

BOXFORD CABLE ACCESS TELEVISION (BCATv)
501(c)(3) Non- Profit
www.BoxfordCableTv.com

Boxford Cable Access Television Corporation, Inc (BCATv) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity, which currently operates 3 local cable television stations accessible by the residents of Boxford.

In September, we added an Education channel, so our channel lineups are:

- Public Access Comcast: Ch 8 Verizon: Ch 45
- Government Access Comcast: Ch 22 Verizon: Ch 39
- Educational Access Comcast: Ch 99 Verizon: Ch 40

We have recently replaced our 7-year-old video server and 10-year-old transmission equipment with state of the art electronics that provide significantly improved picture quality on HD flat panel televisions. This equipment also allows subscribers to view our channels live or on demand anytime / anywhere over the internet in High Definition using a computer, tablet or smartphone. The Community Bulletin board can also be streamed live from our website. These features were the top requests in the 2 most recent town cable TV surveys that went out with the 2015 and 2017 census forms.

During 2016 we videoed and broadcast over 270 public meetings that occurred at Boxford Town Hall and other meeting venues. Lance Cluster, our Government Access Coordinator, always manages to get as many meetings as can be recorded for playback during the week and uploaded to the web so they can be viewed online 24 hours per day at our website: [**www.BoxfordCableTv.com**](http://www.BoxfordCableTv.com).

Our staff of 30 paid interns ranging from students 11 years of age to college age, plus residents enjoying retirement, videoed 379 local events in 2016. These events reflect each videographer's interests, such as music, sports, lectures, parades, school events, etc.

This year we expanded the use of multiple cameras at concerts to give a more professional look. A majority of the 33 concerts were videoed using 3 to 5 cameras, including the 10 concerts at the Salem Jazz and Soul Festival in August, when we partnered with Salem Access TV.

We also aired over 150 religious services donated by local Boxford and Topsfield houses of worship, and another 460 plus videos produced at no charge to BCATv by other cable stations and producers on various subject matters of interest to our cable subscribers.

BCATv has extended our contract with the Town of Topsfield to manage the Topsfield Cable Access Media (TCAM) station for an additional year. BCATv has been providing 24/7 programming as well as live coverage of select government meetings. All additional

costs related to this contract were paid for by Topsfield plus Topsfield shares approximately half of the cost for BCATv produced Masco and concert events that are broadcast in both towns.

Jonathan Rivers, our Public Access Coordinator, plays a key role in scheduling the TCAM channel and making sure Topsfield Selectmen and School Committee meetings are broadcast live and recorded. He also maintains the BCATv event schedules, monitoring and loaning equipment, videoing in-studio events, and keeping our studio at 256 Georgetown Rd operational.

Once again BCATv participated in the Masco Senior Internship program, which runs for the 5 weeks following April school vacation. This Masco program is intended to give Seniors a real world working experience of their choosing. We sponsored seniors Laura Anderson, Julianna Laverdiere, and Alec O'Brien from Boxford and Garrett Bampos from Middleton. Each worked on independent video projects using our video cameras and editing equipment. Jon Rivers was their on-site mentor.

We became aware of ongoing video production classes being offered at Spofford School by teacher Samantha Kosakowski using a green screen with an iPad to record the video. These classes are part of the curriculum for 6th grades students and after school activities. After talking with her we discovered that there were severe audio issues with the iPad.

Our board voted to spend approximately \$9,500 to equip the Spofford Media center with 3 video cameras, a 4-channel audio mixer, lavalier mics, some basic lighting, a spare green screen tarp, video monitors, and a TriCaster Mini video editing computer that superimposes professional virtual sets like what you would see on a CNN type news show. During the summer, we held a training session sponsored by the vendor so that Jon Rivers, Brad Sweet, and Samantha Kosakowski could learn how to use the TriCaster Mini. At the Spofford Halloween event, the green screen was setup in the gym and students could see themselves in a virtual set. This equipment is now a vital part of Spofford's video classes.

Using proceeds from ongoing DVD sales, we established a scholarship fund for graduating seniors who have made significant contributions to BCATv over the years. This year we awarded a \$500 scholarship to Laura Anderson of Boxford and to Baxter Demers of Topsfield for their contributions to BCATv over the past 3 years.

One final note – Brad Sweet resigned from the BCATv Board at the end of 2016 to accept the paid position of General Manager and Controller of BCATv.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rivers, President and Melissa Scheirey, Vice President
Boxford Cable Access Television Board of Directors