Cable group meets Thursday on contract

The cable commission invites you to attend an information ses-sion about the cable franchise renewal on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. at SWOCC, 24021 Research Drive, Farmington Hills.

Hills.
After three years of negotia-tions, there is a new cable con-

tract between the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi and Time Warner Cable.
You probably didn't even notice that there wasn't a contract since 1997 (when the last one expired). And the transition to a new contract will also be seamless.
However, the new agreement



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Under It All

Wrap It Up

has opened the door for Time Warner Cable to offer two-way services. Customers are already receiving notices for digital and high-speed cable modems which the company will begin offering after Jan. 1. You'll also notice a few changes when you tune in to your access channels. Sometime soon, the educational channels will be received to allew you to soon, the educational channels will be realigned to allow you to view your school system 24 hours a day on a designated channel (Farmington and Novi achool districts on channel 10; Walled Lake, Clarenceville and Northville schools on channel 20). We'll let you know when you'll see that change. All other programs will remain the same: City of Farmington Hills, channel 8, City of Novi, channel 13 and City of Farmington on channel 15.

You'll still be able to see public access programming on INFO TV-12. And soon, we will be able to purchase seme new equipment (with funding from the cable operator as a provision of this contract) so you'll have a better picture. Time Warner Cable will also improve the link from each of these access channels so you'll see better quality there, too.

Novi resi-dents in partic-ular will be ular will be happy to see that there is a provision for greater system coverage with mandatory installation to all residential



all residential actions where 20 dewellings exist per linear mile. In the previous contract, the density requirements allowed for 30 homes per mile. The new contract also has mandatory extension language for business areas with at least 15 subscriber units per mile. There's also level playing field language in the new contract. This facilitates future competition without giving precedence to the incumbent cable provider. But this deem't guarantee that you'll see a competitive cable you'll see a compositive cable provider any time soon. The pro-vious contract was also non-exclusive, meaning any cable company could come in.

Caren Collins is the executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission.

Hills man rescued after running off foggy road

A Farmington Hills man escaped serious injury Mon-day morning, after the car he was in went through a guardrail on US-23 in Ann Arbes Townshin onto the

guardrail on US-23 in Ann Arbor Township onto the frozen Huron River, where it broke through the ice.

This car dropped vertical-ly, 55 feet and landed on its bumper, State Police Patrol Sgt. George Warchock said.
The man is under investiga-tion for driving while intoxi-cated. The trooper who inves-tigated the accident indicated the man probably wasn't wearing a seat belt, Warchock

added.
"But not a broken bone. Not one," he said.
According to reports, the driver was rescued by retired Washtenaw County Deputy John Ford, who was driving behind the 1990 Chevrolet Camare in heavy fog around 6:15 a.m. Authorities believe the car hit the river at an angle and broke through the ice, but then skidded back to the bank, Warchock said.

The driver, whose name was not released because of the pending investigation, was treated at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for minor injuries.

■ Read all the news online at observer-eccentric.com

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