REPORT OF THE
GRAFTON CABLE TELEVISION
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2015 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Grafton Cable Television Oversight Committee provides general oversight of all cable access operations in the Town. Also, the Committee monitors the overall performance of both Charter Communications and Verizon with respect to their Grafton cable operations. Below is a summary of Access activities:

PUBLIC ACCESS USAGE

During 2015, portable equipment was provided for producers 17 times, with the majority of equipment being both SDHC portable cameras and tripods. In addition to providing equipment for producers, GCTV staff members utilized equipment as they captured many meetings and events. Non-linear editing systems were utilized 12 times by GCTV producers, with the bulk of non-linear editing being utilized by staff for various productions. A total of 36 studio shoots were produced during the year and there were also many shoots taking place outside the studio. During the year, there were 37 bulletins posted on the Government channel bulletin board, 11 bulletins posted on the Education channel bulletin board, and 45 bulletins posted on the Community channel bulletin board.

PUBLIC ACCESS PRODUCTION COURSE & GCTV EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

GCTV offers both a spring and a fall production course for those who are interested in becoming a GCTV producer.

PROGRAMMING SUMMARY FOR GRAFTON PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT, AND EDUCATION ACCESS

Public Channel: Grafton Community Television (GCTV) continued to experience significant growth in programming during 2015. Several new shows debuted during the year and new episodes of existing shows aired throughout the year. New programming included: The Chef Ron Lock Show, Colour In Your Life, Eat Well Be Happy, Living Healthy, Zombie Hunters, Crescendo, Today’s Air Force, Hollywood Makeover, Culinary Journeys, Weathering the Weather, and Cooking Without Boundaries. Producer-generated series, such as Animal Adventures, Blazis Safaris, History in the Making, and Grafton Oral History Project continued to air with new episodes. Also, Ask the Geezers, Grafton’s only live television series, continued in 2015 with new episodes being aired. Grafton Community Television continued to air a wide-variety of shows for all ages and interests including: NASA 360, Expedition New England, and various children’s programs and cartoons.

GCTV continued to provide nearly 24 hours of continuous daily programming. Also, GCTV continued to showcase its new programming in “blocks” of general interest. GCTV continued to enhance its branding and appearance by the creation of new Station ID’s and promotion through social media. A strong Video-on-Demand and Live Streaming presence facilitated GCTV’s ability to provide live and on-demand coverage of meetings.

Interviews, news and politically-oriented programs were based around local town events and special interviews with local officials aired on GCTV’s Minute By Minute program. GCTV also supplemented its informational bulletin board system with a series of weekly stand-up community calendar segments. As always, GCTV provided coverage of the High School Graduation from the Hanover Theater in Worcester in June 2015.
GCTV provided coverage for several special events during the year including: Summer Concerts on the Common, the Lion’s Club Haunted Hayride, A Tour of the Great Hall at One Grafton Common, the Apple Tree Arts Apple Pie Social, Grafton’s National Night Out, and the Flag Day ceremony at the Mill Villages Park. GCTV once again participated in Grafton Celebrates the Holidays by providing the public both a tour of the studio and an opportunity to create their own holiday greetings at the GCTV Studio.

**Government Channel:** Regular, ongoing meeting coverage of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and School Committee continued to be captured (both live and rebroadcast) on Grafton Government Television. In addition, GGTV added several new boards and committees to its list of coverage including: Affordable Housing Trust, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Capital Improvement Committee, Finance Committee, Library Trustees, and others. This resulted in a large increase in programming on GGTV. Also, many of the GGTV meetings were available to the public via Video-on-Demand service.

Special Government productions in 2015 included: an interview with Representative David Muradian, an interview with Director of Wildlife and Fisheries George Peterson, Jr., various informational presentations by Town Administrator, Tim McInerney and Assistant Town Administrator, Doug Willardson, the Grafton Townhouse Groundbreaking, the LPG Forum, and special Town Meetings. As always, GGTV provided live coverage of both the spring and fall Town Meetings.

**Education Channel:** Grafton Education Television continued to be the main source for programming submitted by Grafton High School. During the year, a fiber optic link was established between the High School’s new television studio and the GCTV studio on Providence Road. This link enabled the transfer of content between the two facilities, where productions by students were transmitted digitally from the High School and then received at the South Grafton studio, which was then aired on the Education Channel. In 2015, GETV aired programs such as the Mr. GHS presentation and various school concerts and events. Also, coverage of the 2015 High School graduation ceremonies was provided.

**Municipal Center Broadcast Facilities:**

The Committee initiated a major upgrade to the broadcast facilities in Conference Room F at the Municipal Center. New cameras along with a new switcher and control panel were purchased and subsequently installed during 2015.

**GRAFTON ACCESS TELEVISION NEWS**

During 2015, Grafton Community Television experienced significant growth in its infrastructure. In addition to the broadcast facility upgrades at the Municipal Center, new camcorders, an audio gain control and a card-based converter chassis for High-Definition SDI signals were purchased.

**GCTV STUDIO, EDITING, PORTABLE EQUIPMENT, PLAYBACK, AND COURSE USE FOR 2014 (IN HOURS)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Studio Use</th>
<th>Linear Edit</th>
<th>NL Edit</th>
<th>Cameras</th>
<th>Misc. Equip.</th>
<th>Playback</th>
<th>1st Run</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td>734.5</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<tr>
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Possible Relocation of GCTV Headquarters and Studio to 26 Providence Road (former Police Station):

At year end, the Committee was having a feasibility study prepared by an architectural consultant for the possible reuse of the former police station located at 26 Providence Road as a possible location for GCTV’s Headquarters and Studio.

New Equipment Purchases in 2015:

The Committee authorized the following major equipment expenditures during the year:

- Broadcast Equipment Upgrades for Conference Room F at the Municipal Center, including new cameras, a new switcher and a new control panel.
- Go-Pro Hero Black Addition camera.
- Automatic gain control to regulation audio output at the playout server.
- Two (2) new Canon XF-205 camcorders.

Funding:

Cable access operations are funded through payments made by each cable provider.

Public Input:

We welcome input from the public and access producers — all are invited to attend our monthly meetings or to contact us. The Committee meets monthly (usually the third Saturday) and meetings are always posted. The Committee can be reached by writing to:

Grafton Cable Television Oversight Committee  
30 Providence Road  
Grafton, MA 01519

Kris McMullin, Grafton’s Public Access Coordinator and Mark Durfee, Clerk of the CATV Oversight Committee contributed the information included in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Grafton Cable Television Oversight Committee

Bob DeToma, Chairman  
Bob Hassinger, Vice Chairman  
Mark Durfee, Clerk & Treasurer  
Bob Berger, Member  
Richard Schultze, Member  
Larry Silverman, Member  
Corson Wyman, Member