



News highlights from some of Wisconsin's PEG community media centers

DE PERE

More than 90 public meetings broadcast in 2018

De Pere TV is the government access cable channel for the City of De Pere. Its primary purpose is to record and disseminate the public meetings of various boards and committees. De Pere provides this invaluable service to make local government accessible to the citizens of De Pere, to promote citizen access and exposure to local government, and further government accountability. Meetings are transmitted live, rebroadcast on TV, and archived online for video-on-demand viewing. In 2018 alone we recorded over 90 meetings, which accounted for more than 4,500 hours of broadcasting time on our cable access TV channel. We rotate the broadcast schedule so all viewers, no matter what shift they work, can watch the meetings. While it may not be the most exciting content available on TV, we at De Pere TV are extremely proud to be able to offer this civic service to our residents!

EAU CLAIRE

WisWomen, a show by and about women, premieres

Valley Media Works, the Eau Claire community television center, is now airing *WisWomen*, a public access television program for, by and about the women of Wisconsin. The short-form interview series was begun in January by local resident, Jodie Arnold, and has already featured Dr. Emily Anderson, the author of the young adult novel *Fifteen and Change*; Jill Thiel Markgraf, the Director of the McIntyre Library at UW-Eau Claire; Kate Beaton, Eau Claire city council member; and Kes Albright, a former organizing fellow at NextGen America.

JANESVILLE

Park Place Views highlights Janesville JATV

Park Place Views, a monthly television series, turned its attention in February to the PEG community media center where it produces the show, Janesville JATV. Host Molly Nolte interviewed Station Manager Alan Lockett about managing the center and programming the cable access channel on Charter Spectrum channel 994. Alan talked about how JATV gets involved in the community and covers local events, businesses, non-profit organizations, and the local government.

City council chambers gets equipment upgrade

The recent renovation of Janesville's 50-year-old city council chambers includes a new broadcast equipment installation for television coverage of meetings. The new chambers has six active cameras recording in High-Definition (HD) with the ability to overflow video displays into adjacent rooms. Government meetings are recorded and broadcast live on Charter Cable 994 and streamed through the city's website.

LAKE MILLS

Lake Mills TV helps community mourn firefighter

On December 31, 2018 Lake Mills Fire Department Captain Chris Truman was tragically struck and killed on the Madison beltline by a passing car while attempting to assist a motorist in distress. To help the community honor Captain Truman, Lake Mills Community and Government TV recorded the procession that returned Captain Truman's body back to Lake Mills. Also Lake Mills TV was the only media organization allowed to record the visitation and service for Captain Truman on January 5th and 6th at the Lake Mills High School where hundreds of community members gathered. Lake Mills TV provided footage to Milwaukee and Madison television stations for use in their news stories about our hometown hero, Captain Truman.

MADISON

Madison CityChannel focuses on local city races

In recent weeks, Madison CityChannel has produced 25 *Know Your Candidates* programs sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Dane County. The one-on-one interviews feature the candidates for Mayor, Common Council, and School Board in the upcoming February primary. In addition, CityChannel broadcast a mayoral forum live in January, which brought all five candidates together.

MCFARLAND

Village hires first full time staff at WMCF

WMCF, the Village of McFarland PEG media center, is excited to announce that for the first time in its history it has a full-time staff – and not just one full-time staffperson, but two! Stephanie Miller was named the station's first full-time director in December. An additional part-time AV Technician position will be added this month. Until recently, several part-time staff managed and produced programming for WMCF.

Live coverage of the basketball season ends

WMCF is just finishing up live coverage of this year's high school basketball season and is preparing to bring spring sports to the community later this year.

OSHKOSH

Making It Happen features stories of perseverance

Oshkosh community TV producer, Ed Kastern, recently produced the 18th episode of his public access show entitled *Making it Happen*. Ed was born with cerebral palsy, and on his show he interviews people in the community who have persevered through hardships and adversity in their lives. *Making It Happen* airs on Oshkosh Media's Life TV and is posted on Ed's YouTube page.

Oshkosh Media covers state issues and local elections

Last week Oshkosh Media produced the second episode of *Oshkosh*

Capitol Connection, featuring Representative Gordon Hintz (D – Oshkosh) and Senator Dan Feyen (R – Fond du Lac). The show focuses on what each lawmaker is working on and how it will affect the greater Oshkosh community, while giving lawmakers a chance to talk about what their priorities are for the legislative session and beyond.

On the local level, the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County and Oshkosh Media co-hosted a candidates forum for the Oshkosh mayoral primary election, which aired live on Charter Spectrum Cable TV, the city's website, Roku and Apple TV channels and on Oshkosh FM 101.9 radio. On March 7, Oshkosh Media and the league will be presenting a forum featuring general election candidates.

SEVASTOPOL

Representative Kitchens appears on Sevastopol TV

First District State Representative Joel Kitchens (R – Sturgeon Bay) held listening sessions in Door County in January and Sevastopol TV was there to record and broadcast the full event for Door County cable subscribers. Afterward, Representative Kitchens was kind enough to record a short PSA promoting Sevastopol TV. Currently, Sevastopol TV is also carrying coverage of the Southern Door School District candidate forum and is planning a live broadcast of the early March candidate forums sponsored by the league featuring council and mayoral candidates. Eight council members are being challenged and the current mayor is not running for reelection.

Retrospective planned about former Town Chairman

Sevastopol TV is searching its archives to produce a program honoring Sevastopol's former town chairman, Leo Zipperer, who died recently. Mr. Zipperer served the community for twenty years and was instrumental in creating the PEG access channel and building the town hall in 2009.

SHEBOYGAN

Sheboygan builds last fiber link to Charter Spectrum

Sheboygan continues to improve its technical infrastructure to provide residents with the highest quality signal from its community TV station, WSCS, as possible. In 2018 we upgraded our studio and cameras to High Definition (HD). The previous cameras were more than twenty years old and although they were still operational, the quality of the image suffered. Once we upgraded our field and studio cameras, we decided to address the transmission link to the cable provider. We have had conversations, over many years, both internally and with Charter Spectrum representatives, about delivering the local PEG channels via fiber optic cable and finally replacing the original outdated analog coax cable that was installed in 1981. When a few determined citizens articulated to the common council their concerns and frustrations with the signal quality of WSCS, the city decided to fund the project. Construction will be completed this summer.

Now the city just needs to convince Charter Spectrum to carry the community's access channel in HD, rather than SD, on its subscriber network – a tall order as Charter does not carry any Wisconsin PEG access channels in HD.

PEG Channels are in danger of being forced off cable systems because the Federal Communications Commission may allow companies to charge cities for the PEG access channels they use. For more, go to Wisconsin Community Media's website and click "Advocacy." We are urging Members of Congress to write the FCC.

STOUGHTON

Stoughton launches cable sports network

Cable viewers in the Madison area are now able to watch a new community access channel called the Stoughton Sports Network on Spectrum Channel 980. Two years in development, this year the City allocated funding to purchase the equipment necessary to broadcast two channels. The channel had formerly been used as an educational access channel by the Stoughton Area School District. Starting this month, sports will be broadcast live and replayed exclusively on SSN 980 with some sports also broadcast live on WSTO 981 if needed. SSN will also feature past year's sports from deep within its archives. As part of the upgrade, WSTO TV and SSN are now also streamed online in full HD. Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, the upgrade will enable the city to cover sports live from two locations at once.

UW-OSHKOSH

Titan TV now available through Roku and Apple TV

UW-Oshkosh Titan TV's educational access TV programs can now be enjoyed anywhere using a Roku or Apple TV. Viewers simply download the Cablecast Screenweave app to Roku or Apple TV and select Titan TV from the list of channels. "Titan TV's original content includes Titan TV News and our current original student-produced shows *Wired Up*, *Touch of Reality*, *Curtain Call* and *UWO in 30*," station manager Taylor Mueller said. "Titan TV prides itself on providing a professional environment for both its student staff and its campus and community audience. Streaming apps are the current evolution of television, and we are excited to provide this service to our viewers," Director of TV Services Justine Stokes said. Oshkosh area cable TV viewers can still see an SD version of Titan TV on Charter Spectrum channel 56 while campus viewers can watch an HD signal on channel 71.1.

WAUPACA

Local Music On the Air in Waupaca

The City of Waupaca's Win-TV Channel 991 and low-power FM radio station, Waupaca Radio FM 96.3, collaborate each month with the Waupaca Community Arts Board and local public radio station 99.1 WAUP to produce *Waupaca Local Live*. Each month a different local or regional artist or band visits the Waupaca Community Media Studio where they play several songs and are interviewed by hosts Marci Beaucoup and Debra Gehrke. A small in-studio audience is invited to watch the taping. Bands can bring along recordings of their music, which are added to the song rotation on Studio W, a local music program that airs weeknights 8pm-10pm on Waupaca Radio.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS

Heiser talks to veterans about life in the service

Tom Heiser is the host of his television show, *Thank You For Your Service*, a monthly series about military veterans aired on Wisconsin Rapids Community Media's Charter Spectrum SD channel 985 and Solarus HD Channel 3. Heiser has produced over 30 episodes and has four new episodes ready for the 2019 season. The show gives an inside perspective on how or why the guest veterans chose the branch of military they did, what jobs they had, if they were on active duty during their service, where they traveled, how long they were away from loved ones and more. *Thank You For Your Service* captures the stories of our past and present military members and helps us learn why we are so thankful for our freedom.