

# City aims to protect rights of way

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington is eager to join the fight to protect the city's rights of way from intruding telephone and cable companies. But city officials don't want to feel like Chihuahuas going up against a pack of pit bulls.

So far, only a handful of communities have joined PROTEC, which is the Michigan Coalition to Protect Public Rights-of-Way from Telecommunication Encroachments.

At Monday's meeting, the Farmington City Council passed a resolution that urges the Michigan Municipal League to spearhead efforts for PROTEC, which was started by Dearborn and Troy. The city of Troy is embroiled in a court dispute with cable provider TCI over wiring.

Troy officials contend they're entitled to compensation from the cable company. City property is often dug up to install new wiring, and the construction causes traffic problems and losses to business, city officials say.

Telecommunication giants maintain such right-of-way fees are punitive and will hinder

competition in phone and cable service.

The fight is drawing national attention and was featured in a Wall Street Journal article. Farmington Mayor Jo Anne McShane said it was a topic at the National League of Cities Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

"There's a lot of interest in it and there's a great feeling not enough is being done," McShane said. "There's was a lot of talk about there's only 10 or 12 communities in the state that are participating in this movement, which isn't nearly enough to get the ball rolling."

"There are questions as to why larger communities are not participating."

PROTEC's membership totals 10 cities, which have contributed more than \$100,000 to a defense fund. Deep pockets are likely to be needed for the ensuing legal fight.

**'There's was a lot of talk about there's only 10 or 12 communities in the state that are participating in this movement, which isn't nearly enough to get the ball rolling.'**

Jo Anne McShane  
—mayor, Farmington

Instead, city officials want the Municipal League to take up the cause, which they say would spread the costs equally. The city of Monroe kicked in \$10,000, McShane said.

"They're kind of stumped

because nothing is really happening," she said. Cities need to state their case, said City Manager Frank Lauhoff. A PROTEC meeting is planned 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the City of Livonia Municipal Auditorium, Five Mile and Farmington roads.

"That's why it's so important the Michigan Municipal League take this up. There's no reason one community or several large communities should be supporting this whole thing."

Cities need to have some control over rights of way in their communities. Though to this point cities are portrayed as the bad guys in this, Lauhoff said.

"Nothing could be farther from the truth," he said.

## Rainbow Awards set for Jan. 21

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council will host its second annual Rainbow Recognition Awards Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the William Costick Activities Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road.

Keynote speaker will be Judge Henry William Saad of the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Awards will honor those individuals who have made significant contributions to multicultural understanding and advocacy.

Breakfast is \$10 per person. Make checks available to the City of Farmington Hills.

For more details, call the Rev. Suzanne Paul at 477-8548.

## School district hires new chief of testing, projects

Barbara Cherom has been appointed as the new director for Assessment, Evaluation and Special Projects in the Farmington Public Schools.



Barbara Cherom

Cherom replaced Frederica Frost, who left in September to work with the Wayne County Intermediate School District. Cherom oversees administration of standardized tests such as the MEAP and High School Proficiency Test in the Farmington district.

She served as director of Academic Assessment for Spring Arbor College for two years and was director of

Research and Evaluation for adult education programs at the Christian liberal arts school from 1986-91. She was also a professor of teacher education.

An assessment director at Spring Arbor, Cherom conducted interviews with incoming freshmen as part of an ongoing national study on the impact of liberal arts colleges. During a sabbatical last year, Cherom also did an administrative internship at the daVinci Institute, which is a charter public high school.

Cherom taught 10 years at the secondary level.

She has a doctorate in educational administration and a master's degree in special education from Michigan State University. She earned her bachelor's degree in English and psychology from the University of Michigan.

## Attorney from page A1

"I'm still wondering if we make this agreement, we're still going to be short," Mitchell said.

City administration will review the legal hours and make further adjustment while looking at next year's budget, City Manager Frank Lauhoff said. Officials will also examine ways to reduce the number of legal hours needed.

Cities of similar size pay more for legal services, Lauhoff

added. Wixom pays \$86,000 on retainer and Plymouth \$65,000.

"You'll notice on the billing, the law firm has been the loser on this," Lauhoff said.

Donohue said his firm is willing to work with the city and is pleased with the increase.

"This is my pride and joy," Donohue said.

## N.F.W.B. Baseball and Softball League Registration Dates!

Boys, ages 5-18, as of (7/31/97)  
Girls, ages 5-18, as of (8/31/97)

- Registration Dates: Thursday, Jan. 9th 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16th, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Location: North Farmington High School, Cafeteria (13 Mile and 1/2 mile east of Farmington Road)
- Fee: \$75.00 per child, \$95.00, after January 15, 1997
- All new players are required to show a birth certificate at the time of registration.
- Parents must register their own child. Your child need not be present during registration.

The NFWB baseball/softball league has been providing instructional and competitive baseball for the past twenty years to North Farmington and West Bloomfield area children. We offer several competitive levels of baseball and softball ranging from T-Ball for the five to six year olds to instructional / competitive baseball and softball for the older players.

For more information call:  
NFWB Hot Line: (810) 788-4110

## READER SERVICE

### HOW TO REACH US

- Newsroom: 810-477-5450
- Newsroom Fax: 810-477-9722
- Sports: 313-953-2141
- Reader Comment Line: 313-953-2042
- Classified Advertising: 313-591-0900
- Display Advertising: 313-591-2300
- Home Delivery: 810-901-4716
- Cable TV Weekly: 313-953-2182

### HOMELINE: 313-953-2020

- Open houses and new developments in your area.
- Free real estate seminar information.
- Current mortgage rates.

### CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 313-591-0900

- Place classified ads at your convenience.

### CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS

OAKLAND COUNTY: 810-901-4716

- Request subscriptions at your convenience.

### FAX LINE: 313-953-2288

- You can use a MasterCard or Visa to access the following information from our classified ads. This service is available by noon Wednesday and Friday.
- Item No. 9822: Vehicles: Used trucks, vans and all makes of automobiles. Cost: \$39.95

### O & E On-Line: 313-591-0903

- You can access O & E On-Line with just about any communications software - PC or Macintosh. Users can:
  - Send and receive unlimited e-mail.
  - Includes Microsoft Internet Explorer web browser software - FREE!
  - Access all features of the Internet - Telnet, Gopher, WWW and more.
  - Read electronic editions of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.
  - Chat with users across town or across the country.

To begin your on-line exploration, call 313-591-0903 with your modem.

At the LOGIN prompt, type: NEW 9508  
At the KEY prompt, type:

If you need help signing on to our service, just call the O & E On-Line Hotline: 313-953-2266

## The Farmington Observer



**BABY DEPOT**  
"Nobody Knows Babies Like We Do."

**SLEEP-TIGHT SALE!**  
SAVE ON CRIBS, DRESSERS AND GLIDERS!

SAVE ON OVER 8,000 BRAND NAME ITEMS!

**\$25.00 OFF Any Crib\***    **\$25.00 OFF Any Dresser\***    **\$25.00 OFF Any Glider\***

\*\$99.99 and over Expires 1-31-97    \*\$99.99 and over Expires 1-31-97    \*\$99.99 and over Expires 1-31-97

**BEST SERVICE • BEST SELECTION • BEST PRICES**  
We will not be undersold! Ask about our price guarantee  
42627 FORD RD. • CANTON (313) 981-9700  
Located in Canton Corners Shopping Center on the southwest corner of Ford and Liberty  
Does not apply to prior purchases.

**Farmington Observer**  
(USPS 187-845)  
Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Periodical postage paid at Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48009-0910. Telephone 848-1100

ONE YEAR (in Oakland County)    \$42.00

HOME DELIVERY SERVICE    per copy 75¢  
Newsstands    per copy 40¢  
Carrier    per copy 40¢  
Mail    per copy 35¢

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. Copies of which are available from the advertising department, 2311 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48325 (810) 477-8450. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer & Eccentric Publishers have no authority to lend the newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Compliments of Crenbrook Assoc.

**"Home Selling Profits Surprise Publisher Of Free Report!"**

Farmington Hills - After many studies, this Free Report for home sellers was developed by a local real estate agent who was shocked to find that this crucial home selling information had never before been made easily available to the general public! After extensive testing, with amazing results, this Free Report is now available to all home sellers. The unique report proves to get the seller the highest price possible, sell quickly, attract the most qualified buyers, and avoid costly financial traps! In an interview with REMG, Inc., "Results have been so positive and overwhelming, we guarantee these home selling strategies to work. The only difficulty we have is keeping enough Free Reports in stock!" To get your free copy, call 1-800-787-6056, 24 hrs. for a Free Recorded Message.

**THE BIG CHILL!** Thursday 10-9 Friday & Saturday 10-6 Sunday 12-5

**SAVINGS UP TO 80%!** Thursday, 6-8 p.m. Cartoons on BIG SCREEN TV with Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Interactive Dancing with Star Trax Dancers

— Enjoy free apple cider during both shows —  
**FREE POPCORN • FREE BALLOONS**

Receive raffle tickets for store gift certificates for purchases made in participating stores.

**HOT! HOT! HOT! SALES!**

Attractions & More  
Barbara's Art Center  
Betsy's Bridal Couture  
Bricker-Tunias Furs  
Cheat Cake Cafe  
The Cover Up  
Efron Drees  
Europa Art Gallery  
Genini Travel  
Greg Shoes  
Guns N' Cats  
Gymbert  
Hair in Vogue  
Helop's China & Gifts  
Ivana and gallery  
Karna  
Kitchen Glamour  
Kookie Koo

Luis Grass Cleaners  
The Nap Shop Salon  
Accents in Needlepoint  
Dapillon Salon  
Rockelle Imber's Knit Knit Knit  
Rosalie  
New Sahara West  
Sally's Design Boutique  
Shangri-La Chinese Restaurant  
Sherri's - west bloomfield  
Shopping Center Market  
Sukit Contemporary Furniture  
Star Trax  
The Studio  
Tapper's Diamonds & Fine Jewelry  
Under It All  
The Video Place  
Wrap It Up

ORCHARD WEST BLOOMFIELD • MICHIGAN  
ORCHARD WEST BLOOMFIELD • MICHIGAN  
ORCHARD WEST BLOOMFIELD • MICHIGAN

ORCHARD LAKE ROAD • NORTH OF MAPLE • WEST BLOOMFIELD • (810) 851-7727