

Irate cable subscribers get lawmakers' attention



CABLE CONNECTION
CAREN COLLINS

You say you're upset about rising cable rates and you want to know what you can do about it? You're also wondering ... what, if any, control your city has over the cable company's charges to subscribers.

The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC) which represents the cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi, cannot legally prevent any rate increase by its cable operator, as long as that increase does not exceed the maximum allowed under a complex formula created by federal law and enforced by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The rate process is cumbersome and costly. That's why Congress originally called for a sunset of this regulation in 1999 when it thought there would be effective competition that would regulate rates. But that competition has not occurred.

And where it has occurred here in the metro area, FCC research and our own local surveys have found that rates did not decrease considerably when other companies entered into the picture, some even increased.

So now there's talk on Capitol Hill of extending regulation until there is effective competition.

An Aug. 3 issue of Multi-Channel News reports what happened at a cable-rate hearing in July held by the Senate Commerce Committee under Chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.). Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss) issued a stern warning to Cable CEOs and lobbyists that they would be inviting a new round of regulation if voters keep nagging lawmakers about soaring cable rates and lack of choice in packages.

In fact, Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-La) has introduced a bill that would allow cities to void cable

■ The best thing to do if you haven't already, is to contact your representatives in Washington and express your concern.

deregulation next March 31 if local operators fail to offer subscribers "an acceptable range of programming choices."

The Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee Sen. McCain, also talked about planning to unveil a bill soon and shared Lott's view that cable regulation should continue by default if efforts to boost direct-broadcast satellite competition sputter.

Even the powerful chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Tom Stevens (R-Alaska) promised that he would support deregulation, particularly if cable subscribers were denied the right to buy channels individually or in small, reasonably priced packages.

So, it looks like Capitol Hill is hearing you. The best thing to do if you haven't already, is to contact your representatives in Washington and express your concern.

Their addresses are as follows:

■ Sen. Spencer Abraham, 329 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4822, Fax: (202) 224-8834.

■ Sen. Carl Levin, 459 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6221, Fax: (202) 224-1388.
■ Rep. Joseph Knollenberg, 1511 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-5802, Fax: (202) 226-2356.

Caren Collins is the executive director for the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission. The next SWOCC meeting is at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29 at Farmington Hills City Hall. The next CAC meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1998 at SWOCC.

ANNA V. WEIR
Anna V. Weir, 87, of Commerce Township, died Aug. 27 at Westland Convalescent Center in Westland.
Mrs. Weir was the owner of Wolf Music Shop in Walled Lake. She enjoyed needlepoint, embroidery and traveling with her husband.

She is survived by sons, Donald, Dennis and Jeffrey; daughters, Dolores Romanowski and Joan Lewandowski; brother, Stanley; 19 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.
Funeral services were Aug. 31 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. David West officiating. Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

FREDERICK K. MILLER
Frederick Kenneth Miller, 44, of Farmington Hills, died Aug. 29 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

He is survived by wife, Myra; daughter, Stephanie (Jim) Yager; sons, Erick Koefo and Robert Miller; mother, Helen Miller; five sisters; one brother; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were Sept. 2 at Heoney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Scott Thibodeau officiating.

THOMAS P. HEENAN
Thomas P. Heenan, 58, of Farmington Hills, died Aug. 31 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

He is survived by wife, Rita; son, Thomas (Joyce); daughter, Deborah (Gary) Beason; brother, John (Sandy); grandchildren, Hannah, Ian, Julia, Jake and Andrew.

Funeral services were held Sept. 3, at the Church of St. Alexanders in Farmington Hills with the Rev. James Wright officiating. Arrangements made by Heoney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

MYRTLE F. HEGEL
Myrtle F. Hegel, 92, of Farmington Hills, died Aug. 30, at Botsford General Hospital in

Farmington Hills.
Mrs. Hegel attended Iowa State Teacher's College and graduated in 1926. She taught all elementary grades in a one-room school house from 1924-28 and also worked as a secretary for American Medical Association. She volunteered as a librarian in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was a crossing guard at the corner of Military and Garrison in Dearborn from 1968-1974. Mrs. Hegel was also a lifetime member of Dearborn Fordson, No. 484 East-ern Star.

She is survived by husband, Louys; sons, Gerald (Mary), James, Fredric, and Robert (Susan); sister, Joan Bjorkqvist; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Sept. 3, at Heoney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Dr. William Mercer officiating.

RIILA D. DURRANT
Riila D. Durrant, 86, of Warren, died Sept. 1, at Bi-County Hospital in Warren.

Mrs. Durrant worked as a clerk/typist for the General Motors Photographic Division for 25 years. She was a volunteer at Bi-County Hospital, known as the "Puppet Lady." She made puppets for children entering the hospital.

She is survived by sisters, Nora Gavin of Rapid City, Virginia Arnold of Farmington and Florence Diaz of Warren; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Sept. 5 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Larry Austin officiating.

ELSIE M. HENDRICKSON
Elsie M. Hendrickson, 76, of Southfield, died Aug. 31, at Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Mrs. Hendrickson was a homemaker.

She is survived by husband, Lawrence; son, Loren (Jenny) of Arizona; daughter, Diana (Don) Egedy of Farmington Hills; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were Sept. 3 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Scott

Thibodeau officiating.

WAINO KARVONEN
Waino Karvonen, 83, formerly of Farmington, died Aug. 30.

Mr. Karvonen was an electrician for Ford Motor Co. and a World War II Army veteran. He is survived by wife, Ellen; son, Ronald of Waterford; daughter, Joan Gryzb of Commerce; sister, Hilda Karvonen; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sept. 1 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Lawrence Kinno officiating.

VALENTINE BAUER
Valentine Bauer, 78, of Farmington, died Aug. 31, in Livonia.

Mr. Bauer was a lieutenant firefighter for the city of Detroit and an investment consultant. He was an Army veteran.

He is survived by sons, Greg (Anna) of Jenison and Ken (Margie) of Lansing; sisters, Eleanor Keller of Cass City and Josephine Childer of Bay Port; grandchildren, Matthew, Jennifer, Angela and Christine; and special friend, Carrie Wilson.

Funeral services were Sept. 4, at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Daniel Cave officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Singlepoint Ministries c/o Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville 48167.

MARGUERITE A. MUNCH
Marguerite "Marge" A. Munch, 77, of Wixom, died Aug. 29, at Waterford Extended Care Facility.

Mrs. Munch was a secretary at American Aggregates in Brighton and a member of Rice Memorial Methodist Church in Redford. She was a volunteer at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

She is survived by son, Patrick (Gonie) of Howell; daughter, Sandra (Steven) Kernerman of Spokane, Wash.; sister, Eileen Cornwall of Farmington; five grandchildren; and one great-

grandchild.
Funeral services were held Sept. 4 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Gregory Rowe officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Rice Memorial Methodist Church, 20601 Beech Daly, Redford 48240.

NORMAN L. HARTWIG
Norman L. Hartwig, 93, of Farmington Hills, died Sept. 2 at Charter House of Farmington, Hills.

Mr. Hartwig worked at Splane Electrical Co. for 37 years. He played varsity football, basketball, tennis and track at Highland Park High School. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan and belonged to Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. He was a member and usher at Nardin Park Methodist Church and taught tennis at the Farmington, YMCA for many years. He was also a member of Masonic Lodge No. 2 in Detroit.

He is survived by wife, Grace; son, Robert (Carolyn) of Farmington Hills; daughter, Barbara (Richard) Pederson of Florida; and sister, Margaret Dennis.

A memorial service will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at Nardin Park Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

EDWARD W. BERNS
Edward W. Berns, 66, of Livonia, died Sept. 3.

Mr. Berns was a carpenter/mason for the Tom Company. He enjoyed golfing.

He is survived by wife, Beverly; daughters, Karen, Carol, Terri (Terry), Gail, Lori and Tracy; two brothers; two sisters; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sept. 5 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Larry Austin officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh, Livonia 48154.

Steps to Greatness

Presented by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and the Livonia Observer

The first step in your Steps to Greatness is designed to excite, enhance, and educate you and your staff

- Integrity in Sales
- How to Build Endless Referrals
- How to Qualify a Prospect
- Winning Without Intimidation

Cost of seminar includes Bob's book and 12-cassette package. Retail Value \$146



Bob Burg
Million Dollar Round Table Speaker



Robert Shenefelt
Great White North Distribution Services



Rich Levinson
RHL & Associates

"How I've shared the platform with this guy. He will give you the information that will enable you to build your sales career. If you are really interested in a career in selling, listen to what Bob Burg has to say... You will be glad you did!" - Zig Ziglar

INTERMISSION ENTERTAINMENT—THREE MEN AND A TENSOR

All Chamber Members: \$149
Non-Members: \$199
Advance payments only. Check, Visa, MasterCard.
INCLUDES BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

SPONSORED BY—
Exhibit Works
Citizens Bank
NEXTEL
WALSH COLLEGE
HURRY! SEATING IS LIMITED!

Thursday, October 8, 1998 • Burton Manor • 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.
For Reservations, call 734-427-2122 • FAX 734-427-6055
Visit our Web Site at www.livonia.org/steps

Michigan Design Center and

House & Garden Magazine cordially invite you to Design Center Saturday Saturday, September 12 from 10 AM to 4 PM



A Luxury Event to Benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute

- Tour the fabulous showrooms of Michigan Design Center
- Hear Newell Turner, Style Editor of House & Garden
- Attend these great home and design seminars:
10:30 and 12:30 Accessories 10:30 and 2:00 Kitchens 10:30 and 2:00 Draperies
10:30 and 2:30 How to Work with a Builder
11:00 and 1:00 Newell Turner, Style Editor of House & Garden, presents "Luxury"
12 noon Candid Conversations with Interior Designers
12 noon and 2:00 Determining Your Own Personal Style
12 noon and 2:30 Fabric Fashion Show 12 noon and 2:30 Hardwood Floors
12 noon and 2:30 Oriental Rugs 12:30 and 3:00 How To Work With an Interior Designer
12:30 and 3:00 Color 12:30 and 3:00 Leather
2:00 and 3:00 Quality Furniture Construction
- Free 20-minute design consultation with a professional designer
- Enter a raffle to win Luxury Prizes!

ADMISSION IS \$15 AND PAYABLE AT THE DOOR

Please, no strollers or children under 12 years. Michigan Design Center is located at 1700 Stutz, north off Maple between Crooks and Coollidge in Troy, 248/649-4772

House & Garden MICHIGAN DESIGN CENTER