Cable from page A1

We're disappointed discussions haven't continued, said Tom Bjorklund, Time Warner regional vice president, Bjorklund time discussions when the continued the Hills council meeting Monday, "We've expressed a willingness to sit down with them and that hasn't happened."

Cities like Farmington and Farmington Hills fave little leverage in renegotiating such contracts, SWOCC officials soid. Federal Communication Commission requires that existing cable providers have first priority in the renewal process.

FCC rules put the burden on cities to prove the cable provider hasn't met criteria set out in the 1996 Cable Act.

A denial will result in an administrative hearing, similar to a court proceeding. That could be costly and time-consuming, SWOCC officials said.

Cable operators can appeal denials in court. Few cities and cable companies have reached that point, said Carne Colling, SWOCC executive director.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a Sturgis, Ky, decision not to renew its cable franchise agreement.

In its request for a proposal, SWICIC is asking for a Stuff SWICIC is asking for a SwICIC is as

E'l didn't think we were asking for the moon.'

-Hills council woman
for Novi and Farmington public school districts and the
cities. Much of the equipment
provided in the initial 15-year
agreement is obsolete,
SWOCC officials said.

In addition to Internet
access, SWOCC is asking for
fiber optic I-Net capabilities.
The request calls up to nine
access channels. Clarenceville
and Walled Lake school districts want their access programs cablecast in Farmington Hills.

"I didn't think we were asking for the moon, "Hill Councilwoman Jody Soronen said
during a study session.

Time Warmer reaps considerable profit here, SWOC
officials said.

In the three cities, Time
Warner has 38,000 subscribers, which is 75 percent
of the households. The industry average is 65 percent.
Areas in Novi are still experiencing growth.

"Lean't imagine who wouldn't want to be in Farmington,
Farmington Hills or Novi,"
Donohue said. "The market is
here."

Walled Lake Schools to host parenting fair March 26-27

When Sara Klettke was in sixth grade, she bet her father \$500 she could go without watching television an entire year.

She you that het and bought a trampoline, but more importantly, Sara, now a college student, won a lifetime of freedom from television.

"She's not a TV, watcher at all," said Bill's Klettke, her father.

Klettke, a counselor at Dublin Elementary, school in the Walled Lake School District, is one of several speakers who plan to share parenting techniques in the 1999 Walled Lake Schools Parenting Education Fair March 28-27.

Klettke hopes his topic, "alternatives to

Martin 28-27.

Eletthe hopes his topic, "alternatives to television," will inspire parents to turn off the clicker and turn on activities for their children:

the clicker and turn on activities for their children:

"Kids are not experiencing," Klettko said.

"They're doing so much passive learning."

Klettke believes at some time parents began using television as a haby sitter and a focal point of their living room, turning the furniture to face the TV. Dinner time has even been invaded, with parents and children opting to watch TV instead of listening to each other.

"Add to that Nintendo and ... we've got kids that don't get outside in the summertime oven," Klettke said.

One mistake Klettke said parents make is taking away the television as a punishment. Then, he said, children associate television with a reward.

with a reward.

Klettke said television watching is similar to smoking cigarettes — it's important to keep children away from it in their younger

years to prevent an addiction leten in life, on the read of the re

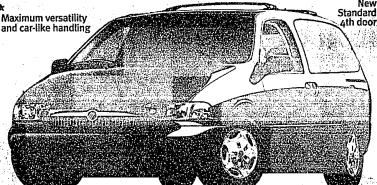
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