

# Local cable commission looks out for citizen rights

So many services come into your home through wires, pipes and cables that run through the communities' rights of way. So it's important that your local government maintain these properly.

The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) announced a plan to educate state lawmakers across the country about local rights of way. Many state laws in recent years have limited local authority over rights of way, restricted the collection of fees for the use of rights of way and eliminated the ability of local governments to

operate their own telecommunications networks.

NATOA announced four principles that will be sent to state legislators. These principles are: 1. Cities have a duty and obligation to bear the costs of acquiring and maintaining public rights of way. 2. Commercial use of public property for private profit requires equitable, fair and reasonable compensation. 3. Both public and private entities have roles to play in the delivery of advanced telecommunications services to all Americans. 4. Federal, state and local governments each have roles in ensuring that the goals of the 1996 Telecommunications Act are achieved and each must respect the authority of the others.

Here, at the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC), the agency that administers the city's contract with Time Warner Cable and any other operator who may wish to come into our communities, we are supportive of



**KAREN COLLINS**  
CABLE CONNECTION

NATOA's stance of this matter. It is our feeling that growth in the public rights of way must be managed carefully and retaining local jurisdiction over how rights of way in our cities are used is of utmost importance.

It just so happens that our state lawmakers thought this was vital too, because in 1908, an amendment to the Michigan Constitution granted franchising authority over use of public rights of way to local jurisdictions. Our current state constitution continues to recognize and uphold this authority.

This measure was enacted to protect citizens. Simply stated,

a franchise is protection. Franchises are designed to manage growth. This is necessary because many utility poles are already at or near capacity. Franchises also protect citizens from fly-by-night operations and unacceptable wiring configurations.

More importantly, franchises protect local jurisdictions and their residents from enormous financial losses associated with the costs of digging up and repairing roadways, damage to existing utilities, the safe diversion of traffic at a construction site and the resolution of priority disputes between different users.

And, while fees associated with franchises may be passed on to the end user, these fees are minimal in comparison with the cost of reacting to the many problems encountered in an environment of unmanaged growth. The bottom line is that we simply cannot expect taxpayers to subsidize the use of public rights of way by private, profit-making corporations.

*Karen Collins is the executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.*

The next SWOCC meeting is at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, at Farmington City Hall.

## POLICE AND FIRE NEWS

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

### AUTO THEFT

**In Farmington Hills:** Someone stole a 1994 Ford Econoline van from a Colgate Street driveway the night of Nov. 8-9. Police later found the van on the Jeffries Freeway and West Warren in Detroit. Police had a suspect in custody.

### BURGLARY

**In Farmington Hills:** A thief pried open a door and stole an AMFM stereo, TV/VCR and a digital watch from a doctor's office in the Wright Watchers Building on Orchard Lake between Nov. 8-9.

### BREAK-INS

**In Farmington Hills:** Thieves broke into five vehicles parked at Bill Cook Buick on Grand River between Nov. 6-9. The perpetrators pried open the car doors and stole the in-dash stereos.

Someone broke the driver's window and stole a laptop computer from a 1997 Pontiac Bonneville parked at Powerhouse Gym on Halsted Nov. 11.

### THEFTS

**In Farmington Hills:** Someone stole two bowling balls, a bag and a pair of bowling shoes from a truck parked on Greening the night of Nov. 8-9.

A thief stole a Kenwood stereo, hammer drill and cordless drill from a 1990 GMC van parked on Farmington Road the night of

Nov. 8-9.

Someone stole a \$2,600 Gateway laptop computer from Source One on Farmington Road between Oct. 26 and Nov. 6.

A small safe that contained birth certificates, marriage license and five U.S. Savings Bonds worth \$500 was stolen from a Citation Club Apartment residence Nov. 6.

### EMBEZZLEMENT

**In Farmington Hills:** A manager at Ram's Horn reported \$500 missing from the previous night's receipts and told

police a colleague said he took the money to pay a debt Nov. 8. The colleague was told to bring the money back, but he didn't show up for work the next day.

### BOAT STOLEN

**In Farmington Hills:** Someone managed to float off with a boat and a trailer in the back yard of a Folsom Street residence Nov. 9.

### MARIJUANA ARRESTS

**In Farmington Hills:** Police ticketed a Warren man, 29, after finding 3.2 grams of marijuana under the front seat

of the 1988 Ford Ranger he was driving on Grand River Nov. 10. Police stopped the truck after it had only one headlight working.

Police ticketed a Detroit man, 35, after finding three plastic

bags of marijuana and rolling papers in the 1985 Chevy he was driving on Northwestern and 14 Mile Nov. 11.

### Arthritis Today

**JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY**  
18829 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (248) 478-7860

### THE KNEE CAP AND ITS DISORDERS

The knee cap, called the patella in anatomy, acts to give leverage to the quadriceps muscle of the front of the leg. The knee cap by raising the common tendon of the quadriceps, provides added force to the muscle contraction in leg extension.

The back of the knee cap consists of a cartilage that slides over similar cartilage at the lower part of the femur. However, injury to the knee cap at its cartilage surface results in pain to the knee, a condition called patello-femoral arthritis.

If you have this type of arthritis you may note a buzz or electric feeling come from the joint, a vibration that occurs when you bend the knee or push down on the knee cap. It occurs because the knee cap is no longer sliding over the cartilage of the femur, instead, the bony under side of the knee cap is rubbing against the anterior bony surface of the femur. The result is friction called arthralgia.

Treatment for patello-femoral arthritis starts like that for other arthritis of the knee. Your doctor will likely begin with a non-steroidal drug, and possibly inject the knee to relieve acute pain. He may send you to physical therapy to evaluate how the knee cap tracks up and down on the femur, looking for the therapist to undertake key exercises & misalignment tests. If these measures fail, then arthroscopy to smooth the back of the knee and knee cap is in order, as this procedure has a high rate of success.



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