Tower from page A1

gray" tower, that was dwarfed by nearby utility poles already in

gray tower, much was damile by nearby utility poles already in place.

City attorney Tom Schultz cautioned the board that the 1996 Federal Communications Act forbids using health considerations to deny a proposal. The argument, proposed by zoning board member Greg Kocab, that a perception that the towers would lower nearby property values because of health fears would likely be interpreted as "an end run" under the statute, Schultz said.

"We are forced, in addition, to use variance standards that when a city attempts to regulate wireless, it must do so in a manner that does not inhibit any particular provider," Schultz said.

He added that inhibiting the

said. He added that inhibiting the use of wireless could challenge First Amendment issues of the U.S. Constitution. Board member Mary Avery suggested the issue be postponed pending the adoption of a new ordinance regulating cellular tower location.

But chairman Neil Swiacki said that could be up to a year, especially in light of the 3 1/2 years it has taken to develop such an ordinance.

Crane agreed, saying his company needed the tower to provide its service.

"There's no end in sight," Crane said, "We were going to wait for an ordinance, but this is critical to emergency services and customers driving through. We are over capacity."

Residents from the nearby 122-unit Echo Valley Condominiums on 12 Mile said the saw the tower as a threat to property values. "We definitely feel high towers."

tower as a threat to property values.

"We definitely feel high towers depreciate the value of our property," said Rita Fox.

Don Rohrbach, a neighbor of Fox, echoed her concerns and added that an approval would lead to more towers.

"I at y extraorant his until we

"Let's postpone this until we have an ordinance and know what the ground rules are," he

you'r child to show Imprevement. Childre During February. National Childre Dental Health Month, I was a children and the chil

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BECOME A LENNOS

BLATER OHLY, DOL

Kevin Cousineau, a site devel-

cell towers near homes

At the planning commission study session, a proposed ordi-nance was set for a public hear-ing at 7:30 p.m. on March 13.

opment specialist with Air Touch, said there are already antenna sites at the Gateway office complex at 12 Mile and Farmington, the Mercy Center on 11 Mile, and near the Office Max at 14 and Orchard Lake

roads similar to the one pro-posed, all under current city Swiacki said he was prepared

Planning director Dale Countegan said the proposal would include 500-foot setbacks from residential areas and one-half-mile setbacks from schools, along with limiting the height to 100 feet on towers or 120 feet frompanies co-lecated antennas on a tower.

"The real sticking point will be that antennas, under special approval, could be located on a main road in a residential area," he said.

The public will have several chances for input on the proposal, beginning at the March 13

The city currently has 14 cel-lular towers with another 22

That provision will be inclu

to vote on this particular tower

to vote on this particular tower variance.

The variance would allow reduced parking at the hotel, a 40-foot height addition (to 80 feet) and closer setbacks for the rear and side yards.

But the board voted 5-1, with Swiacki opposed, to postpone the decision until February.

Countegan said the city is con-cerned that any ordinance not be so attractive to cellular providers that they concentrate on Farmington Hills dispropor-tionately.

Ordinance draft allows

in the proposed ordinance, he said, but will be subject to approval by the planning com-mission.

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KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Space."
"They have alternatives to Barney is on," said Barney when Barney is on," said Curtis, a Farmington Hills resi-dent. "And that's real critical to

"We miss the programming. The Golf Channel doesn't make

We miss the programma;
The Golf Channel doesn't make
it up for it."
Retired 47th District Judge
Margaret Schaeffer agrees.
She enjoyed the mysteries and
dramas as well as the channel's
Canadian viewpoint on global
issues. The Farmington Hills
resident wrote a letter to the
Farmington Observer protesting
the loss of CICO.
"I thought it was a very good
channel and equivalent to our
PBS," Scheeffer said, and in
some ways, it was better.
"I wrote my letter and I heard
from other people who read it. I
thought, 'Oh, I'm not the only
one."
Southwestern Oakland Cable

thought, 'Öh, I'm not the only one."

Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission received 25 official complaints, said Caren Collins, executive director. Time Warner fielded 58 responses.

The latter number is compared to 38,000 subscribers, a Time Warner spokesman said.

"The people who are missing CICO are a very small, but a very vocal group," McCann said. "So, if over 92 percent of the people who subscribe to our service have little interest in it, our goal is to provide a channel selection with the most popular widest array of channels available. We think we've done that.

"We certainly cannot add.

Cable from page A1 every single to everyone's partic-ular interest. There's not enough room to do that."

every single to everyone's particular interest. There's not enough room to do that."

Time Warner added several channels to its expanded basicier in December. The cable company also increased basic rates, but is offering one less basic channel.

"Their argument for raising rates was that they added channels," said Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnezzi, who also a SWOCC trustee. "That's true for the basic plus, but not with the basic service."

The Learning Channel, Bravo and History Channel should make up for the loss of educational programming with CICO's exit, McCann said.

Curtis is not sold.

"It's not the same quality stuff," she said.

Time Warner is not "turning a deaf ear" to customer complaints, McCann said. He sent a letter to Farmington Hills residents — including Vagnezi—offering to discuss the issue.

SWOCC passed a motion at its Dec. 17, requesting the channel be returned. SWOCC has a say on access channels but not others.

"As a public relations move, it would be good for Time Warner to respond to our unanimous motion in one way or another," Collins said.

Short of a mass protest, though, McCann is not holding.

Collins said.

Short of a mass protest, though, McCann is not holding out hope of bringing CICO-TV back.

"We have asked our customers



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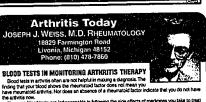
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KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk



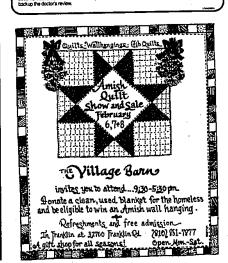
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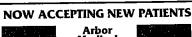
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