

# Make the most out of video camera, learn to use it

Since August is the most popular vacation month there is still plenty of time to get your camcorder out and capture some summer memories. Even if you haven't taken the camera out of the box yet, you can still learn how to operate it and create interesting videos. Read the owner's manual, but remember that it only tells you how to use the camera's controls, not how to make good videos. Read on for some simple tips that will help you create some great summer memories your family can enjoy for years to come.

The most important thing to learn about your video camera is how to use the focus controls. Most consumer camcorders have automatic focus, which means the camera will automatically focus on the object closest to it. This is not always a good thing, especially if there is something else between you and your subject, like a sign, or even another person. When using automatic focus, it is important to maintain an unobstructed line of sight

between you and your subject. Of course, the best way to get the most out of automatic focus problems is to use the manual focus as much as possible because you have control over it at all times. Using manual focus also eliminates the "whirring" sound from your video. If you do not have manual focus controls on your camera, maintaining an unobstructed line of sight is very important.

If you have ever watched a video shot by someone with a new camcorder, you have probably been subjected to the overactive zoom. Don't zoom your viewers to see your speakers, maintaining a quiet voice. The quieter your voice is, the more sensitive the microphone will be. It will also be more likely to pick up any sound you make. If you are closer to the microphone than your speaker, any sound you make will be the most evi-

source of constant stimuli. This type of video is easier and more enjoyable to watch. The trick to creating interesting video is to show your viewers something they don't see for themselves. Shoot your subjects from different angles: from below, above or from the side. The next time you take your kids to the park, shoot your toddler's first ride on a swing from the ground for an interesting view.

While shooting an event, don't forget to start recording at least ten to fifteen seconds before the event is supposed to begin, so you don't cut off the beginning of the speaker or event. Your camera needs that much time to "get up to speed."

Audio can make or break your video. Make sure you are as close as possible to your speaker or audio source. Keep quiet. The quieter your voice is, the more sensitive the microphone will be. It will also be more likely to pick up any sound you make. If you are closer to the microphone than your speaker, any sound you make will be the most evi-

**Don't zoom your viewers to death! Save your viewers from this fate by vowing never to zoom while the camera is recording.**

dent-so no coughing or sneezing! Keep the camera quiet too. If you are shooting in near silence, shut off as many automatic features, like auto focus and auto iris, as possible. If you don't, the sounds of the motors whirring may appear on your tape.

Avoid shooting in the wind whenever possible. If you must shoot in a windy area, use a windscreen for your microphone, or use a building to block the sound of the wind.

It is important to remember that our brains have internal audio filters that allow us to block out environmental sounds within a few minutes. If you live near an expressway or an air-

port, you may not hear the sound of the traffic or airplanes because you are used to them. Listen to sounds around you when shooting. Just because you don't hear the cars from the road 30 feet away, does not mean that your camera won't pick them up. As you can see, allowing interesting video is easy. All you need is a camcorder and imagination. Remember, anything you shoot can be shown on INFO TV-12. You must meet our residency requirements and fill out a few forms, but you don't have to be certified in our classes. Keep this in mind the next time you shoot your son's football game, preschooler's graduation or your own exotic vacation. Other members of the community would probably love to see it. Want more information? Call Time Warner at (248) 553-7200 and ask for the Production Department.

Melanie Young is the Community Relations Specialist for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission. The next SWOCC Meeting is at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 10 at the Farmington City Hall. The next CAC Meeting is at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 14 at SWOCC. The next Access Forum is at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 7 at SWOCC.



MELANIE YOUNG

**Arthritis Today**  
 JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY  
 18825 Farmington Road  
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**WHEN BOTH KNEES HURT**

If it is unclear for both knees to go bad at the same time. When you come to your doctor with the problem of hurting in both knees, he may need the problem otherwise. He will look for a good knee and a not so good one.

What happens is that you develop a limp in which you take a quick step on the bad knee and a longer step on the good knee. Over time that change in walking causes strain in the good leg, and eventually brings pain to it. For you there are now two bad knees.

Your doctor has several ways of determining which or both knees are injured. Your history is important as to which knee hurt first. The only way you can identify the worst of the pain. Knees are held in particular bits taken as they are standing and when your knees in the standing and flexed position. These x-rays place maximum stress on the knee joints and bring out loss of alignment and irregularities of the part appear indicative of loss of cartilage.

If the evaluation reveals that one knee is worse than the other, your physician may undertake a large knee arthroscopy on the good knee. Clear knee that create in walking causes strain in the good leg, and eventually brings pain to it. For you there are now two bad knees.

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**MARKETPLACE**

**Items for Business Marketplace** are welcome from all companies and residents active in the Observer-area business community. Items should be typed or legibly written and sent to: Business Marketplace, c/o The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48152, e-mail kmortson@oe.hometown.com or faxed to (734) 591-7279.

phone.

**New unit**

In a strategic move to expand its product offering, Freudenberg-NOK of Plymouth has created a new organization, the Valve Business Unit -- to design and produce a wide range of valve products for the North American market -- and has appointed J. Jeffrey Hildebrand as director of the new unit.

**Cost-saving measure**

The Detroit Medical Center (DMC), Detroit's second largest employer, today signed a \$1 billion information services contract with

Farmington Hills-based Compuware Corporation. The 10-year contract is one of the largest health care information services contracts in the nation. The contract is also designed to "create a long-term alliance and partnership between the DMC and Compuware, focusing on technological performance, economics and future growth for both organizations." Porter estimated the administrative cost savings at \$90 million over a 10-year period.

**BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS**

**Items for Business Newsmakers** are from business and companies throughout the Observer area. Items should be submitted re welcome to Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48152, e-mail kmortson@oe.hometown.com or fax (734) 591-7279.

**IQS expands**

**Innovative Quality Systems** of Livonia has begun construction on the state of the art training and meeting center located at their headquarters. IQS, a training and consulting firm, expects to begin providing customized training classes in their facilities later this summer. The new facility will include a 2,000 square foot training suite with conference room, study lobby, cafeteria and restrooms.

**New rep**

Robert Moore of Livonia has joined Superior Coffee as route sales representative. Superior Coffee produces coffee for the out-of-home/food service industry.

**Sims awarded**

Lillis Sims has just been named Meeting Partner of the Year by the Professional Speakers Association of Michigan. Sims, assistant to the Executive Director of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority in Livonia, was chosen because of her "extraordinary communication, collaboration and implementation skills."

**Resident honored**

Jeffrey Long of Westland was recently honored at a national sales and education conference sponsored by Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL). Long qualified through excellence in sales and service to AAL members. The Westland resident is an associate of the Park Jarrett Agency of AAL, Livonia, and serves Lutherans and their family members in Canton, Dearborn, Inkster, Livonia, Redford and Westland.

**Innovative award**

The Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) named Jim Charvillat of Livonia of Follmer, Budzewicz & Co., P.C., the winner of its highly esteemed Innovative User of Technology Award for 1999. The award recognizes the achievements of CPAs as premier providers of "business solutions through technology." Charvillat is an account executive in the Computer Information Services Division of FRC.

**Free delivery**

Livonia/Northville based Susan B. Ashlee Co., is now offering free local delivery on gift and party baskets or orders over \$50. Visit their new Web site this fall at <http://www.susanashlee.com>. They service individuals and offer incentives for corporate or business accounts and personalized services for seniors and handicapped persons. Call (734) 420-8100.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON Orthodontics**  
 by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

If spring is a time for new beginnings, a clean, healthy smile is a good time to take stock of our child's health and well-being.

The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that every child visit an orthodontist by age 7 or earlier if an orthodontic problem is detected by parents, the dentist, or the child's physician. An early examination allows us to determine when a particular problem should be treated for maximum improvement, with the least time and expense. To schedule a free initial consultation, call THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP, 19223 Merriman (482-8885). Payment plans and forms are available.

**THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP**  
 19223 Merriman • Livonia • (248) 442-8885

**in the 90s**  
 by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

**SOMETHING TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO**

People aged 65 years and older are more likely to have retained their own teeth than either their parents or grandparents did at their age. Thanks to better dental care, fluoridation of water, and better nutrition among other things, the rate of edentulous (toothless) among older individuals has been declining in this country. However, the rate of toothlessness are revealed and nationwide, older people who never finished high school are more likely to have lost their teeth than college-educated individuals, perhaps due to lower income and inadequate dental care. In any case, edentulous should not be viewed as a necessary part of aging.

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P.S. Population surveys can be expected to last 10 to 15 years.

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