

Time Warner response is available for you to review

Time Warner has responded to the Request for Renewal Proposal that SWOCC issued in February. They were required to indicate how the company would meet the cable-related needs and interests of Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills. The document is available for you to view at the SWOCC office, the

CABLE CONNECTION



CAREN COLLINS

downtown Farmington Library, the Farmington Hills Library located on 12 Mile and the Novi Library. You are welcome to provide comments to SWOCC in writing: 24021 Research Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48033; via e-mail: collins@farmingtonhills.mi.us or by phone: (248) 473-7266, Ext. 11. SWOCC will review the document and make a recommendation to city councils by August, to either renew the cable franchise or preliminarily deny the renewal.

Reasonable rates

This month, the FCC Cable

This month, the FCC Cable Services Bureau found Time Warner's rate increase of Jan. 1, 1999, to be reasonable.

Services Bureau found Time Warner's rate increase of Jan. 1, 1999, to be reasonable. You may recall that rates increased \$1.42. SWOCC received numerous complaints that enabled us to file a complaint with the FCC. However, it denied SWOCC's complaint and the rates stand. Broadcast Basic service (Channels 1-22) is \$10.60 and the expanded basic tier (all other channels except

pay services) runs \$10.94. For the majority of subscribers who take both services, this comes to a monthly fee of \$30.44.

Beware

Recently, residents received fliers in the mail advertising a new "Cable" service. Beware! It's not cable! That means you can't get the local channels (2, 4, 7, 8, 20, 50, 56, 62) and you can't get

the local access channels (public, educational, and governmental) on this service. It also means that you have to purchase or lease a satellite dish. A cable company must negotiate a franchise agreement with the cities in order to use the public rights of way to provide this service. So, the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission has no jurisdiction over these other services that may call themselves cable, but really are not. Even though the mailer screams: "Lower Cable Cost," SWOCC does not endorse this alternative, nor can we guarantee the costs they claim. In the meantime, SWOCC is continuing to investigate the possibility of competitive cable service in our communities. Competition is rare across the country, and the only competitive provider in the metro Detroit area is Ameritech with the Ameritech service.

Access is free

You can produce programs, participate in television produc-

tion, be on TV and watch community access free. Beware of groups or organizations soliciting money for these purposes. The cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi dedicate 2 percent of their franchise fees to fund public access studios, staff and other amenities. As a condition of our current contract with Time Warner, the company also provides a studio and staff for this purpose. It's all free to you. You can take advantage of it by stopping by SWOCC to see how you can get involved, attending a Monthly Access Forum, or sign up for our orientation workshop, which is also free and there's no obligation beyond that, if you so choose. Call (248) 473-7266 to sign up for an orientation.

Caren Collins is the executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission. The next SWOCC meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, at Farmington Hills City Hall. The next CAC meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, at SWOCC. The next Access Forum is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, at SWOCC.

Oakland Community College: Get Anywhere

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- Five convenient campus locations: Auburn Hills, Highland Lakes, Orchard Ridge, Royal Oak, Southfield
- No charge to apply
- Affordable tuition - \$47 per credit hour for district residents
- Small classes, personal attention
- University Transfer Programs in Liberal Arts, Science & Business
- Nearly 100 Certificate & Degree programs in high demand professions
- Thousands of classes from which to choose

Final Registration
May 6 & 7
In person or by phone
See official course schedule for further details
Classes begin Monday, May 10

For information call (248) 540-1549

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

North Farmington grads return with musical performance

Four musicians from North Farmington High School will be returning to the area Friday, April 30, when the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College hosts the Robert Hohner Percussion Ensemble of Central Michigan University.

The ensemble, which will soon release its seventh CD, has performed in Orchestra Hall in Detroit, Carnegie Hall in New York and with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. It has also performed annually at a number of jazz festivals, including the Montreux-Detroit Festival.

The graduates from North Farmington High are:

■ Mike Hovnanian, a 1992 graduate, who has completed undergraduate work in music education at CMU and continues graduate work at Michigan State

OCC

University.

■ John Gage, class of 1993, who has completed undergraduate work in music education and percussion performance and teaches in the Mt. Pleasant area.

■ Dave Altwerger, class of 1995, who is continuing undergraduate studies in music performance and percussion.

■ Becci Szafanski, a 1997 graduate who is studying music education.

The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Smith Theater at OCC. General admission tickets are \$10, while tickets for seniors and students are \$6. Information is available at 471-7667.

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*7.50% APR based on 80% or less loan-to-value (LTV) and new loans of \$50,000 or more. This rate includes a 1/4% discount for automatic payment deduction from a Michigan National deposit account. Otherwise the rate would be 7.75% APR. The APR on loans less than \$50,000 with 80% or less LTV is 8.15% for loan amounts between \$15,000-\$49,999 and 9.50% for loan amounts between \$50,000-\$149,999. The APR on loans with an LTV greater than 80% is as low as 8.75% for loan amounts \$50,000 or greater, as low as 9.15% for loan amounts between \$15,000-\$49,999, and as low as 10.50% for loan amounts between \$50,000-\$149,999. Rates are subject to change without notice. Applications must be received by June 28, 1999.

Head Start taking enrollments from residents for program

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency's Head Start program is taking enrollment from Oakland County residents for the 1999-2000 school year.

The program is free and made available to low-income families with children between the ages of 3-5. Head Start provides activities. At least 10 percent of enrollment is reserved for children with disabilities. Classes will begin in early September.

OLHSA's Head Start serves children and their families in 18 communities throughout Oakland County. The communities served include Berkley, Brandon, Farmington, Ferndale,

Hazel Park, Holly, Huron Valley, Lake Orion, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Oxford, Pontiac, Rochester, Royal Oak, Troy, Walled Lake, Waterford and West Bloomfield.

The program provides participants with the foundations for productive and successful lives. The half-day classroom sessions last from September to June and offer a unique opportunity for parent/child interaction.

The program provides children with medical and dental exams and follow up treatments. A hot meal and snack is served daily. For enrollment information, call (248) 209-2700.

The City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Department presents

Ice Company of 1999 May 12-16

A spectacular ice show featuring 120 of the best amateur and professional skaters from the Midwest and Canada!

Southfield Sports Arena

26000 Evergreen Road (Just south of I-696)

7:30 pm* Wednesday, May 12 - Special Benefit Performance
7:30 pm* Thursday, May 13 & Friday, May 14
1:30 pm & 7:30 pm* Saturday, May 15
1:30 pm* & 5:30 pm* Sunday, May 16

* See professional figure skating champions Mikhail Pavlin and Irina Grigorian perform with the Ice Company cast.

TICKETS: \$9.50 - \$8.50

Tickets for the benefit performance on Wednesday, May 12 are \$10

For tickets or information:
Southfield Sports Arena, (248) 354-9357