

## Fairhaven Cable Access Television



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FairhavenTV.com  
[www.facebook.com/fairhaventv](https://www.facebook.com/fairhaventv)  
Instagram: [fairhaven\\_tv](https://www.instagram.com/fairhaven_tv)

### **Staff:**

Derek T. Frates, Director of Cable  
Erick Sa, Production Coordinator  
Alyssa Botelho, Videographer  
Miranda Branco, Videographer  
Nicholas Doyle, Videographer  
Bethany Fernandes, Videographer  
Todd Migliacci, Videographer

### **Cable Advisory Committee:**

Barbara Acksen, Chairperson  
Maria Carvalho  
Ronnie Medina  
John Methia

### **Selectmen Representatives:**

Robert J. Espindola (January-August)  
Keith Silvia (September -Present)

2020 proved to be an extremely challenging year for Fairhaven Cable Access Television, along with everyone else dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout the hurdles and challenges our mission stayed the same: Providing informational, educational and community-based content on our two access channels.

The entire staff stayed intact providing a sense of familiarity, although for a good portion of the pandemic only Director of Cable Derek Frates and Production Coordinator Erick Sa, deemed essential employees, worked tirelessly to keep Town Government filmed and broadcast to the community. They were tasked with incorporating a Zoom Meeting headquarters in Town Hall where meeting participants could interact through a hybrid system of in person and virtual attendance. 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 received great feedback from other departments, boards and committees who credited Fairhaven TV as being an essential piece to keep town government running in respect to participation and open meeting laws, while Town Hall was closed.

Most of the crew of talented videographers were brought back towards the end of summer on an as need basis to help cover virtual events and create public service announcements to keep the community engaged and informed.

The all-inclusive website FairhavenTV.com continued to be an essential asset for the residents of Fairhaven to obtain information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, government meetings, community events, and other happenings and virtual events around town.

Fairhaven TV's social media following continued to be an important tool to accomplish the mission of keeping residents informed. Facebook followers are over 1300 and Instagram followers total over 400. Our YouTube page is also the place to find all of the latest events filmed for Fairhaven Community Media.

A long time goal was reached midway through 2020 as the 3 local access stations (Education – Channel 9, Government – Channel 18, and Public Access – Channel 95) are now being broadcast over Fiber, enhancing the video and audio quality.

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](http://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/cable-advisory-committee))

### **Government Access – Channel 18:**

The following government meetings are filmed regularly, broadcasted live when possible, replayed on channel 18, and are available to view on demand at [www.fairhaventv.com](http://www.fairhaventv.com) and at [www.livestream.com/fairhavenlive](http://www.livestream.com/fairhavenlive): Board of Appeals, Board of Health, Board of Public Works, Board of Selectmen, Broadband Study Committee, Cable Advisory Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Council on Aging Board, Disability Commission, Economic Development Committee, Wellness Committee, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Marine Resource Committee, Planning Board, School Committee, Sustainability Committee, Town Meeting Review Committee, Town Meeting, and various Public Hearings. Fairhaven TV covers and broadcasts more meetings than any other access station in the commonwealth. **260** government meetings and **20** related shows and Public Service Announcements were produced and

aired in 2020. There were actually more meetings filmed by Fairhaven Government access in 2020 than in 2019, despite challenges presented by the pandemic.

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.facebook.com/fairhaventv](https://www.facebook.com/fairhaventv) as well as replayed on channel 18. Examples include Covid- 19 Updates & Health Dept. Guidelines, Town Clerk Election Info, Adopt-A-Pet series; monthly segments with the Fairhaven Animal Shelter and Animal Control Officer, Marine Resource Dept Permitting Procedures, and Fairhaven Tourism walking tours.

FairhavenTV worked with the Veterans Services Dept. to produce virtual coverage of annual events that had to be closed to public from attending. These included Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day productions that were broadcast on the actual holiday for residents to view.

FairhavenTV in collaboration with the Fairhaven Opioid Task Force produced a 3-part video series together to bring 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. Over **20** original productions including community events, and member productions were broadcast and are available on demand at [www.fairhaventv.com/communityvideos](https://www.fairhaventv.com/communityvideos) and on the Fairhaven Community Media YouTube page. In addition, over **30** regional access shows were imported and broadcast on Channel 95. Throughout the country, **89** affiliated access stations downloaded our content to broadcast in their communities.

Fairhaven TV's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween event had to be changed from a Haunted Open House to a Virtual Haunted Halloween Party due to the pandemic but remained a huge success. Over 50 children participated via Zoom in costume and another 120 watched online and at home on Channel 95. This was the first Community Access event aired Live on Channel 95. In just three years this event has become highly anticipated for the local school children and community organizations.

Based on the success of the Virtual Haunted Halloween Party and due to the cancelation of the Old Time Holiday, another Live virtual event called FTV's Home for the Holidays was created to give children and their families a chance to celebrate the season during the Covid-19 pandemic. Features included Master of Ceremonies Todd "Magic" Migliacci performing magic and trivia, past FHS Music Dept. holiday performances, holiday greetings and stories from community organizations and townsfolk, and Santa live from the his workshop in the North Pole!

Community Events in general took a hit in 2020 due to the pandemic, but Fairhaven TV was able to film various PSA's bringing awareness to local programs, i.e.; Fitness in the Park – Covid-19 Update, Fairhaven BMX Pump Track – Helpers Needed and the Henry H. Rogers Virtual Walking Tour.

Popular public access member TV Series' continuing to air on Channel 95 are The Family Table, Cooking with Grandkids, and Get Personal with Pattie. New series originating in 2020 include Let's Talk About It, The Magazine with Charlie Murphy, Community Nurse Health Care – We Bring Caring Home and Hometown Hikes!

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](http://www.fairhaventv.com) , [www.facebook.com/fairhaventv](https://www.facebook.com/fairhaventv), and Instagram at [fairhaven\\_tv](https://www.instagram.com/fairhaven_tv).