

# Let's look at city cable survey, says Hills mayor

BY TODD WICKS  
STAFF WRITER

It's not really a cease-fire, just a call for more ammunition. Farmington Hills Mayor and Southwest Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) member Aldo Vagnozzi added another twist to the commission's ongoing struggle with Time-Warner cable earlier this week.

He sent a letter to the company, asking them to hold off on finalizing a new channel listing while the city performs a customer survey. Time-Warner, which serves Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, recently completed its own survey and is reportedly in

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**Aldo Vagnozzi**  
—Farmington Hills mayor

the process of tabulating results to determine which channels it will add to its basic cable package.

But Vagnozzi said that the company's survey wasn't like that at all.

"It was not a poll on channel preferences of the residents, but a general question asking if there were any changes they'd like to see in the cable operation, with the impression that they were just talking about mechanical changes," he said.

ple of weeks for the returns and then compile them," said Vagnozzi. The SWOCC has also had problems with Time-Warner's financial reports. The disagreement stemmed from a \$ 4.1 million discrepancy between its reported revenues and those calculated by an independent auditor.

"We're having a public meeting to look into whether we're getting all the financial information we're required to get," said Vagnozzi. "Our public access fee is based on their income, so we want to make sure we get the full amount due us."

Bjorkland said he wasn't aware of anything scheduled yet. "That's certainly up to them," he said. "They're trying to schedule a meeting, but we don't know what it's going to be yet. . . . We always try to have good conversations with Mayor Vagnozzi."

Vagnozzi recently threatened to not renew Time-Warner's cable franchise in Farmington and Farmington Hills unless the company is more forthcoming with the cities. "It's a matter of working out many details," he said. "I'd like some more cooperation, not only with the channels, but we get a lot of complaints about service and billing. I'd like to see a little more cooperation."

At the heart of the conflict is Univision, the Spanish-language channel. With the backing of the SWOCC, several residents have asked Time-Warner to include Univision among the channels that will be added with the local cable system's fiber optic upgrade.

However, the company repeatedly says there is not enough demand.

"Do you know how many residents were at the last SWOCC meeting? Four," said Bjorkland, who has said that Univision didn't finish in the top 10 channels of Time-Warner's Livonia survey. "Two spoke about Univision, one about rates, and one about a few things."

Bjorkland also said he had yet to receive Vagnozzi's letter.

"There's nothing secret about our efforts to put together a channel lineup," he said. "We want our channels to meet the demands of customers, and our surveys have helped us to determine those needs."

The new SWOCC survey will be mailed to customers along with the city's next newsletter. "I would imagine we'll wait a cou-

## BUSINESS MILESTONES

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves within Farmington-area connections. Send a brief biographical summary, including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired, to: Business Editor, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48336. The Observer's fax number is 1-810-477-9722.

also a chance to get holiday gift ideas for customers," said Jonathan Grant, president of The Reliance Group. No charge. Information, 478-0620.

**ERA BANKERS REALTY** has relocated to a new office at 28555 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 1133 in Farmington Hills (the Weight Watchers Building).

**STEVEN HARVEY, CPA** has been promoted to Partner with the firm of BDO Seidman, LLP. He is based out of the firm's Grand Haven and Grand Rapids Michigan offices and specializes in accounting and auditing. He is the son of William and Barbara Harvey of Farmington Hills.



Harvey

**MICHAEL McGRATH** of Farmington Hills was named president of the Commercial Highway and Aftermarket Service Group of Hayes Wheels International, Inc. McGrath joined the company in 1988 and has held a variety of sales and management positions, including vice president and general manager of the Aftermarket Group.

**RELIANCE GROUP** of Michigan hosts a "Grand Slam Event" Oct. 3, 2-7 p.m., 23920 Freeway Park Drive in the Freeway Industrial Park, Farmington Hills. The show will feature exhibits and displays from numerous suppliers of promotional and printed products. "This is an opportunity for business people to visit our facility, meet our suppliers and check out the very latest promotional products and print techniques. It is

**REITER AUTOMOTIVE NORTH AMERICA, INC.** will hold a grand opening luncheon reception Friday, Sept. 27, at 11:30 a.m., 6865 Hills Tech Drive in Farmington Hills.

**PHILIP NUSSEL** of Farmington Hills was elected second vice-chair of the Society of Professional Journalists. He is managing editor at Crain's Detroit Business.

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## YMCA from page A1

illitative and recreational programs there for special-needs residents.

Unfortunately, the pool won't make the open house tour. "Everything will be completed with the exception of the new pool, which we hope will be done by the end of October," said Skeegan. Programs in the new pool won't begin until January.

The increasingly health-minded Y is also teaming up with area hospitals to present a series of lectures: one on breast cancer awareness in January, one for overweight teens, and others involving heart attack recovery and other issues. There will also be free cholesterol exams at the open house.

But despite this seemingly breakneck schedule of events, the open house will mark the end of a long, often difficult adjust-

ment, says Kevin Bush, YMCA executive director.

"It's been nearly 11 months of construction and trying to maintain operations with constant disruption," he said.

"All the staff and our board of directors are getting very excited. This is a dream coming true after years of planning and two years of fund-raising."

Neighboring residents didn't always feel the same way during formative stages of the expansion, but Bush feels that the Y has satisfied all public demands.

"There was opposition, but we negotiated items with the residents, including establishing a landscaped berm to give them privacy, and we've complied with that. . . . I would assume that everyone is happy now."

Gary Jonna, Farmington Y Board Chairman, acknowledged the continuing concerns of Y neighbors.

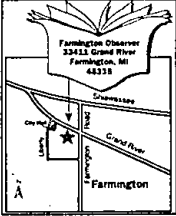
"We're working on a good faith basis to resolve them amicably," he said. "As good neighbors, we're trying to do all we can to meet their expectations."

But as Oct. 12 nears, all negativity seems gone from the Y. Administrators have focused on the family, and want all members, as well as the public, to know that they're invited.

"The biggest need here is for family recreation," said Skeegan. "We're trying to offer that opportunity here with a huge variety of programs that will appeal to families. Everybody can get something out of it."

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