

TOWN OF MILFORD

Community Media

~ 2012 REPORT ~

This department includes management of the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Access cable television channels and the management of the Town of Milford web site. For the year of 2012, Granite Town Media has seen continued growth and improvement.

A Brief History: Cable television is currently provided to the Town of Milford by Comcast. There are over 4,500 cable subscribers in Milford, each capable of tuning into the PEG Access channels. Milford's PEG Access Television was established in 2003 as part of the franchise agreement between the town and Adelphia Cable (our cable provider at that time). On January 26, 2004, the Board of Selectmen created a study committee to determine how to utilize this resource. On March 29, 2004, the Selectmen gave the committee its charge and dubbed it the "PEG Board." In 2007 the PEG Board voted to rename itself Granite Town Media as an aspect of its rebranding efforts.

Under the leadership of the PEG Board, the Milford High School Applied Technology Center (ATC) equipped the television studio to support the Television Production program they offered and began taping the Board of Selectmen and School Board meetings for broadcast. Early in 2007, the PEG Board authorized the purchase and installation of a robotic camera system and broadcast rack in the Town Hall meeting room for Board of Selectmen meetings. Currently all Selectmen, Planning, and Zoning Board meetings are broadcast live and via tape delay.

In the spring of 2007, the Board of Selectmen approved the creation of a full time position for the manager of PEG Access. Since that time, the operations of the access station have grown to include coverage of Milford High School Varsity and Junior Varsity sports, coverage of special events in town, and live and recorded meetings including the Budget and Bond Public Hearing, Deliberative Session, and other Town Meetings.

At the 2010 Town Vote, Warrant Article 28 was passed, which created the Cable Access Revolving Fund. All collected Milford Comcast cable subscribers' franchise fees are directed into this fund, which in turns supports the Community Media Department.

2012 in Review - We continue to add new programs to the Education channel 20. We have added student-produced programs, such as the High School's "We the People" competition. Participating student groups compete in advancing tiers at state, regional and then at national level - in April Milford students will be traveling to Washington, DC to contend in the national competition.

In the spring of 2012, Granite Town Media recorded and replayed high school spring sports, boys' lacrosse and girls' softball games. In the fall, Granite Town Media covered the boys' and girls' soccer teams, field hockey, varsity and junior varsity volleyball games including the playoffs. Granite Town Media followed the girls' varsity

soccer team throughout their playoff run, ending with a 2-1 victory over their rival, Souhegan High School. We are now full swing in the winter sports and Granite Town Media is now providing coverage for the boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams. This would not have been possible without the dedication of volunteers Paul Joyce, Dave Alcox, Dave Mansor, Abby Blanchet, Amanda Alcox, Jason Porter and Morgan Andrews.

Granite Town Media produced and recorded over 175 meetings, sporting events and public service announcements in 2012. For the first time the School Budget Advisory Committee meetings were also recorded and rebroadcast. Granite Town Media continues its work with the Milford Police, Fire and Ambulance Service to provide public service announcements (PSA's) designed to educate and assist the residents of Milford. The office of Community Development also utilized Granite Town Media to produce programs focusing on the future development of Milford.

Granite Town Media is also responsible for the development and administration of the Town of Milford website. In 2012, the website had some enhancements made to it, making it more visually appealing, technologically stable and easier to navigate. The website averages 8,500 visitors per month. As we see advances in technology and the way in which we communicate, Granite Town Media will continue to develop the website ensuring the best possible user experience.

Looking forward in 2013 - As we transition into a new year, Granite Town Media will be activating a third channel, which will be used to play the bulletin board slideshow. We will also be broadcasting live as well as rebroadcasting Recreation Commission meetings. There will also be an emphasis on continuing to improve on the quality of the programs produced by Granite Town Media.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McInerney, Director of Community Media