

Boyer from page A1

Youth and Family Services and its decentralized teen after-school program will move under the Special Services banner during the next year.

"Not one thing I've thrown at him he hasn't already been familiar with as far," now-City Manager Brock said. "I know he's the right person for the job."

The job of catering to a multifaceted community's needs and wants is tough, the city manager said.

"It's not like a police or fire department where there is almost a single focus," Brock said. "In the Special Services Department, the diversity of offerings is extreme. Yet he's dealt with most of those things already."

Boyer's appears to be well-schooled in what 80,000 residents expect out of Special Services. They want leisure time activities scripted to their hectic lifestyles, he said.

"There's a lot of different issues. I don't know if it is political as much as it is listening to the different needs," Boyer said.

He's attuned to trends, which lately includes increased demands for in-line hockey and

skating as well as co-recreational sports. Boyer is investigating the possibility of computer registration for programs and activities.

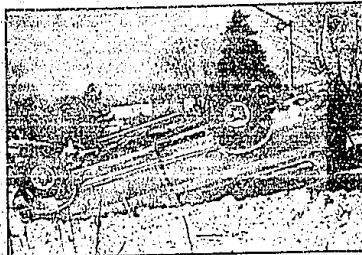
He's aware of the need to have open spaces and natural settings. With Woodland Hills and Heritage parks, the city has two of best natural sites in area.

Farmington Hills Ice Arena will have dry-floor activities this summer. Popular events such as the circus and fireworks show also return.

"You're going to see the family-type activities," Boyer said. "Computers are supposed to make one's life easier, but we don't see that."

"Our family time is pretty special and you want to make sure there are enough quality activities available."

Highway rollover



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL LEXLEY

Slippery turn: The driver of a pick-up escaped uninjured after rolling over on I-696 Tuesday afternoon.

Cable from page A1

The public hearing will be broadcast live over governmental access Channel 13 in all cities.

hand, Young said. Under the federal cable act, explained Collins, operators can't be fired by city councils unless it is demonstrated that one of several main criteria is not met. Those include that the cable operator does not: comply

with the current contract; meet community needs; have the financial wherewithal to provide adequate service in the future.

Before a renewal can be finalized, all three city councils must give their blessings to the agreement, Collins said. Councils could receive a renewal proposal request from SWOCC as early as February.

The public hearing will be broadcast live over governmental access Channel 13 "in all cities," Young said. It likely will be reshown by the cities on their individual channels; but that decision is "up to them," she added.

Input from the hearing likely will be delved into at SWOCC's subsequent regular meeting, slated for Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Young added that a special joint meeting between SWOCC and the Cable Access Committee (an advisory panel made up of

council-appointed volunteers from the three cities) has been moved from Jan. 19 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20.

For more information about the Jan. 12 public hearing, call SWOCC at (248) 473-7266.

Another way to be heard

For those who can't attend Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission's public hearing about cable operator Time Warner at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, there is another way to be heard.

From 6-8 p.m. today, Jan. 7, testimonies and questions about the performance of Time Warner, and future cable

needs, will be taped at SWOCC's studios in Farmington Hills. Those will be aired during next week's hearing, said SWOCC Executive Director Karen Collins.

The studio is located in the Freeway Industrial Park, at 24021 Research Drive. Enter Research Drive off of 10 Mile Road, near the Holiday Inn.

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