

Learn from your TV

CABLE CONNECTION



MARY LINDA CALDERONE

It's summertime. School's out. Are your kids plopped in front of the TV? Well, here's some good news on how to harness TV in a positive way from "Cable in the Classroom," a public service initiative of the cable industry that provides schools with free basic cable service and commercial-free educational programming.

For the pre-school/elementary school child: Ask simple questions about the programs young children watch. It's best if you can watch with them, but if that's not possible, try to catch a few

minutes of the program. You may be surprised about how much they understand once they're asked to explain it.

Play "real or make believe?" Could an object move by itself, or could an animal talk? Can the child guess how it was done, if it couldn't happen in real life? How does he or she think the effect was done?

Let TV programs lead to other activities. Have the child draw pictures of the whales he or she saw in that nature documentary. Make up a superhero. Have the child make a list of the superhero's extraordinary powers. Act out or videotape your own "TV show."

During program breaks, ask children what they think will happen next. Compare their prediction with what does happen. Ask if they think the characters would really do

what they did. Why or why not?

Give young children easy-to-understand categories of the different things they see on TV and make a game of spotting them. For example, is TV trying to "sell" them something, "teach" them about something, or "entertain" them?

In these powerful ways, parents can actually use television actively with children to promote thinking in a creative and analytical manner. Stay tuned for next week's column; we'll be discussing this topic concerning children from the ages of middle school to high school.

Mary Linda Calderone is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

The next SWOCC meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, at SWOCC. The next CAC meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at SWOCC.



STAFF PHOTO BY DARTAN MITCHELL

Burned out: Police cordoned off the area around the Elks building after the fire.

Fire from page A1

"It gets your interest up," Marinucci said. A witness who happened to be driving on Orchard Lake said

there was a blue-colored vehicle parked in the lot earlier in the day, Hills police reports said.

Cases involving suspected arson are jointly investigated by the fire and police departments, said Chuck Nebus, Hills police commander.

"With the facts and evidence collected, we do believe at this time that it's a suspected arson case," Nebus said.

The Farmington Elks building served as meeting spots for service organizations like the Rotary and Exchange Club and site for the annual Founders Festival Ox Roast and beer tent, which became a quasi-high school reunion as former classmates would use the event to renew acquaintances.

Farmington Elks operated out of the building since 1965 and an addition was put on in 1977.

Declining membership forced the Elks to sell the building last year, said C. Lawrence Ashmore,

Farmington Elks member. The Farmington Elks meet temporarily in Livonia while waiting to build a smaller facility on 10 Mile Road, east of Orchard Lake. "We couldn't support that building any more," said Ashmore, who is also president of state Elks association.

The building was sold to Wilson Kassab in May 1996 and has been vacant for several months. The structure was going to be renovated and expanded, the new owner said.

"We wanted to open a banquet hall there," said Kassab, an Orchard Lake resident. "We wanted to enlarge the building."

"I could make everybody happy there. They need a banquet hall there."

Ashmore said he heard about the fire on the news and drove by to see the damage.

"It was kind of sad to see," Ashmore said.

Community Chorus show Aug. 14

The Farmington Community Chorus will present its performance of "Golden Sounds from the Silver Screen" at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, at Heritage Park.

The group, under the direction of Steven SeGraves, will perform selections from movies of the past, including "Paper Moon," "Stormy Weather" and "The Summer Knows." Piano and keyboard accompaniment will be provided by Susan Carr.

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