

Costs inhibit competition among cable firms

As we have all received letters from our cable company that our rates are going up, it is natural to wonder why. In 1984 the Cable Act took the rate regulation control away from the local municipalities. The new Congress — the 102nd Congress — will be addressing re-regulation as it returns. Re-regulation, program access and the entry of telephone companies into the cable business all relate to the subject of efficient competition.

What most residents do not understand and need to understand is that our cable franchises in the metropolitan area are not exclusive contracts. A second cable company could, if they chose, approach the communities to serve and thus provide a competitive arena. This has not happened, however, because the cost to build, continue to keep state of the art and maintain a cable system is extremely expensive. Thus we have probably the most expensive cable system in the country.

MetroVision has been our cable company since 1982, and since that time has continually been building their cable system as our populations within Farmington Hills, Novi and Farmington have continued to increase. MetroVision has concentrated this year on improving their technical backup, as well as incorporating fiber optics on their main trunk lines.

As a matter of fact, MetroVision's basic cable rates are of the lowest in the metropolitan area. Even as regulation of rates changed, local accountability to the consumer and municipalities remains in tact. My role as Executive Director of the Cable Commission is to act as your liaison. Please feel free to contact me with questions at 473-7266.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan. 21

Life:

• 10 a.m. — Novi Talkin' History: Myths and More

• 11 a.m. — Women on the Move: Nancy Swanner

• noon — AIM: Valentine's Day Flowers

• 12:30 p.m. — Travels With Kay: Istanbul

• 1 p.m. — P.S. Let's Talk About It: J. Kelly and M. Turner

• 1:30 p.m. — Healthy Living: creative health institute

• 2 p.m. — Dance with Virginia: dance

• 2:30 p.m. — Vladislav Kovalsky: his music and friends: Nikolai

• 3 p.m. — Table Topics: arthritis

• 4 p.m. — Lansing Connection

• 4:30 p.m. — What's the Con-

cept?

• 5 p.m. — Home Video En-

hancement

• 5:30 p.m. — Groove Session: referous

• 6 p.m. — The Time of Your

Life

• 6:30 p.m. — Mormon Church: labor of love

• 7 p.m. — Jr. Japanese: lesson 4

• 7:30 p.m. — Chi-aerobics Inter-

national power: lesson 2

• 8 p.m. — Prescription for your

Health: menopause

• 8:30 p.m. — Novi Family

Health Series: what is family prac-

• 9 p.m. — Live and Let Live: P.O.W. sightings

cable connection

Lark Samouelian

executive director,
Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission

• 6 p.m. — The Time of Your

Life

• 6:30 p.m. — Mormon Church:

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• 10 a.m. — Senior Adult Ex-

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• 11 a.m. — Summit University:

Elizabeth Claire prophet

• noon — Positively: Gary Mil-

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• 1 p.m. — Women on the Move: Nancy Swanner

• 2 p.m. — Novi Family Health

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