Telecommunications Act a threat to local control While the act, as introduced, attempts to encourage competition, it could create an environment of unmanaged growth, and leave local government and the citizens of Michigan unprotected. Since 1008, the Michigan Constitution has granted franchising authority to cities, villages and townships to ensure local control of the streets and highway. This control prevents public utilities from unduly burdening or damaging the public rights of way. In this case, a franchise is on-



An information revolution is under way in Michigan, and its direction is in the hands of state (legislators. While potentially bright, the future of tole-communications growth could be threatened without proper provi-

OBITUARIES

DION ROY DROBIL

DION ROY DROEIL
Mr. Drobil, 25, of Wolverine,
Mich., formerly of Farmington
Hills, died Oct. 25.
Born in Livonis, Mr. Drobil
was a welder for Un 1 Pro Pipe
Fitting, He was a member of
Northern Michigan Regional Militia in the Wolf Division.
Mr. Drobil was a graduate of
Farmington High School.
Survivors include his wife,
Kendra; daughter, Rayla; parents,
Robert and Ruth Ann Drobil of
Farmington Hills; sisters, Valeric
Ann Cuffe and Audrey Reynolds.
Services were at the ThoyerRock Funeral Home, Farmington,
with the Rev. David M. France of
Transfiguration Catholic Church
efficiating.

Francis W. Misch

Mr. Misch, 90, of Bloomfield Hills died Oct. 28.

Mr. Misch, 90, of Bloomfield Hills died Oct. 28
Born in Seymour, Ind., Mr. Misch received an A.B. degree from Wabash College in Crawford Walsh College in Crawford Walsh College in Crawford Walsh College in Crawford Walsh College. He rettred in 1967 as vice president of finance and director of Chrysler Corp. He was director of National Bank of Detroit and also a trustee of Wabash College.

Mr. Misch was a member of the Detroit Golf Club and P.O.E.T.S. Survivors include his wife, Clocdiq son, Michael; daughters, Karen Vizanko of Farmington Hills and Judith Leeper, 10 grandchildren.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Wabash College, Crawfordaville, Ind.

ing.
Arrangements were made by
A.J. Desmond & Suns Funeral
Home, Vasu, Rodgers & Connell
Chapel, Royal Oak.

AUDREY P. HAMMOND

AUDREY P. HAMMOND
Mrs. Hammond, 60, of Farmington died Oct. 30 in Botsford Hoapital, Farmington Hills.
Born in Coventry, England,
Mrs. Hammond was a homemakcr. She was president of Walent
Lake Women's Club.
Survivors include her husband,
Als son, Rodney; daughters, Tricia
Ahern, Meg Zarenba and Linda
Zimanaki.
Services will be Friday at 11
a.m. at A.J. Deamond & Sons Funeral Home, 4376 N. Woodward
Ave., Royal Oak. Burjal will be in
Evergreen Cemetary, Detroit.
Memorials may be made to the
American Diabetes Association.

MILITARY NEWS

If you have military news with a Famington-area connection, send it to: Military News, Fam-ington Observer, 3441 I Grand River, Farmington 48335.

Ha's RETIRED

Army Staff Sgt. Thomas A.

Newell retired from the U.S.

Army after 17 years of military

Army after 17 years of mutary serivce.
Prior to retiring, Newell was a battalion recruiter/retention non-commissioned officer at Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
He is the son of Arlo and Iona Newell of Farmington Hills and a 1966 graduate of Farmington High School.

Have you seen Street Scene? M While the act, as introduced, attempts to encourage competition, it could create an envi-ronment of unmanaged growth, and leave . . . the citizens of Michigan unprotected,

The Michigan Telecommunica-tions Act, as passed by the Sen-ate, threatens that authority and creates an environment wherein localities have little or no control over their roads — the very roads that the citizens of this state have acquired and maintained with millions of their tax dollars. Without respect y implemented

mitions of their tax dollars.
Without properly implemented
franchises, or language allowing
local government ongoing authority
beyond just the construction

permit, local governing bodies are unable to ask utilities for compensation — compensation which helps pay the costs of digding up and repairing coalways, the cost of askey diverting traffic white construction is under way, and the expense of protecting the public once the network is in place. In this environment, taxpayer money is used to subsidize private profit—naking corporations. Local control is important for a

variety of other reasons as well.

**Utility poles in numerous areas are either at or near capacity.

With franchises in place, cities have been able to see that the limited space is in the best interest of residents and area businesses.

est of residents and ares busi-nesses.

Residents are protected from fly-by-night operations from anti-redilining and discrimination, and from unacceptable wiring configu-rations.

Franchises also protect local ju-risidictions from financial losses associated with resolving priority disputes between different users.

Franchise fees are used to pro-vide insurance coverage for con-struction accidents.

In the absence of franchises,

both the public and the local jurisdictions are left drowning in a sea of ambiguity. The Michigan Telecommunications Act passed the Scrate last week and goes to the House for approval this week. Your local government will continue to represent your rights as this issue develops.

resent your rights as this save develops.

The next Southwest Oakland Cable Commission meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at Farmington City Hall.

The next Cable Access Committee meeting is at 7 p.m. Tues-day, Nov. 14, at the SWOCC off-ice.

ice.
Caren A. Collins is the executive director for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

