

Road to superhighway leads home



MARY LINDA CALERONE

CABLE CONNECTION
Imagine this. You come home from work exhausted and hungry. You look in the refrigerator only to find a piece of stale bread and moldy strawberries. You haven't an ounce of energy left to get back in your car and run to the grocery store. So what do you do? Grab the remote, put your feet up and turn to the Home Grocery Shopping Cable Channel. Here you walk the aisles of the local supermarket from the comfort of your family room and then have your groceries delivered within an hour guaranteed or they're free.

It's one of those below-zero-to-inches-of-snow-on-the-ground days that Michigan winters are famous for. The kids are home from school, and they're bored. But you can't risk your life and theirs on those icy roads. So to go to the store to rent a video game. Tune into the all-new Sega Channel where you can choose from hundreds of games on display.

Having a bad hair day? Your television rings. You know, you subscribed to that new video phone service. Screen your call let your TV take a message. You'll call back, after you've set your hair.

All of the above scenarios could be happening much sooner than you think. Interactive shopping channels, video phones and game channels could become a regular part of our lives. It's only been in the past decade that we have had access to cable TV, home computers, VCRs, answering machines, video games, fax machines and compact discs. Now practically all of these are common household items.

In the future, TVs, home computers, VCRs, answering machines and fax machines haven't even invented or dreamed of yet will all be hooked up electronically into one big network. We can see this happening now. Computers talk to computers. Fax machines communicate with fax machines. This network is called the "Information Superhighway." With this new network, much more information will be sent out at even greater speeds.

How will all this be accomplished? The answer is fiber optics, the technology of guiding and projecting light for use as a communications medium.

In regard to cable TV, just one fiber has the capability of carrying hundreds of signals at a time which means a lot more channels to choose from — as many as 500. Fiber optics also bring about improved signal quality. In layman's terms that means a better TV picture. Fiber optic communication systems are also much less likely to be plagued by electrical interference, thus reducing TV outages significantly.

MetroVision has been an entrepreneur and a pioneer in the field of fiber optics. Recognizing as early as 1987 the inherent value of such a system, fiber optics were being set into place between Livonia and Oakland County offices. A year later, in 1988, approximately 10 more miles of fiber optics were installed between Livonia and Oakland County offices.

These links are used to transmit special events as live shows simultaneously among the Redford, Livonia and Oakland County systems, computer data and up to 30 channels of video including CNN, ESPN and USA. Even MetroVision's phone system is fiber interconnected. In 1989, MetroVision was the first company in Michigan to install a cable television fiber optic system.

Currently there are 1,288 miles of fiber optics in place. For the future, MetroVision's chief engineer, Clay Collins, envisions a state-of-the-art 750-megahertz fiber optic system encompassing 2,908 miles.

With that kind of technology in place, we'll surely be moving in the fast lane on the "Information Superhighway."

Sense: Duane Nowartya
1 p.m. — Seniors on the move: the gourd king.
1:30 p.m. — The word of life: the fullness of time
2 p.m. — Life, liberty and health: the fullness of time
3 p.m. — North American Indian journal
4 p.m. — Medical update: M.I.A.
4:30 p.m. — Farmington Hills employee awards
6 p.m. — Positively' message therapy
6:30 p.m. — Bagels and talk with Tracy and Phil
7 p.m. — Legally speaking: victims rights
7:30 p.m. — Adventures with Pirate Pete
8 p.m. — Impact video
8:30 p.m. — Black tie optional
9 p.m. — Democratic closeup: Debbie Stabenow
9:30 p.m. — Groove Session.

Tuesday, May 17
10 a.m. — Drawing men to Christ
11 a.m. — Happiest people alive
11:30 a.m. — I remember when I was a hobo
Noon — Adventure with Pirate Pete
12:30 p.m. — Spontaneous seniors
1:30 p.m. — Cooking with class: barbecue chicken
2 p.m. — Salon glamour and etiquette with Gloria: newest haircuts
3 p.m. — Cosmic connection
4 p.m. — Defensive tactics
4:30 p.m. — Community kids
6 p.m. — Lansing connection
6:30 p.m. — Living with your addictions
8 p.m. — Jr. Japanese: Lesson 27
8:30 p.m. — Business and residential news
7 p.m. — Cash talks
7:30 p.m. — Farmington Hills Police Journal
8 p.m. — Salon glamour and etiquette with Gloria: newest haircuts
9 p.m. — Black tie optional: junior league house
9:30 p.m. — Music Box: reform school.

Wednesday, May 18
10 a.m. — Legislative forum
10:30 a.m. — The job show
11 a.m. — Study in scripture

11:30 a.m. — Oakland Press perspective
Noon — The way the truth and the life
12:30 p.m. — Abundant life Arabic ministries
1 p.m. — Seniors on parade
2 p.m. — City of Novi open forum Main Street project
4 p.m. — Crisis in the modern family: stuttering
5 p.m. — Prescription for your health: physicians assistants
5:30 p.m. — Groove session
6 p.m. — Spontaneous seniors
7 p.m. — Farmington Hills composting
7:30 p.m. — Let's talk with Ben Marks
8 p.m. — North American Indian journal
9 p.m. — Women on the move: florist
9:30 p.m. — Farmington's past people and places: Ruth Moehman/Wrobel's.

Thursday, May 19
10 a.m. — Senior messenger
11 a.m. — Dickerman Showcase: one flight up
11:30 a.m. — Bagels and talk with Tracy and Phil
Noon — Cast talks
12:30 p.m. — Along the way photo essay
1 p.m. — Alaska two ways to see the last frontier
1:30 p.m. — Conflict at the crossroads
2 p.m. — My vote counts
2:30 p.m. — Chi-aerobics: Lesson 7
3 p.m. — Business and residential news
3:30 p.m. — Viewpoint
4 p.m. — Seniors beware
5 p.m. — Night life
6 p.m. — Coffee and conversation: fashions of today
7 p.m. — Travels with Kay: Yugoslavia
7:30 p.m. — Dollars and sense with J.R.: Duane Nowartya
8 p.m. — Novi news week
8:30 p.m. — Getting the love you want
9:30 p.m. — See it on two wheels.

Friday, May 20
— Request your favorite community access program to be cablecast on Friday between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. Call MetroVision at 653-7303.

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