

Residents bark at tree law

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 ners (of the major toll roads)," said resident Jackie Bagley.
 The proposed ordinance prohibits removal or destruction of certain trees in the city without a permit from the department of planning and community development. The permit would not require a fee.
 But some homeowners protested the need for a permit to remove trees from their single-family lots.

"I'm strongly in disfavor to have to subject myself to coming down for a permit," Millington said.
 Single-family homeowners would be allowed to remove two trees from their occupied lots annually without a permit as long as the trees are not considered landmark trees.
 Landmark trees are those of stature that stand alone in the open or any woodland tree and set apart by size, form or species. A landmark

tree also is one that is 24 inches diameter or less would be exempt from the ordinance as would be box elders, catalpas, poplars, silver maples, trees of heaven and willows.

The proposed ordinance also would require application for tree removal. The city planning staff would conduct an inspection of the area and trees to be removed and make a final decision. For developers and builders, site plans must include those trees that would be targeted for removal.
 Violation of the proposed ordinance would be a misdemeanor carrying a maximum \$500 fine and 90 days in jail. Marty Krohner, vice chairman of the Council of Home-

owners Associations of Farmington Hills, suggested that violators also be required to replace the trees removed illegally with those of equal or like value.
 "I think that would give more credence and teeth to the ordinance," he said.
 But concerns persisted about enforcing the proposed regulations. Some questioned how the planning and community development department would be notified of a potential violator. Most violators would be caught through complaints phoned in by residents, city officials said. The planning department would determine whether someone violated the ordinance, city manager Costick said.

"You'll excuse me if I have my doubts," Old Town resident George Roberts said.
 Deikowski was found slumped over the steering wheel — unconscious and bleeding.
 As the dumpster was raised to two feet from the rear of the cab, a metal dumpster hook, used to connect a pulley cable to pull the dumpster onto the truck bed, snapped.
 The hook crashed through the cab's rear windows and struck Deikowski in the head. It then struck the windshield and came to rest on the dashboard.
 A man visiting his sister across the street told officers he saw the dumpster suddenly slide off the rear of the truck, then saw Deikowski fall forward in the cab.

Freak accident kills driver, 50

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DETROWSKI ALSO is survived by two children, Melissa, 11, and Gregory, 15; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Detkowski; three brothers and two sisters.

He was a member of the Clarkston Eagles Aerie 3373. Services were Wednesday. Burial was in Crescent Hills Cemetery, Waterford Township.

The family asks that memorials be made to the Trust Fund for Melissa and Gregory Detkowski in care of Coats Funeral Home, 3141 Sahabaw, Drayton Plains 48020.

Cable firm reviews possible rate hike

MetroVision Cable officials say they "will look at" cable rates in January, but thus far have refused to address whether or not Farmington area users will face a rate increase in the new year.

The company representative Robert McCann said that the company is currently waiting until January to make a decision.

"Anytime we make a decision about it, we're going to inform our customers first," McCann said. "They aren't going to read about it somewhere."

MetroVision last had a rate increase in February, 1987. System users currently pay \$12.95 for Tier III basic service, \$3.25 for a remote unit, and between \$7.95 and \$9.95 for "premium" channels, such as Home Box Office, Showtime, Cinemax, the Disney Channel and the Pro-Am Sports System (PASS).

McCann told cable commissioners in November that MetroVision was investigating a rate increase, but he offered few details in an interview Tuesday afternoon.

"Our rates, to the best of my knowledge, are the best of any system in the Detroit area," McCann said. He called speculation about rate changes "premature," but wouldn't rule out a rate increase for 1989.

LARK SAMOUELIAN, executive director of the Southwest Oakland County Cable Commission, said she has received no word of a possible increase.

"MetroVision has been very respectful of the commission... and has always notified us before," Samouelian said. "They have been conservative in regards to rate increases."

The Southwest Oakland County Cable Commission oversees the MetroVision franchise for compliance with a variety of technical standards. Federal law now restricts cable companies from having any real control over rates or rate structures.

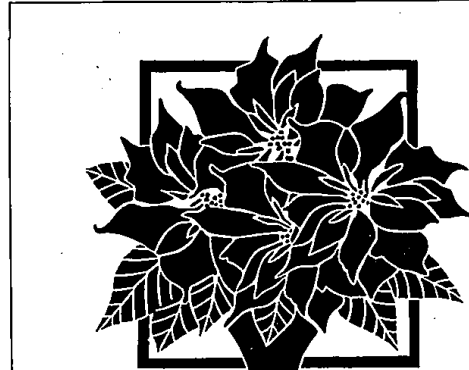
A number of southeast Michigan cable companies have enacted broad rate changes since many regulatory powers were stripped from the cable commissions by federal law in 1986. Cable companies in a number of neighboring communities are expected to raise rates again in early 1989.

Part of the federal law — which went into effect in 1984 — allowed cable franchises to market themselves as free-market enterprises, free of many of the franchise requirements they had agreed to when negotiating with communities.

Approximately 25,000 subscribers are served by MetroVision Cable in the cities of Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

McCann refused to answer questions on the likelihood of an increase in 1989 and also refused to give a date on when a possible decision might be announced.

Phil Ginotti of the Novi News prepared this report.



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