

Let TV "Read" To You!
By: Melissa Cohn

If you've been channel surfing, you may have come across a 'reading' on Farmington Channel 15. Odd, you may think, "That's the newspaper being read on TV!" Well this is not just any reading. It is called The Detroit Radio Information Service (DRIS), Southeastern Michigan's only radio reading service. It was founded in 1978, to fill an information void among blind and otherwise print-impaired people. DRIS is an arm of WDET-FM's 101.9, which provides readings from periodicals, such as the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News.

SWOCC Studios and the City of Farmington are offering this service on Channel 15 thanks to funding from the Lions Club. It is an important benefit for community residents who can't see, hold or comprehend standard print. It makes radio-reading readily available to underserved audiences. It also helps non-profit groups such as the Lions Club, meet community programming goals and service to seniors.

DRIS spokesperson Kim Walsh said "Through the comforting voices of volunteer readers, DRIS brings words to life on, imparting knowledge and insight so listeners can function more independently."

Walsh also stated, "Believe it or not despite amazing advancements in technology and vision aids, radio reading continues to be a familiar and popular medium."

The readings take place between 7-9 a.m. from the Detroit Free Press and readings between 5-7 p.m. from the Detroit News, on Farmington 15.

The Farmington Area Lions Club is providing funding to have this service on Farmington 15.

Speaking of Lions Club, they're one of the non-profit groups featured on *Community Connection* cablecasting this month. *Community Connection* is a monthly talk show hosted by SWOCC's Community Relations Coordinator Melissa Cohn. This month's show features President of the Farmington Area Lions Club and the Community Relations coordinator of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. Both local organizations talk about their missions, what they do, and how you can help.

Be sure to tune into "Community Connection" the next few months, as some of the guests to be spotlighted are *Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit*, *Stepping Stone*, *Food Bank of Oakland County*, *Autistic Children Treatment Network* and *DRIS!*

Community Connection cablecasts on INFO TV-12 Thursdays at 11:30 a.m., Fridays at 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 6:30 p.m. The program runs on Novi 13

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 2:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 p.m. and Sundays 2:30 p.m.

If your organization would like to be featured on Community Connection, contact SWOCC Studios at 248.473.2840.

If you would like more information on DRIS visit www.dris.org or email DRIS@wayne.edu

Melissa Cohn is Community Relations Coordinator at the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission (SWOCC).