

Rate complaints go to FCC

Yes, the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) office has received complaints about Time Warner's Jan. 1 cable rate increase. So, what are we doing about it? The answer comes in two parts because there are different courses of action for each of the cable "tiers."

First, I will address the issue of the basic tier (channels 1-22). This is the series of channels over which SWOCC has jurisdiction — but only under the FCC's strict guidelines.

The FCC designs the forms that cable operators must complete to enact an increase; the FCC stipulates the format and questions on these forms; and the FCC determines all time lines.

Basically, all that SWOCC can do is to make sure Time Warner completed the form and did all the calculations correctly.

That's a little more complicated than it sounds, because there are numerous documents that we need to review to come to that end. Then there's the "social contract" between Time Warner and the FCC, which has an impact.

For this reason, SWOCC has hired a consultant — an expert in this field — to conduct the review and report back to the commission.

In the past, some reviews have revealed errors or miscalculations resulting in refunds to subscribers. Our consultant's findings will be reported later this year.

If Time Warner is found to be in error, a refund will be ordered to customers.

The "expanded basic tier" (channels 23-51) must be handled in another way because this is the series of channels over which the FCC has total jurisdiction. The only thing we can do is file a rate complaint — it's called an FCC Form 329.

The process is a bit different this year. In years past, subscribers could file these complaints, but not anymore. SWOCC files this form on behalf of subscribers when we receive complaints, as we have.

But the FCC requires that we first submit the form to Time Warner and give them a minimum of 30 days to file a response with us. We have done that, and the entire package was forwarded to the FCC this month.

When can we expect an answer? Typically, it takes a while for the FCC to investigate these matters.

When the FCC ruled in our favor back in 1994, it took more than a year to receive their official response. But we'll stay on top of it.

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



CAREN COLLINS

WL sets pupils' 'target goals'

If all goes according to plan, the Walled Lake Consolidated School District will soon be "On Target" toward elevating student performance.

The school board recently approved a building-by-building list of North Central Accreditation Target Goals.

William Hamilton, the district's assistant superintendent of curriculum, said the goals are identified and developed at each building by committees made up of staff and community members. Then, they are submitted as part of an annual school improvement report.

"The most important thing is that the goals are identified (at the buildings)," Hamilton said.

Once identified, it is easier to track whether the goals are being met satisfactorily or not, the administrator added.

Following are the target goals:

Commerce: Target area science; improve students' "written expression," demonstrate competency in "mental math and problem solving."

Decker: Students will demonstrate increases in reading, writing, math and science.

Dublin: Students will improve science achievement, reading skills and "their ability to perform as self-directed learners."

Glengary: Students will increase their "ability to be a responsible learner, to be respectful of others and to be a considerate citizen;" 2) utilize real-life math skills; 3) effectively communicate through writing.

Hickory Woods: Students will 1) demonstrate improved respect toward themselves and

others; 2) improve skills related to expository text; 3) improve math problem-solving skills.

Kelth: Students will 1) become effective in expository reading; 2) demonstrate and evaluate objective writing; 3) demonstrate accountability.

Loon Lake: Students will 1) increase critical thinking skills in reading; 2) improve writing ability; 3) increase ability in problem solving; 4) respect themselves and others as citizens.

Maple: Students will 1) demonstrate a respect for themselves and others; 2) improve written and oral language skills; 3) improve math problem-solving skills.

Meadow Lake: Students will 1) improve ability "to comprehend informational text;" 2) increase ability to apply scientific process; 3) improve writing throughout the curriculum.

Pleasant Lake: Students will 1) demonstrate increased knowledge and application of the scientific method; 2) improve math problem-solving through a decision-making process; 3) show increased respect toward adults, peers and property.

Twin Beach: Students will 1) in math, improve problem-solving strategies; 2) improve writing skills; 3) improve science achievement.

Walled Lake Elementary: Students will 1) demonstrate ability to work through the "Process Writing Model" and gain meaning from print; 2) improve essential math objectives in problem solving; 3) "demonstrate the social skills of courtesy, tolerance and respect when

interacting with others in the school environment."

Wixom: Students will: 1) improve ability to complete teacher-initiated tasks within allotted time and to recognize, demonstrate and evaluate quality of work; 2) show improvement in ability to read expository text; 3) demonstrate increased respect toward self, others and property.

Clifford Smart Middle: Students will: 1) demonstrate improved writing and expository reading skills; 2) improve critical thinking and problem solving skills; 3) demonstrate responsible social and personal behaviors.

Walled Lake Middle: All students will 1) demonstrate ability to apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills; 2) demonstrate ability to read, comprehend and apply information from expository text; demonstrate responsibility for themselves and others.

Community High Schools: By 1998, all students will improve: 1) ability to accept math challenges; 2) communication skills; 3) parental involvement in student progress.

Oakland Technical Center-Southwest: By the end of the current program year, students will show improvement in reading, writing and employability skills.

Central/Western high schools: Last year, they completed an NCA Outcomes Accreditation cycle, conducting a five-year school improvement plan. A new cycle began in September; committees are being established.

BUSINESS MILESTONES

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves with Farmington-area connections.

Jay K. Cummings of Farmington Hills has been appointed vice president of the Troy based office of Hylant-Maclean of

Michigan, Inc. He had been a Commercial Airlines Executive of the firm since 1989, and has over 16 years experience in the insurance industry.



CUMMINGS

OBITUARY

CECIL M. COSTIGAN
Cecil Costigan, 64, died Feb. 17.

A Northville resident formerly of Farmington Hills, Mr. Costigan was a cabinet maker.

He is survived by daughters; Elizabeth Gray of Belleville and Christina of Detroit; brother, Leonard; three grandchildren and dear friend of Anna Nix of Plymouth.

Services were held Feb. 20 at the Salvation Army.

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