

# Chat room from page B1

store, then they also are shopping there, right? Logic was no excuse.

Christmas came and with it the ridiculously pricey (but name brand) running shoes, the insanely overpriced fragrances du jour, and the outrageously costly fleece that bore the correct company logo. I admit I lied about a couple of the smaller accessory items which were actually purchased at the megastore. That bit of news would have been the kiss of death for those articles of clothing, forever banished to the farthest corners of their closets.

After Christmas, I brought my daughter to the mall with her \$20 gift certificate for merchandise from one of the overpriced store she favors. She chose a sweat shirt from the winter clearance rack. It bore the name of the store. She had to add \$22 of her own money and stand in line for 30 minutes (no exaggeration) to buy it!

**Unworn clothing**

For all of my efforts, I was rewarded with clothes drawers full of neatly folded, never worn regular kids' clothing which eventually went to charity, some with store tags still attached. Meanwhile, the couple of designer items they bought with their own hard-earned paper route and baby-sitting money became frayed and faded from overuse.

Ever the optimist, I'm hoping this is just a teenage phase—about a long one. I realize they are still at the age when fitting in with peers is so very important. I look forward to the day when they both realize clothes don't make the man, or woman.

**Missed career calling**

My only regret is that I am not a clothing designer whose apparel appeals to young people. How wonderful to be able to sell things at incredibly overinflated prices and get free advertising on every piece of merchandise to boot.

I did buck the trend for a few years. I was very suburban. I refused to jump on the name brand clothing and accessories

bandwagon without putting up a good fight first. I got up on my soapbox and preached. I tried to get them to be reasonable and set their own fashion trends by wearing regular jeans and shirts and socks and shoes without the company logos.

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# Cable companies eye the future

Here at SWOCC, we've been working on the cable franchising process with Tigo Warner. The renewal process gives each and every one of us the opportunity to learn more about how cable can serve as a community communications tool in addition to just being a way to receive TV signals. The renewal process also allows us to give our input on cable's performance (past, present and future).



**CABLE CONNECTION**  
**KAREN COLLINS**

Earlier this month, SWOCC hosted focus group sessions at the INFO TV-12 studio. Members of the Busko Group, Dirk Koning and Rita Welsh conducted the focus groups. The Busko Group is a national consulting firm that aids cities and access operations with cable franchising.

Busko group consultant Dirk Koning, who is also executive director for the Grand Rapids

Community Media Center, informed participants that "future trends in the industry foresee cable as being a multimedia provider, to include voice, video and data."

Koning went on to say, "There are a lot of cable companies that are looking to upgrade their systems to include local and long distance telephone services as well as high speed Internet access. Cable has the potential to deliver between five and 10 megabits per second as opposed to 28.8 kilobits per second."

Because of digital integration due to fiber optic lines, some cable companies are planning to integrate TV and the Internet. So, while you're watching "NYPD Blue" on one part of the screen, you would be able to research information on the Web site or participate in a chat group about the program on the other part of the TV screen.

Progressive communities and cable companies also are looking for ways to share new services with residents for social applications as well. Communities that have an Institutional Network (I-Net) allow schools, nonprofit organizations and governments

to do shared programming with voice, video and data over a separate cable connection.

For example, all fire stations in Grand Rapids have I-Net. This means closed circuit video training can occur simultaneously to all stations. This saves costs in transporting firefighters to one place for training as well as added safety benefits because they remain close to their fire trucks.

In the Farmington Public School System, I-Net allows Japanese and German language classes to be held in one location with students from all three high school participating via closed circuit TV. Equity in curriculum and time saved in transportation of the children make this a worthwhile venture.

There are some schools throughout the country that even run homework hotlines on their educational access channels. Teachers are in the studio receiving phone calls from students at home. They give advice on an area to get the information. Sometimes, the Web sites are brought up "live" on the channel for students who don't have access to a computer.

With major advances in technology, the possibilities are endless. We thank those who participated in these focus groups because we need your input as to how best to serve your needs.

Remember, too, that the new franchise agreement will extend into the next century. This is the time to express your concerns and comments. Let us know what's important to you regarding your current cable service and potential future services. We urge you to attend the SWOCC public hearing at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, at Novi City Hall.

You can also always call, write or e-mail us at SWOCC. The phone number is (248) 478-7266. Our address is 24021 Research Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Our e-mail address is collins@ci.farmington-hillsmi.us.

*Karen Collins is the executive director for Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission. SWOCC public hearing is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, at Novi City Hall. The next CAC meeting is 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, at Novi City Hall. The next SWOCC meeting is at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Novi City Hall.*

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# Vintage from page B1

Mile Road from his parents. Between 1854 and 1858, when he married Adeline Smith of Novi, he built a house on the property. That house is now part of the Farmington Hills Historic District.

**Family history**

Addis and Adeline Green had five children. Addis continued to be active in school affairs in Fractional District No. 2.

His parents before him had sold some of the land from the farm he later purchased to the school district where a school house was built in 1847. By 1873, the building was upgraded and enlarged and because it was on the Green farm it was called the Green School.

Calvin Green, the eldest of the

Green children, became the next owner of the farm. Calvin Green married Mary Ann McKay.

At the turn of the century, Farmington was mostly an agricultural community. The Walled Lake Schools had a wonderful agricultural program. Since the small districts could choose where they wanted to belong at that time, the Green School District became part of the Walled Lake Schools so that their youngsters could be part of the agricultural program.

Over the years, the Green School was used part of the time and not used as a school other times. Eventually, it was no longer used as a school and became part of the Green farm again.

Harold See of Florida, Calvin

Green's grandson, lived in Royal Oak as a youngster, but spent the summers on his grandfather's farm. He remembers lots of details about the farm.

**Orchards and cows**

The farm was one-third orchards, he explained in a telephone interview recently. The rest was devoted to milk cows. They also grew hay, corn and oats and raised a few wood lot.

The farm was sold in 1929 to be used as a cemetery but because of the Great Depression, the farm was returned to the family, who paid back taxes and got their land back.

Harold See explained that his grandfather built a second half to the home, making it a two-family home.

The levels weren't exactly even, See said.

When electricity finally came through they only had one light hanging from the ceiling in each room. The family gathered around that light if they wanted to read. This replaced the kerosene lamps that had previously illuminated the farmhouse. Now, of course, they had light switches and more wiring, he

explained.

**New owners**

Eventually, Harold and Cathy See moved to the little schoolhouse on the Green farm. There they raised their family of six children. Harold See said that he added onto the one-room school on both ends.

Melony French of Holly is Harold See's daughter. She grew up in the Green School. There were five girls and one boy. She is now researching her family.

The late Mary Green wrote about the Green family and about the Green School. She started out writing for the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Melony French wants to extend the family history.

Meanwhile, her cousin, Ronald Wik, is restoring the Addis. Emmet Green house built by his great-grandfather.

The schoolhouse is owned by John and Faye Thomas, who are not related to the Green family.

Ruth Mochlman is a local historian who lives in Farmington Hills.

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# Suspenseful play debuts

"Veronica's Room," a chilling story of deception and false identity, opens Jan. 21 and continues through Jan. 31 in the Studio Theatre at Wayne State University. The play, written by Ira Levin, explores the dark side of human compulsion.

Directed by Marijann Levering, the play is about a young woman who agrees to help an elderly couple bring peace to a dying friend and soon discovers that things aren't what they appear to be. The people who asked for her help are now after

her soul. She begins to question her sanity. Is she caught in a sadistic plot to drive her insane, or is she really Veronica, living in 1936, desperately seeking solace from her frightening past? All of these questions are answered as the play unfolds into a dramatic conclusion.

The Studio Theatre is in the lower level of the Hilberly Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave. on WSU's campus. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for students, seniors.

For more information, call the box office at (313) 577-2972.

*Mary Rodrigue is the Community Life editor of the Farmington Observer.*

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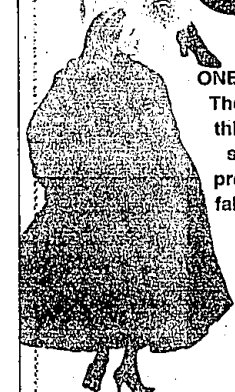
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