

Cable programming helps keep the electorate informed

CABLE CONNECTION



MELANIE YOUNG

Election day programming is not the only thing you can see on your local government channels. These channels were created by cities to give residents a chance to get involved in local government.

Now there is a special promotional program to encourage people to use their government channels.

The Great City Hall Tune-In originated in 1998 with the Southern Cali-

fornia and Nevada Chapters of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA). The idea? To promote public awareness of the televising of local city council and commission meetings. This awareness week officially runs Oct. 17-23, but the idea behind it can last all year.

More than 60 communities throughout the United States will participate in this year's campaign. The organizers believed that raising awareness of the availability of televised local meetings would increase the importance of such events in residents' daily lives.

The Great City Hall Tune-In will encourage viewers to watch meetings

for the first time, or watch them more frequently. This, in turn, will promote a higher level of involvement in local government and greater participation in local elections.

Locally, the city of Farmington Hills makes it easy to stay informed. Not only can you see the city council meetings live on Channel 8, you can participate as well. Do you have a question for your elected officials? Call in and ask them during the call-in segment of the meeting. If you missed the live version, you can see a replay at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Meetings aren't the only shows to watch on Channel 8. Stay informed

about city events by watching "Inside Farmington Hills" and "Farmington Hills Update."

Novi's Channel 13 offers residents an opportunity to view city council meetings and other commission meetings, including zoning and building boards, live. Channel 13 is a great place to get all the information you need about Novi. In addition to the live meetings, you can see "Novi City News," a show that will give you all the info you need about city events and issues.

Farmington's Channel 15 is the place to find out about people and places in the community. Tune in for "Farmington Focus" and a news show called

"Around Farmington." You can also see community events, such as the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council Kickoff and Farmington Families-in-Action's Sober October Breakfast.

And don't forget to watch your local government channels for live election coverage on Nov. 2. You can get up-to-the-minute election results as the precincts report - but only if you watch your local government channel.

Melanie Young is the Community Relations Specialist for SWOCC. The next SWOCC meeting is set for 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 16, at Farmington City Hall. The next CAC meeting is 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 12, at SWOCC.

Farmington Hills police recognize officer achievement

Recent awards and citations given out by the Farmington Hills Police Department were:

■ Officer Wayne Beerbower - Life Saving Award:

On July 4, 1999, officers were sent to the Shell gas station at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads on reports of a man threatening suicide. Officers discovered a man on the roof with razor blades clenched in his teeth and pressed against his throat. Periodically, the subject would cut his wrists, drawing blood and severing tendons. Officer Beerbower was able to establish a rapport with the subject, and after about two hours, talked him into surrendering. Officer Beerbower's patience and communication skills resulted in the saving of a life, and avoided potential danger to officers who would otherwise have had to deal with the subject by force.

■ Officer Sandra Shankin - Citation:

On July 10, 1999, while on patrol, Officer Shankin observed a suspicious vehicle cruising an area where businesses had been burglarized. A traffic stop and subsequent investigation of the

vehicle and its two occupants determined that they partially matched the description of suspects wanted for an armed robbery in Novi. Officer Shankin's actions resulted in the recovery of a firearm illegally possessed in the vehicle, the arrest of the subject, and most likely the prevention of further felonious activity.

■ Officer Derek Tobin - Citation:

On July 22, 1999, Officer Tobin stopped a vehicle for traffic violations at Orchard Lake Road and I-696. A consent search of the vehicle was conducted and, discovered in the purse of one of the occupants, was a loaded .45 caliber pistol and a quantity of marijuana. Further investigation determined the pistol was reported stolen in Minnesota. Officer Tobin is commended for his diligence in carrying out this investigation.

■ Mr. Jerry Wilson and Mr. James Mayville - Civilian Citations:

On July 21, 1999, officers were searching the area of Eight Mile and Farmington roads for a sus-

pect wanted on warrants, who had fled. Mayville observed the suspect run past him and alerted the officers. Wilson, aware of the search, looked inside his vehicle, observed the suspect hiding under newspapers, and advised the searching officers. As a result of the invaluable assistance rendered by Wilson and Mayville, a wanted felon was apprehended.

■ Cadet Craig Dersa - Civilian Citation:

On May 14, 1999, while off duty, Cadet Dersa came upon a personal injury accident in Westland. A female occupant suffered a seriously fractured leg and was unable to get out of her vehicle, which was on fire. While an off-duty Westland police officer fought the fire, Cadet Dersa entered the burning vehicle and pulled the female to safety. The department duly recognizes Cadet Dersa's courage in this selfless act.

■ Mr. Eric Wvestenberg - Civilian Citations:

On May 17, 1999 Mr. Wvestenberg observed two sus-

pects attempting to steal a vehicle from Cedarbrook Apartments. As the suspects attempted to flee on foot, both gentlemen gave chase catching and detained the suspects despite being repeatedly assaulted in the process. Mr. Wvestenberg displayed considerable determination and courage in this incident. Their willingness to get involved prevented the theft of a vehicle and resulted in the apprehension of two felons.

■ Officer Brian Moore - Citation:

On Aug. 5, 1999, Officer Moore stopped a vehicle, which had committed two traffic offenses. Officer Moore discovered that the female driver had never acquired an operator's license. A search of the vehicle revealed a loaded handgun, found under the driver's seat. Officer Moore's observation and investigation skills are duly recognized.

■ Sergeant Richard Mitchell, Officers Daniel Keller, Ronald Rogowicz and Michael Colombo, White Lake Township PD - Professional Service Awards:

Upon notification of the death of White Lake Township Supervisor and former Farmington Hills police deputy chief Mirl Spencer, these officers requested to represent their department at funeral and wake services. All four officers went beyond the call

of duty by volunteering to serve as an honor guard. The professionalism and loyalty displayed by these officers paid honor to Mr. Spencer and represented the White Lake Township Police Department with great professionalism.

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