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FIFTY CENTS

1993 Suburban Communications Corporation

Cities to have say on cable rates



The Southwestern Oakland County Cable Commission is following through on becoming a regulatory body for cable rates in the Farmington area. The move, though, merely allows SWOCCC to review and challenge rates offered by MetroVision.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Southwestern Oakland County Cable Commission is a step closer to becoming a regulatory body.

Members of SWOCCC, which represents Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, agreed Tuesday to follow through with filing with the

Federal Communications Commission to oversee rates charged by MetroVision. New FCC regulations allow municipalities to monitor rates.

First, individual cities in SWOCCC must register with the FCC and pass an ordinance within the new federal regulations. They have until Nov. 15. Farmington and Farmington Hills

have begun the process. Novi is expected to follow suit.

The move would merely allow SWOCCC to file a complaint with the FCC over rates charged by MetroVision, which services all three communities. The cable operator, in turn, has to report to the FCC and local municipality to justify those rates.

"The process is ultimately simple; it sounds complicated," said Neil Lehto, an attorney who spoke during the SWOCCC meeting. "It's a bigger pain in the neck for the cable operator because all the responsibility for jus-

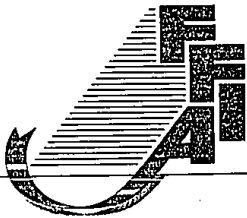
tifying the rates . . . all belongs to the operator."

MetroVision will likely be called upon to explain its most recent rate increase.

Residents who subscribed to the basic 22-channel tier paid a \$1 a year until Sept. 1, when it raised the price to \$10.62 a month.

MetroVision vice president Tom Bjorklund said the increase was needed partly to offset lost revenue through the new FCC regulations, which were designed to lower costs.

See CABLE, 2A



FARMINGTON FAMILIES IN ACTION, which promotes awareness and education on substance abuse, is offering a month of activities in October to mark its 10th anniversary.
Oct. 3 - 9 - Red Ribbon Week - Wear a red ribbon to show your support for a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

Drug awareness: Eric Worley spoke to a group of students about cocaine addiction at a breakfast sponsored by Farmington Families in Action. /3A

Fire prevention: Farmington Hills Fire Department will kick off Fire Prevention Week with an open house Sunday, Oct. 3. The department provided some fire prevention tips. /16A

COUNTY NEWS

Riegle successor: The names of Lana Pollack and James Blanchard are on the lips of area politicians. /5A

Long on charisma: Assistant secretary of commerce Doug Ross brings his boss home with him to Farmington Hills. /8A

OPINION

Headlee override: Voters in the Clarenceville School District, which includes the southeast corner of Farmington Hills, will decide Monday, Oct. 4, on whether to waive the tax rollback as required by the Headlee Amendment. We give our opinion. /20A

ENTERTAINMENT

Theater: Village Players deserve a medal for taking on "A Few Good Men." /6B

SUBURBAN LIFE

Maternity fashion: Denise Kurovski is a mother-to-be who dresses with pizzazz while she waits. /1C

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In limbo in Kimberley



Chin up: Anne Nicole (left) and her sister Kristen Nicole do "the limbo" under a jump rope held by their brother Matt Nicole on Fiddlers Green in the Kimberley Subdivision in Farmington Hills. Waiting their turns are brothers Scott and Jeff Braun.

Kimberley teaches its children well

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Kimberley subdivision has its ups and downs, but that's only due to the hilly roads winding through its well-manicured lots.

Otherwise the sub is spacious but secluded; quiet-but rapturous with the suburban hum of lawn mowers and

in-line skates rolling over driveways.

Kimberley boasts of 320 homes, a highly competitive swim club and an active homeowners association that sponsors everything from bowling leagues to corn roasts. That said, residents are quite proud of the subdivision's most precious asset — their children.

Better yet, the number of kids living there.

"It's the power outages," cracked Clarice Waldecker, who has two children.

No kidding. As evidence, one has

to only look at the plethora of basketball hoops on garages and street hockey nets in driveways.

Nick Waldecker, Clarice's husband, recently did a survey and found there were 326 residents age 18 or under. A majority of those, 212, were 10 or younger.

He did the survey as part of a presentation to the Farmington Board of Education concerning overcrowding at nearby Eschview Elementary. This year, kindergarten

See KIMBERLEY, 4A

Buyers courts change in city policies

Russell Buyers is one of four candidates, including two incumbents, running for Farmington City Council. Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.



BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

He wants to serve the city. The city has already served him . . . with a court citation.

In a somewhat peculiar sidelight to this year's Farmington council race, one candidate is locked in a legal tiff with the city.

The discrepancy is over an ordinance enacted in 1977 that requires businesses to register with the city. Businesses have to pay an annual \$30 fee.

Farmington attorney and council candidate Russell Buyers doesn't

think it's right. He's refused to pay the fee the last three years, openly challenging the legality of the ordinance.

The matter is in 47th District Court.

"I think they're wrong," said Buyers, 61, making his first run for council, "and we'll find out."

But added the barrister, "It's a friendly fight."

On the surface, his candidacy might bear some of the hallmarks of

See BUYERS, 6A



Russell Buyers

Tag sale

Bring on the band . . . Music students from all three Farmington high schools will be out in force Friday and Saturday, Oct. 8-9, for Tag Days, a fund-raising project for their music programs.

Students in their uniforms will be standing in front of businesses, collecting money in exchange and giving a Tag in return for donations. The Tag will provide admittance to a Band-A-Rama program at one of the high schools.

Money raised is pooled and then divided equally among the three schools: Farmington High, Harrison and North Farmington. Last year's efforts raised more than \$15,000 with each school receiving \$5,000.

The money provides support services for music students in Farmington. Services include section-

FARMINGTON FOCUS

al tutorial sessions, transportation to competitions, specially designed programs and scholarships for outside music education.

Family theater

A Red Ribbon/Say No to Drugs Fund-raiser, Farmington Families in Action and the Farmington Elks will host a theater party at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, at the Farmington Players Barn, 32332 12 Mile Road.

"Lend Me a Tenor" is the play and the \$10 ticket includes a cider, fruit and cheese after-glow. For

tickets, call Nancy Smith at 476-6682 or Dick Lukey at 474-0570.

Memory Lane

From the Oct. 8, 1953 edition of the Farmington Enterprise:

As a result of a number of traffic accidents involving parked cars in various sections of the city, officials have begun a survey of conditions in an effort to correct any hazards.

City manager James Tennant stated that a study of existing street lights along Grand River will take place. The action came on the heels of an accident where a motorist collided with four parked cars along Grand River. No one was injured.