

# Cable rates, channel selection increase

By LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

A holiday message to Farmington area cable TV subscribers: Pay more and see more.

Time Warner is raising its rates — again — Jan. 1. Broadcast basic and standard service rates will increase \$2.47 from \$14.37 to \$16.84 a month.

Also, addressable converters go up from \$1.75 to \$2.09 and remote controls from 18 cents to 24 cents.

Time Warner is notifying subscribers of increases in their December bills, which also calls attention to the additional channels debut Dec. 1.

City of Farmington and WBSX will be added to broadcast basic service while 15 channels join the standard service line-up.

Those include: The Golf Channel, MSNBC, Sneak Prevue, ESPN2, Turner Classic Movies, The Learning Channel, The History Channel, Bravo, Home & Garden TV, Court

TV, Black Entertainment Television, Country Music Television, GEMS, The Travel Channel, and International/Canal de Noticias.

"We're being as rate conscious as we can, but understanding the fact when you add 17 new channels to your system, those things cost money," said Bob McCann, general manager of Time Warner.

Time Warner is allowed to increase rates \$1 a month as well as for inflation and external costs, according to a social contract the company has with the Federal Communications Commission.

New programming alone is costing Time Warner \$1 more per customer, McCann said.

Cable subscriber rates are still below the maximum allowed under FCC rules, he added. Broadcast basic — the tier that includes municipal channels and TV networks — is \$1.34 below the allowable rate cable companies can charge.

"I just find it incredible," said Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission member and

Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi. "... I see them gouging the customers."

A planned increase has one Farmington Hills resident poring over the social contract between Time Warner and the FCC, though.

"I'm just trying to look out for the customers out there," said Torild Nielsen, who attended the SWOCC meeting Nov. 19 when the rate increases were announced.

The social contract is the result of an agreement that was reached before Time Warner merged with MetroVision last year, Nielsen said. Michigan is not listed and shouldn't be subjected to rate increases as a result of contract.

"That's a good question for the FCC," said Caren Collins, executive director of SWOCC.

"It was a universal agreement between Time Warner and the FCC that has impacted all Time Warner franchises."

National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors — which SWOCC is a member — has filed suit over the social contract, Collins said.

## District stages used instrument sale Dec. 3

Farmington Public Schools will conduct a used instrument sale 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, in the East Middle School Cafeteria. The school is at 2500 Middelet Road, between 10 and 11

Mile roads.

Those looking for an instrument will usually find a wide variety of instruments priced to sell.

Those wishing to sell an

instrument should arrive a few minutes early. It is suggested sellers be familiar with the instrument brand and model number as well as original cost.

Each person bringing an

instrument to sell will be assessed a \$2 fee per instrument to cover space and advertising costs. There is no admission charged for those coming to look or buy instruments.

## OBITUARIES

**DOROTHY LILLIAN COCCIMIGLIO**  
Mrs. Coccimiglio, 75, of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 17 in Botsford Continuing Care Center.

Born in Chicora, Pa., Mrs. Coccimiglio was a final inspector at Ford Motor Company.

Survivors include her daughter, Lois Harden; stepson, Raymond Coccimiglio; sisters, Gladys McCormick and Grace Damos; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mass was celebrated Nov. 21 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. The Rev. Monsignor

Walter A. Hurley officiated. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Arrangements were made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

**RICHARD J. COOK JR.**

Mr. Cook, 31, of Farmington Hills, died Nov. 20 in Providence Hospital, Southfield.

Born in Westland, Mr. Cook was a carpenter/roofer for Environmental Investment, Inc.

Survivors include his brothers, Darren, Donald and Brian; sisters, Sheila Tackett and Lori

Edmonds; fiance, Laura Sampson.

Services were at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. The Rev. Daniel Russell officiated. Burial was in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association of Michigan, P.O. Box 721129, Berkeley 48072, or Karmanos Cancer Institute, 18831 W. 12 Mile Road, Lathrup Village 48076-9806.

**SUSAN J. HUBBARD**  
Mrs. Hubbard, 66, of Franklin,

Tenn., formerly of Grosse Pointe Farms and Birmingham, died Nov. 1.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas; daughter, Linda Cole; sons, Peter Hubbard of Birmingham and John Hubbard of Farmington Hills; sister, Mary Steiner; brothers, Robert Johnston and William Johnston; eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 30 in St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham.

## POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

### THEFT

**In Farmington Hills:**  
A \$4,000 NEC laptop computer was stolen from Computware on Northwestern Nov. 8.

A \$490 Nokia portable phone was stolen from a 1967 Pontiac on Country Ride Circle Nov. 19-20.

An \$899 Panasonic Palm-corder was stolen from a house on Arden Park Nov. 18.

A \$360 clarinet was stolen from a locker at Harrison High School on 12 Mile Nov. 18.

### BREAK-INS

**In Farmington Hills:**  
A gold 1991 Acura Legend was broken into causing \$1,000 in damage at Sunshine Acura on Grand River Nov. 16-18 and a \$1,400 stereo system was stolen.

The passenger door window was shattered (\$150) on a 1993 Ford Explorer parked at the Windemere Apartments on Jefferson Nov. 19-20. A \$200 Panasonic CD player, \$180 Cobra radar detector and 48 CDs in a case (\$750) were stolen.

A 1994 Ford Jambores F350 motor home at Adair Printing on Industrial Park was broken into (\$400) and a \$400 Panasonic TV and four pillows (\$400) were stolen Nov. 19-20.

### In Farmington:

The east door of a Pine Woods Condominium residence was kicked in during a break-in sometime between 1:30-3:10 p.m. Nov. 20. It was not known what was stolen. Witnesses report seeing a brown Ford Bronco in the area at the time of incident.

### DRUGS

**In Farmington Hills:**  
Police arrested a Dearborn Heights man, 28, and a Carlton man, 41, for possession of drug paraphernalia during a traffic stop at 8:47 p.m. Nov. 19 on northbound Haggerty south of 10 Mile. Officers found cocaine and heroin paraphernalia in the blue 1974 Ford Ranchero.

Police arrested a Hills girl, 16, for possession of .35 grams of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

lia at North Farmington High School on 13 Mile Nov. 16.

### SMOKING VIOLATION

**In Farmington Hills:**  
Police ticketed three girls, 17, 17 and 14, at the Hardees restaurant on 12 Mile at 11 a.m. Nov. 18 for smoking under age.

### EMBEZZLEMENT

**In Farmington Hills:**  
Cash and checks totaling \$2,790.63 were taken from Parade of Shoes on Orchard Lake between Oct. 30 and Nov. 3.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**In Farmington Hills:**  
A Hills woman, 31, told police that her live-in boyfriend, 38, punched her in the face several times and then kicked her in the legs and abdomen while she was lying on the floor at her Section 26 residence at about 9 p.m. Nov. 18. The woman is 12 weeks pregnant.

### SECURITY INSPECTIONS

The Farmington Public Safety Department and the Farmington Hills Police Department offer free security surveys to residents. These surveys are conducted by either a police crime prevention technician or an officer, who will come directly to your house, condominium or apartment to evaluate doors, windows, locks, lighting, visibility and other security concerns. This survey takes approximately one hour and is followed by a written report with recommendations which includes diagrams and specific cost-effective instructions for securing various parts of your home.

Call the following numbers to make an appointment for this free security survey:

■ In Farmington Hills, call the Farmington Hills Crime Prevention section at 473-9640 during office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays.

■ In Farmington, call Commander Charles Lee of the Farmington Public Safety Department Special Operations section at 474-4700, ext. 250, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

## CLARIFICATION

An item under Police and Fire Calls in the Nov. 18 edition of the Farmington Observer should have said a prowling incident

took place at Kensington Manor Apartments in Farmington Nov. 4.

## Man dies from injuries suffered in crash

A Livonia man died Nov. 16 from injuries sustained in a traffic accident Nov. 14.

Howard Johnson, 89, died at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor. He had been injured when his brown 1987 Mercury Marquis struck another car as it turned south from westbound Grand River to Orchard Lake at 12:25 p.m. The light was green for the other car.

Johnson was not wearing a seat belt.

The driver of the other car, Kandance Fitzpatrick, 33, also of Livonia, was treated and released. Her daughter, 2, who was a passenger in the back seat, was not injured. Both were wearing restraints.

Farmington Hills police are not seeking charges.




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**in the 90s**  
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Marsha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

**TOOTH BLEACHING**

Not only do teeth become stained as a result of drinking coffee and smoking, but they also yellow with age. Other causes for tooth discoloration include taking mild antibiotics (such as tetracycline and erythromycin) for a long period of time. Aesthetics (tooth whitening) is caused by up water with a high fluoride content, as well as tooth discoloration due to trauma or root canal therapy. To improve the appearance of their teeth, patients may turn to the most conservative procedure available for this condition. Power Bleaching involves isolating the teeth from the gum tissue, then applying a gel containing a high concentration of hydrogen peroxide to the teeth. This is repeated for several appointments. In the past, a high-powered light was

shone on the teeth to activate the bleaching process, but that is no longer necessary with today's bleaching substances. Techniques for bleaching or whitening teeth are simple, comfortable, economical, and quite successful. Even the most subtle change in your smile can make a dramatic difference in the way you look and feel. And when you feel and look good, you project a confident self-image. At LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES, we want to make the most of your smile. Please call 478-2110 to schedule an appointment. We think you will be delighted with the treatment and counsel you receive. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road. Smiles are our business. For dentistry without fear we feature "bright sleep."

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P.S. Those with very sensitive teeth, severe antibiotic staining, or many front restorations are not good candidates for tooth bleaching. Not all pregnant women or nursing mothers.

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