. Japanese: Lesson 37
9:30 p.m. — Business and residential news

See CABLE, 6A

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NIGHT SCHOOL

ARIZONA AT GEORGIA TECH
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CHANNEL 31


MetroVision
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REDFORD 538-1918 LIVONIA 422-2810

ESPN THURSDAY NIGHT CFA FOOTBALL

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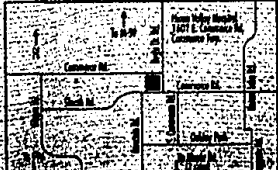
Being a smaller hospital definitely has its advantages. It allows us to spend more time with you from the moment you discover you're pregnant to the day you and your new baby leave for home.

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