

Fairhaven Cable Access Television 2024 Annual Report



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Staff:

Derek T. Frates, Director of Cable
Erick Sa, Production Coordinator
Alyssa Botelho, Social Media
Nicholas Doyle, Videographer / Editor
Todd Migliacci, Videographer / Set Design
Caden Lisa, Videographer
William Bouvier, Videographer

Cable Advisory Committee:

Barbara Acksen, Chairperson
Maria Carvalho
Ronnie Medina
John Methia

Select Board Representative:

Andrew Romano

In 2024 Fairhaven Cable Access Television continued to stay true to our mission: Providing informational, educational and community-based content on our two access channels.

Three locations are now available for meeting participants to interact through a hybrid system of in person and virtual attendance. Dating back to the pandemic of 2020, multiple technologies were used to make this happen. Livestream, Castus Stream, and Zoom were simultaneously used along with an intricate audio & video set-up to accomplish this. The department continues to receive great feedback from other departments, boards and committees who credit Fairhaven TV as being an essential piece of keeping town government issues on the forefront for the viewing public through multiple outlets.

The all-inclusive website FairhavenTV.com continues to be an essential asset for the residents of Fairhaven to view government meetings, community events, and virtual events around town, as well as receive emergency and timely updates and resources available from town departments.

Fairhaven TV's social media platforms continue to be an important tool to accomplish the mission of keeping residents informed. Facebook followers grew to over 2500 (an increase of over 400) and Instagram followers total over 780. Our YouTube page is also the place to find all of the latest events filmed for Fairhaven Community Media. In total, FTV had an astounding 298,519 total internet views in 2024.

Alyssa Botelho has been the Social Media coordinator for the town since 2022. In 2024 she accepted the role of Community Development Coordinator and continues handle most of the town's social media in her new role. Her tireless efforts in reconfiguring and reorganizing all of the town's Facebook and Instagram pages has been truly beneficial in keeping the community abreast of many happenings in town.

The 10-year (2018-2028) cable television renewal license between Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC and Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts is available to view on the Town of Fairhaven website on the Cable Advisory Committee page. (www.fairhaven-ma.gov/cable-advisory-committee)

Government Access – Channel 18:

The following government meetings are filmed regularly, broadcast live when possible, replayed on channel 18, and are available to view on demand at www.fairhaventv.com/governmentmeetingvideos and are hosted and archived on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/user92750067>. Select Board, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Board of Public Works, Belonging Committee, Broadband Study Committee, Cable Advisory Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Charter Committee, Conservation Commission, Contributory Retirement Board, Community Preservation Committee, Commission on Disability, Council on Aging Board, Cultural Council, Economic Development Committee, Finance Committee, Financial Policy Review Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Lagoa Friendship Pact Committee, Livable Streets Committee, Marine Resource Committee, Planning Board, School Committee, Sustainability Committee, Town Meeting Advisory Committee, Town Meetings, Zoning Board of Appeals and various Public Hearings.

Local election coverage and the annual Meet the Candidates night has become a staple of the government access calendar, as well.

FTV arguably covers and broadcasts more meetings than any other access station in the commonwealth. **330** government meetings and **31** related shows and Public Service Announcements were produced and

aired in 2024. There were actually more meetings filmed by Fairhaven Government Access in 2024 than in 2023 (307), 2022 (302), 2021 (301), 2020 (260) and 2019 (234).

Public meetings, forums, press conferences and ribbon cuttings are also filmed upon request. In addition, Fairhaven TV works with other departments to create public service announcements and informational videos to keep residents informed. These are posted to www.youtube.com/@Fairhaven_tv and www.facebook.com/fairhaventv as well as replayed on channel 18. Examples include Health Dept. guidelines and updates, Fairhaven Fire and Police Dept. PSA's, Town Clerk Election Info, Adopt-A-Pet series; monthly segments with the Fairhaven Animal Shelter and Animal Control Officer, Fairhaven Building Permits instructional online videos, BPW updates; Hedge Street Sidewalk Replacement Walking Tour and Trash Fees information, Wood School Bike Bus updates, Fairhaven Tree Warden Arbor day festivities, Recreation Center updates, and the return of National Night Out.

FTV also filmed the Belonging Committee's April food drive, and the Commission on Disability Unveiling of a Communication Board at Livesey Park.

The Economic Development Committee New Business Spotlight, which features a variety of small business openings and ribbon cuttings in town.

FTV worked with the Veterans Services Dept. agent Mike Jenney to produce coverage of annual events that previously had to be closed to public from attending. These included Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day parades and exercises and related activities like Fairhaven/Acushnet Purple Heart Ceremony.

FTV continued our collaboration with the Fairhaven Opioid Task Force by filming International Opioid Awareness day events in neighboring Dartmouth, MA and a recovery day celebration here in Fairhaven. The 'Opioid Crisis' 3-part video series continues to be shared bringing community awareness of the ongoing Opioid Crisis and offer support and contact information for those that need help for themselves, friends or family members.

Community/Public Access – Channel 95:

Fairhaven Community Media- Channel 95 is used for public access programming. **38** original productions including community events, and member productions were broadcast and are available on demand at www.fairhaventv.com/communityvideos and on the Fairhaven Community Media YouTube page. In addition, dozens of regional access shows were imported and broadcast on Channel 95. Throughout the country, **137** affiliated access stations downloaded our content to broadcast in their communities.

The Magazine, a popular public access show about local and regional people, projects and events continued their frenetic pace of producing episodes in 2024. Producer Dave Fauteux and host Charlie Murphy have produced 63 episodes of The Magazine in just 5 years! All can be viewed on our YouTube Channel.

The annual Haunted Halloween Party has become one of the most anticipated event in the community. The 7th annual event was hosted live in Town Hall. Attendance was over 700 once again. Features included Master of Ceremonies Todd "Magic" Migliacci performing magic and trivia, spooky stories, games and activities, trick-or-treat tables from community organizations and townsfolk, and the segments from the originally produced Hometown Haunts. Fairhaven Police, Animal Control, Millicent

Library, and some local Food trucks partnered this year to make the event even bigger and better! Thanks to all our volunteers who participated.

Other highlights include the Office of Tourism's Kids Fest, Fairhaven's first ever Food Truck Flavor Festival, and a re-energized Olde Tyme Holiday in December. FTV once again filmed FIA's Concerts Under the Stars summer concert series and Homecoming Fair, Northeast Maritime Institute's Graduation exercises, coverage of the Benoit Square Tree lighting.

The highlight of the year was the release of the Fairhaven High School documentary The History of the Castle on the Hill: journey of America's most beautiful high school. Led by Fairhaven High School Alumni Association President Robert Foster ('66), explore over a century of fascinating history, architectural marvels, and captivating stories. FTV's most popular viewed of all time with over 5300 views.

All of this material can be viewed on FairhavenTV.com, The Fairhaven TV YouTube page and in between programming on our channels.

Workshops and trainings are available to any Fairhaven resident looking to create their own show. Please follow us on Facebook and at www.fairhaventv.com , www.facebook.com/fairhaventv, Instagram at [fairhaven_tv](https://www.instagram.com/fairhaven_tv), and subscribe to our YouTube channel.