

# Cable commission hears Comcast contract comments

By Neil Schulman

**Long Branch** — The Long Branch Cable Commission held a public meeting last night, Jan. 28, to discuss the renewal of the city's contract with Comcast Cable.

In September, the city's 15-year deal with the cable company, which allows them to use wires in the city to deliver cable, will expire. The city is going to negotiate what is needed to renew the contract.

Although the meeting took place after The Link had gone to press, members of the Commission spoke to City Council about what they expected during the Jan. 27 council meeting.

Commission member Kevin Cieri said that the purpose of the hearing was to collect information on what residents want to negotiate for as part of the renewal.

The city administration will negotiate with Comcast. The cable commission acts only in an advisory role, discussing cable matters in the city, Cieri said.

Based on comments made at a similar meeting last year, he anticipated other issues would be brought up as well.

"A large part of the meeting was on the operation of Channel 20," he said. That's the municipal cable channel, which runs various local programs and a bulletin board of announcements.

Three issues Cieri believed would be discussed were adding a channel for the Long Branch School system, broadcasting shows with other public officials (currently, only Mayor Adam Schneider has a show, where he

ty much boilerplate," said City Administrator Howard Woolley. "There's only so much they can offer. Their business is eroding."

## Broadcast public meetings?

During the comment portion of the meeting, several residents said that they would like to see City Council meetings and other events at city hall televised.

"There's 240 cities that now broadcast live" said city resident Harold Bobrow.

He suggested making Comcast wire up the meeting room in city hall part of the contract negotiation. If that didn't prove feasible, he asked that part of the \$100,000 the city is collecting from them be used for that purpose.

## More meetings planned

Wednesday's Cable Commission hearing was not the last meeting on the matter.

Council will hold a meeting of its own to gather comments and suggestions on March 18, 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

# Feb. 11 presentation aims to help end violence against women in Darfur

The Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Education Center at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, invites the community to join on the evening of February 11 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. to press for an end to violence against Darfur women. The free event will be held in the Warner Student Life Center, Navesink rooms I & II.

Featured will be a viewing of

Save Darfur Coalition board chairwoman and moderator. Actor and Darfur advocate Maria Bello will be joined by additional panelists.

The Sudanese government and its allied janjaweed militias continue to conduct a targeted campaign of sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur.

Continued on page 32

**SEASHORE DAY CAMP & SCHOOL**

**ADMIT ONE**

**Your Ticket To Fun**

**PREVIEW SEASHORE DAY CAMP'S EXCITING PLANS FOR SUMMER 2009**

**At Our FREE DAY OF FUN - Open House SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, NOON - 3P.M.**

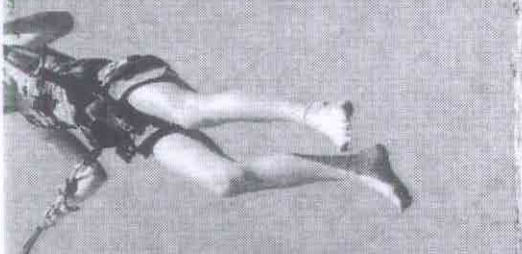
**345 Second Avenue & 404 Broadway in Long Branch**

**Call 732-222-6464 or visit [www.seashorecampandschool.com](http://www.seashorecampandschool.com)**

Amazon Extreme Obstacle Course • Swimming • Tube Races • Pizza Making  
Basketball • Jewelry Making • "Bling" It On • Batting Cage Challenge • Ceramics  
Skateboarding • Theater Camp Preview • Make Me A DJ • Magic Show

EXCITING PLANS FOR SUMMER 2003

# SHORE CAMP & SCHOOL



**At Our FREE DAY OF FUN - Open House SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, NOON - 3P.M.**

**345 Second Avenue & 404 Broadway in Long Branch Call 732-222-6464 or visit [www.seashorecampandschool.com](http://www.seashorecampandschool.com)**

Amazon Extreme Obstacle Course • Swimming • Tube Races • Pizza Making  
Basketball • Jewelry Making • "Bling" It On • Batting Cage Challenge • Ceramics  
Skateboarding • Theater Camp Preview • Make Me A DJ • Magic Show  
Dirt Cups • Balloon Drop For Prizes & Savings



**\$2,995 For 8 Weeks Of Camp!**  
OFFER EXPIRES FEBRUARY 7

20," he said. That's the municipal cable channel, which runs various local programs and a bulletin board of announcements.

Three issues Cieri believed would be discussed were adding a channel for the Long Branch School system, broadcasting shows with other public officials (currently, only Mayor Adam Schneider has a show, where he interviews notables around Long Branch), and broadcasting public meetings.

### Negotiations different now

Officials said that the last negotiation, in 1994, took place in very different circumstances. Then, Comcast was growing. They had just acquired Storer Cable, the previous company in Long Branch, and were eager to work out a deal.

That contract resulted in the municipal cable channel, and in an agreement which provides the city with an annual fee for each cable installation. That currently provides Long Branch with about \$100,000 a year.

Today, however, the negotiation landscape is different. Cable companies are no longer required to negotiate with individual municipalities; they can strike deals with the state instead. Verizon has done just that with its FIOS service, providing more competition.

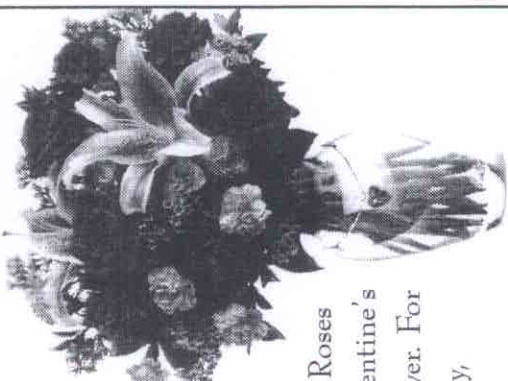
Comcast representatives have told Long Branch officials that they want to continue to negotiate with individual communities, as a way to maintain community spirit. The fees involved with a state contract would also be higher.

This means that negotiation today will be different.

"My conversations in the Office of Cable TV said it's pret-

## RUBIES & ROSES sweepstakes

This elegantly romantic bouquet is a win-win gift of love. You'll win her heart with lush flowers in a unique vase, adorned with a bright ruby heart. Plus, she could win rubies of her own in Teleflora's Rubies & Roses Sweepstakes. Make this Valentine's Day one she'll treasure forever. For nationwide same-day delivery, call or visit our shop.



teleflora's rubies & roses bouquet valentine's day is saturday, february 14

*Flowers by Elizabeth*

**213 Third Avenue, Long Branch**  
**732-229-0849 • 800-437-3487**  
[www.ftd.com/flowersbyelizabeth](http://www.ftd.com/flowersbyelizabeth)

## AMERICAN FOOT & ANKLE CENTER, PA. DR. DAVID M. LA PORTA, F.A.C.F.A.S.

BOARD CERTIFIED IN FOOT SURGERY

### HEEL PAIN

**Dr. La Porta is now offering Non-Surgical Shockwave Therapy.**  
**Back to work the next day**

**60 Highway 36 East, Suite A-2**  
**West Long Branch, NJ**  
**(732) 222-9110**  
**FAX: (732) 222-9118**