



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2017 6PM



1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER 6:00 pm
2. PUBLIC REMARKS
3. COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT
4. COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - A. Chair's Report
  - B. Township Board Liaison's Report
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. February 1, 2017 Regular Meeting
7. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - A. New Commissioner Appointments
  - B. Application for Public Service
  - C. HOMTV Recognition
  - D. Alumni "Scoop" Newsletter
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Memo - Proposed Production Rate Card Changes
  - B. Memo - Alumni Giving Program
  - C. Budget Discussion
10. REPORTS
  - A. COMPLIMENTS/COMPLAINTS
  - B. VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDER(S)  
Comcast Service Updates
  - C. PROGRAMMING  
HOMTV Launches New Throwback Thursday Program  
HOMTV Launches New website  
HOMTV Provides Closed Captioning
  - D. PROMOTIONS/VIEWERSHIP
  - E. FINANCE
11. OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
12. PUBLIC REMARKS
13. ADJOURNMENT

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Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:  
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Administrative Conference Room

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**DIRECTOR  
REPORT**

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**CHAIR REPORT**



**Meridian Township**  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000  
F 517.853.4096

**Township Board:**

**Ronald J. Styka**  
*Supervisor*

**Brett Dreyfus**  
*Township Clerk, CMMC*

**Julie Brixie**  
*Treasurer*

**Phil Deschaine**  
*Trustee*

**Patricia Herring  
Jackson**  
*Trustee*

**Dan Opsommer**  
*Trustee*

**Kathy Ann Sundland**  
*Trustee*

**Frank L. Walsh**  
*Township Manager*

03/09/2017

Okemos Meridian Senior Center  
4000 N Okemos Rd.  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ralph and Peggy Frisch and the Senior Center Staff:

Subject: Congratulations – 2016 Philo T. Farnsworth Video Award Recipients

On behalf of the Meridian Township Communications Commission, we congratulate the Meridian Senior Center and its members, Peggy and Ralph Frisch, who are the hosts of the HOMTV program “Senior Living” for receiving a first place from the 2016 Regional Philo T. Farnsworth Video Awards Competition in the Non-Professional Seniors category for the “Senior Living” episode from February 5, 2016. The Philo is awarded as recognition of excellence in cable programming and is determined by the Central States Region of the Alliance for Community Media (ACM).

The enthusiasm and dedication of Peggy and Ralph Frisch as hosts and producers have brought new life to HOMTV’s award-winning “Senior Living” program. The new content, since Ralph and Peggy took over as hosts and producers is more relevant to the senior audience of Meridian Township.

We appreciate the continued support of the Meridian Senior Center as the official on-location studio for this program. We are honored to continue this partnership to provide older adults in the community with vital information for their well-being.

Sincerely,

Walter Benenson  
Communications Commission Chair



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING – **DRAFT**  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864  
Administrative Conference Room  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017 6:09 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Walter Benenson; Vice Chair, Patrick Crowley; Commissioner, Tunga Kiyak  
ABSENT: Commissioner, Kevin Thatcher; Commissioner Andrew Lathrop  
STAFF: Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director  
TOWNSHIP:  
COMCAST: John Gardner, Director of External Affairs

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:09 pm**.

**2. PUBLIC REMARKS**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice Chair Crowley moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED**. Seconded by Commissioner Kiyak.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Kiyak moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF December 7, 2016**. Seconded by Vice Chair Crowley

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Applications for open positions as alternates on the Communications Commission  
Vice Chair Crowley moved **TO APPROVE THE NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT OF LESLIE CHARLES**. Seconded by Commissioner Kiyak

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Chair Benenson moved **TO APPROVE THE NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT OF ERIC LANGDON**. Seconded by Commissioner Crowley

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Vice Chair Crowley moved **TO RECOMMEND JAMIE WITHERS HILLER IF ONE OF THE PREVIOUS TWO MENTIONED DECLINES THE ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER POSITION**. Seconded by Commissioner Kiyak

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

## Minutes – Communications Commission

February 1, 2017

Page 2

- B. Enactment Day, Formal Invite & Informational Flyer  
Director Guthrie invited the Commission to attend. Chair Benenson stated he would be at the event representing the Commissioners. Comcast Representative, John Gardner stated he would be in attendance.
- C. Comcast Service Updates  
Director Guthrie explained that the video provider customer service report is a report for the number of calls the department receives. She explained that it is an intake count, not a total new customer complaint count
- D. Philo Awards Press Release  
Director Guthrie gave honor to the Senior Center and members of the center for being the content producers earning the Philo Award for Senior Programming on HOMTV. Chair Benenson would like staff to send a letter to the Senior Center on behalf of the Commission congratulating them on the award.
- E. Ingham County Board of Commission Tribute  
Director Guthrie explained that the tribute was presented to HOMTV recognizing 35 years of the Internship Program. Director Guthrie explained that she did not believe tributes had been written in the past recognizing the Internship Program.

### 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- B. Communications 2017 Work Plan – Draft Copy  
Director Guthrie reviewed the goals for the Communications Department for 2017. The Commission requested a budget discussion for the next commission meeting, including a report on current and future predictions for revenues and expenses.

### 7. **REPORTS**

- B. Video Service Provider  
Comcast Representative John Gardner provided three documents for the Commission, including a Roku Announcement, Grant Announcement and Super bowl Experience Announcement.

### 8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Crowley moved **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner Kiyak.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

Chair Benenson adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

### 9. **NEXT MEETING:**

The next scheduled meeting is **April 12, 2017** in the Administrative Conference Room.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Township Board  
*Walter Benenson*

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Walter Benenson, Chair of Communications Commission

**DATE:** January 31, 2017

**SUBJECT:** New Commissioner Appointment Recommendation

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The following term is vacant for the Communications Commission:

**Vacant Alternate Member – Term Expires: One (1) Calendar Year**

Per the Communications Commission (CC) Rules and Procedures:

**Rule 2: Membership**

**2.1 Members.** The Commission shall consist of five (5) regular members and two (2) alternate members appointed by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian. The Commission may recommend names of suggested appointees to the Township Supervisor. Members must be residents of the Township. No Commission member may:

1. Be employed by a locally franchised cable company.
2. Hold a contract with a locally franchised cable company.
3. Have ownership interest in a locally franchised cable company.

**2.3 Conflict of Interest.** A regular member or alternate member shall disqualify himself or herself from the discussion and decision in any case where the member has a conflict of interest due to financial considerations or other issues of significance. Failure of a member to disqualify himself or herself shall constitute misconduct in office.

**2.4 Attendance.** Members of the Commission who are absent from more than three (3) consecutive, regularly scheduled Commission meetings and work sessions or more than thirty (30) percent of the regularly scheduled Commission meetings and work sessions in a calendar year shall be subject to review and possible recommendation for removal by the Township Board. Exceptions may be made if absences are due to the conduct of other business as authorized by the Commission.

**Rule 3: Terms of Office**

**3.2 Vacancies.** A successor shall be recommended to the Township Board for appointment not more than thirty (30) days after the term of the previous member has expired.

The Communications Commission moves **TO RECOMMEND THE NEW APPOINTMENT OF C. LESLIE CHARLES TO THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION** for one (1) year from the date of appointment.

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Township Board  
*Walter Benenson*

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Walter Benenson, Chair of Communications Commission

**DATE:** February 1, 2017

**SUBJECT:** New Commissioner Appointment Recommendation

---

The following term is vacant for the Communications Commission:

**Vacant Alternate Member – Term Expires: One (1) Calendar Year**

Per the Communications Commission (CC) Rules and Procedures:

**Rule 2: Membership**

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**3.2 Vacancies.** A successor shall be recommended to the Township Board for appointment not more than thirty (30) days after the term of the previous member has expired.

The Communications Commission moves **TO RECOMMEND THE NEW APPOINTMENT OF ERIC LANGDON TO THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION** for one (1) year from the date of appointment.

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Ronald J. Styka  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



Phil Deschaine  
Patricia Herring Jackson  
Dan Opsommer  
Kathy Ann Sundland

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

February 10, 2017

C. Leslie Charles  
1926 Lac du Mont Drive  
Haslett MI 48840

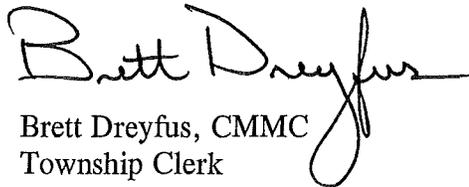
Dear Ms. Charles:

It is my pleasure to convey official notification the Township Board appointed you as an alternate on the Communications Commission at its February 7, 2017 meeting. Your term of office will expire on December 31, 2017.

A certificate of appointment, a subscription form, and a copy of the Meridian Township "Ethics Statement" are enclosed. Please sign and return the documents to the Clerk's Office.

Congratulations on your appointment!

Cordially,

  
Brett Dreyfus, CMMC  
Township Clerk

sko  
Enclosures

pc: Deborah Guthrie, ✓  
Communications Director



# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Ronald J. Styka  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



Phil Deschaine  
Patricia Herring Jackson  
Dan Opsommer  
Kathy Ann Sundland

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

February 22, 2017

Eric A. Langdon  
3917 Jonquil Lane  
Okemos MI 48864

Dear Mr. Langdon:

It is my pleasure to convey official notification the Township Board appointed you as an alternate member to the Communications Commission at its February 21, 2017 meeting. Your term of office will expire December 31, 2017.

Please call my office at 853-4324 to arrange a time for your Oath of Office.

A certificate of appointment, a [subscription](#) form and a copy of the Meridian Township "Ethics Statement" are enclosed. Please sign and return the documents to the Clerk's Office.

Congratulations on your appointment!

Cordially,

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC  
Township Clerk

sko  
Enclosures

pc: Director Guthrie



## Sandy Otto

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**From:** Richmond, Aaron <richmo81@anr.msu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 3:52 PM  
**To:** Board  
**Subject:** Please revise my Application for Public Service

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I currently have an Application for Public Service on file, and would like to revise my application to express interest in serving on the following public bodies (in no particular order):

Community Resources Commission  
Downtown Development Authority  
Communications Commission  
Capital Area Transportation Authority  
Environmental Commission  
East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority

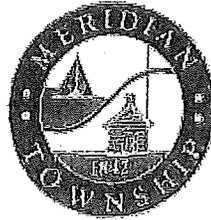
These appointments are in addition to the public bodies that are currently checked on my application. Thank you for your consideration.

AARON

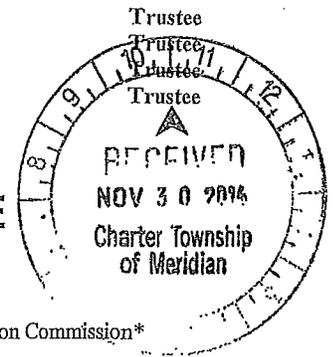
Information Technologist I  
ANRTS Service Desk  
Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture  
446 W. Circle Drive, Room 416  
East Lansing, MI, 48824  
517-256-5455  
[richmo81@anr.msu.edu](mailto:richmo81@anr.msu.edu)

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff      Supervisor  
 Brett Dreyfus              Clerk  
 Julie Brixie                 Treasurer  
 Frank L. Walsh             Manager



Milton L. Scales  
 Ronald J. Styka  
 John Veenstra  
 Angela Wilson



## APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

I am interested in service on one or more of the following public bodies as checked below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessing Board of Review*   | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officials Compensation Commission* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Water and Light Representative*                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Commission        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building and/or Fire Board of Appeals and Building Hearing Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee* |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital Area Transportation Authority (C.A.T.A.)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Preservation Advisory Board           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications Commission*                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Commission (elected/appointed)        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Resources Commission                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Pension Trustees                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corridor Improvement Authority*                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Downtown Development Authority*                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Township Board (elected/appointed)         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority           | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Commission*                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Corporation                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals                    |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other                           |

(\*Special conditions restrict eligibility for appointment)

Indicate areas not included above which may warrant special attention or study that are of interest to you:

Corridor Improvement Authority

Summarize your reasons for applying for this type of public service:

I am a long-time resident of Ingham County. I was born in Lansing and have lived in various areas of the county. Describe education, experience, or training which will assist you if appointed. (Attach resume if available)

Bachelor's in History from MSU, experience leading a diverse team of individuals to achieve goals.

Name: Aaron Richmond

Occupation: Information Technologist I Place of Employment: Michigan State University

Home Address: 1424 Biscayne Way, Haslett, MI 48840

Phone: (days) 517-266-5455 (evenings) 517-256-5455 E-mail richmo81@msu.edu

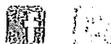
Signature Aaron Richmond Date 11/1/2016

Other than the Downtown Development Authority Board and the Economic Development Corporation, persons appointed to Meridian Township boards and commissions must be a resident and elector (if of voting age) of the Township during the term of office. Excessive absences may be cause for review of appointment.

(PLEASE USE BACK IF NEEDED)

The policy for appointment of candidates to the various public service positions is based on the following criteria: desire to serve, experience, expertise, availability of time to serve, and maintenance of equitable geographic representation. In most instances it will be desirable to develop further information through a personal interview. This application will be retained in township files for two years. Please return this form to the Office of the Clerk, Charter Township of Meridian.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date Received	<u>11.30.16/2.6.17</u>	Distro: <u>RS FW</u>	Application # <u>EDC 1610 CC 1701 CATA 1701</u>
Registered Voter:	<u>(Y)/N</u>	<u>DJ, DG, BM, DP, MK,</u>	<u>CIA 1608 FC 1618 EC 1702</u>
Date Appointed:		<u>BD MEMBERS</u>	<u>CRC 1701 DDA 1702 ELMWSA 1701</u>



# Aaron Richmond

1424 Biscayne Way  
Haslett, MI 48840  
517-256-5455  
Richmo81@msu.edu

## Summary

IT Professional looking to help shape the vision for his community through increased responsibility and new challenges.

## Professional Experience

### Customer Support Team Lead

Spectrum Broadband, Lansing MI 2008 - 2013

- Ensured that CSRs were performing adequately and that staffing requirements were met
- Responded to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level customer technical and accounting issues
- Management of customer accounts from billing and ticketing databases
- Tracked and maintained data confidentiality policies and operating procedures appropriately
- Motivate, establish, and tracked CSR metrics to ensure that customer service goals were met
- Assisted manager in planning and developing ongoing strategies and projects

### Information Technologist I

Michigan State University, East Lansing MI 2012 - Current

- Provide technical support to Faculty and Staff within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - ~1800 users with users in offices across all 83 Counties
- Establish and maintain working documentation and knowledge bases
- Train and coaching of staff on proper departmental procedures, data policies, and technical aspects
- Actively participate in the development of aligning department's strategy with that established by MSU
- Manage customer expectations and communicate issues in a friendly, easy to understand manner
- Actively assist and lead in maintaining a culture of excellence and trust between ANR IT and Staff and Faculty
- Maintain and administrate several critical systems
- Project management lead to bring 97 county Extension offices into the MSU Network (long-term, ongoing)

## Accomplishments

- Wrote and designed various sections of the current training manual used by new employees
- Planned and implemented various activities to improve employee morale and team cohesion
- Led the culture-shift of CANR IT to focus more on effective communication with the users
- Assisted with PCI-Compliance related issues and brought facilities up to standards
- Assisted with networking MSUE remote locations onto CANR's network infrastructure
- Assisted in departmental hiring during a leadership transition period
- Assisted with migrating 82 county mailboxes from MSU's central systems to the CANR's Exchange Environment
- Project lead on establishing, maintaining, and training employees on the use and administration of a WDS Server
- Primary project manager on establishing and administrating a new Print Server on Windows 2012 R2
  - Planned and implemented schedule for migrating old printers to new print server
  - Wrote Group Policy to push new printers to all domain users, creating seamless transition
- Led project to establish and configure a SCOM 2012 server
- CANR Lead on a collaborative project with Central ITS regarding the establishment of SCOM 2012

## Education

### Michigan State University

Bachelor of Arts (2011)

History

### Lansing Community College

General Associates (2008)

Magna cum Laude

Recognition from the Alzheimer's Association, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter  
for HOMTV's media sponsorship in 2016.  
HOMTV is planning to expand the partnership in 2017.

 **HOMTV**  
Published by Brandie Yates [?] · Just now · 🌐

Thank you to the Alzheimer's Association, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter for recognizing HOMTV as a media sponsor for 2016. We are excited to expand our partnership with them for HOMTV's media sponsorships for 2017.



[Boost Post](#)

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    



# the SCOOP @ HOM TV

Volume 29, Issue 1

Spring 2017

## A HOM Away From Home



"Over the years, I've learned that the news biz is more about who you know, than what you know...though sad, it's true. HOMTV gave me the skills I needed to excel as a reporter, but I didn't get my dream job out of college solely because of my "skills." I landed this job because of my connections, my mentors and my "dream big" mentality. My internship at HOMTV lead me to great people and great things (like my job in Grand Rapids). Now, it's my turn to give back and help others get to where I am today. If I can inspire one person to never give up on their dreams, I've succeeded," said **Erica Francis (14)**, General Assignment Reporter for Fox 17 in Grand Rapids.

HOMTV encourages alumni to come HOM and share their expertise with the aspiring talent that comes out of the Internship Program each year. Alumni and interns attended an advanced training workshop on February 25th with guest speakers Francis, WDIV Local 4 Special Projects Photojournalist **John Pompeo (86)** and Makeup Artist/Licensed Esthetician Leslie Perry.

"This is a tough industry and receiving advice from professionals who've had

so much success in this industry, and were once in our shoes here at HOMTV means so much. I took away a lot of valuable information that I may not have received anywhere else," said Reporting Intern **Camille McCombs (15)**.

"One of the fantastic things about HOMTV is the large and strong network of alumni that have gone through the program. Those who have gone through it understand the value of the program and how it can jumpstart your career and put you on the path to success. I enjoy coming back and helping others, but also the interns give me a boost of energy and optimism for the future of the business," said Pompeo.



**Alumni Workshop Video:** <http://bit.ly/2017HOMTVAdvWorkshop>  
**Photos:** <http://bit.ly/HOMTVAdvWorkshop17>

## Celebrating 35 Years of HOMTV's Internship Program



HOMTV's Internship Program celebrated its 35th Anniversary in 2016. Interns began working at the station in 1981, since then, approximately 1,000 interns have successfully completed the Internship Program and over 500 have moved on to work in the field of journalism, television production, film production and the communications industry both nationally and internationally.

HOMTV celebrated this significant milestone at the annual Intern Appreciation & Golden Tape Awards Ceremony on December 5, 2016 with keynote speaker **Ben Stark (81)**, the very first intern and founder of the HOMTV Internship Program. HOMTV received tribute certificates from the Meridian Township Board, Meridian Township Communications Commission, Ingham County Board of Commissioners, Governor Rick Snyder's Office and U.S. Representative Mike Bishop's Office (8th Congressional District) recognizing the HOMTV Internship Program as an established and exemplary hands-on training program to retain and foster talent for the professional television and communications industry.

**Ben Stark's Keynote Speech:** <http://bit.ly/BenStarkKeynote> **Photos:** <http://bit.ly/HOMTVInternAppreciation16>



## Station Spotlight

We're proud of where our HOMTV alumni have landed, in this edition we feature WILX in Lansing, MI and the HOMies that work there!

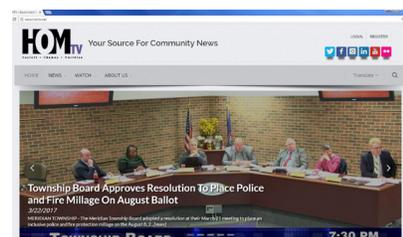
- Jonathon Austin (14)** – News Photographer
- Zach Berridge (11)** – Sports Reporter/Anchor
- Elizabeth Crenshaw (14)** – Video Journalist
- Kayla Clarke (15)** – Digital Producer
- Kyle Dollarhite (14)** – News Photographer
- Mallory DuBose (14)** – News Producer
- Alexis Howell (16)** – News Producer
- Helen (Ten Have) Jones (89)** – Technical Media Producer
- Brandon Wirth (14)** – Technical Media Producer



## HOMTV Launches New Website with On-Demand Closed Captioning Services

HOMTV's 8-year-old website recently received a makeover with fresh new look and added functionality. The new site is both user-friendly and mobile friendly with responsive design across all platforms. To improve navigation, news articles are now categorized by type of story. Other features include search functionality, user and visitor account accessibility and a new administration interface making the site easier to use for staff and interns to update stories and programs.

HOMTV is also partnering with a new provider, Swagit Productions LCC for live and on-demand video streaming of Township meetings and local original programming. In addition, Swagit is providing closed captioning services for archived on-demand meetings. Tagging of meeting agendas to the video is now done off-site by the Swagit team, freeing up valuable time for HOMTV staff and interns.



# ALUMNI IN THE BIZ



## Good Morning New Orleans!

Editorial by: **Bri Harvey (16)**  
Morning Editor/Videographer, WGNO ABC 26, New Orleans, LA

After moving to New Orleans last September and applying for almost a hundred different positions I was finally hired as the morning editor/videographer for "Good Morning New Orleans" at WGNO ABC 26. Although I am striving for an exclusively on-air career, this opportunity allows me to improve my editing, interviewing and storytelling skills for when that job does come along.

Every day I start work at 2:30am and get off around noon. I know it's very early, but we have cooking segments, zoo visits, fitness demonstrations and a wide array of other fun segments to get us through the morning.... and the best part is I still get to do on-air sports reporting for the station on the weekends.

I started out at HOMETV very closed-minded only wanting to cover the sports stories, but learned quickly that there are other cool experiences that take place outside of the court or field. My first day at WGNO I was thrown out on a live-shot covering the seven tornadoes that touched down in Louisiana. I worked an 18-hour day interviewing victims, climbing over downed power lines and sweeping the neighborhoods to assess the damage. Even though it was very sad it was one of the best experiences I've had in my journalism career so far, and it wasn't sports (I made the mistake of wearing heels that day too...)

I would not be in the position I am today without all of my experiences and opportunities at HOMETV. I spent five years at MSU working at every internship and media outlet I could before closing grad school out as a reporter at HOMETV. I learned more in the two semesters spent in that Township building than I did ANYWHERE else. Although I was not a fan of the nightly meetings, the hands-on experience I gained was more valuable than I ever thought possible. Even in this new position I am still applying skills that I learned during the many hours of shooting, editing, social media updating, anchoring, interviewing and reporting.

Thanks to HOMETV I can proudly say I am a Jack(ie) of all Trades!



## Alum Taking News to New Heights

Editorial by: **Matthew Law (10)**  
WPEC CBS12, Drone Pilot/Photojournalist

With the FAA changing how drones or technically speaking, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) licenses are being issued, Drones are now a reality and a new source of news gathering equipment.

I have been lucky enough to be chosen as a pilot/photographer in this emerging field under the wing of Sinclair Broadcast Group. The information I am able to gather allows a much more exciting perspective of our news stories here in West Palm Beach Florida.

There are many rules and regulations when it comes to where and when I can launch my aircraft for gathering news elements. First and most importantly, I have a Part 107 Pilot license. This license allows me to operate for commercial use, entirely different from your typical hobby drone enthusiast. I am required to know many things a normal commercial pilot would know such as how to read aeronautical maps, weather charts, etc... it really takes a type A personality to be a pilot for a drone program with all of the rules and maintenance involved.

With this tool, I can gather traffic video, weather beauty shots, crime scene video that helps the news station tell a story from a compelling perspective that would involve a helicopter up until this point. There is no doubt, drones will continue to be integrated into news and the versatility they bring to the table is something never before seen in news.

It is very exciting to be a part of that wave.



**Darkus Beasley (12)** is the Distance Education Coordinator for the ACGME in Chicago, IL.

**Adrienne Broaddus (04)** is now a Co-Ancor for the 11am News at KARE Channel 11 in Minneapolis, MN.

**Shelley Childers (08)** is a Reporter at WXYZ-TV Channel 7 in Detroit, MI.

**Ray Childs (16)** is a Marketing Specialist for Saddlesbrook Resort & Spa in Tampa, FL.

**Andreina Centlivre (14)** is a Reporter at WAVE3 News in Louisville, KY.

**Elizabeth Crenshaw (14)** is a Multimedia Journalist at WILX Channel 10 in Lansing, MI.

**Anamaria Dickerson (15)** is a Staff Writer at The Argus Press in Owosso, MI.

**Zach Fanko (15)** is a High School Sports Reporter at Mlive Media Group in Walker, MI.

**Lindsey Gordon (12)** is a Marketing Director at a real estate tech start-up called PropLogix in Sarasota, FL.

**Brett Kast (14)** is now a Morning News Reporter working weekdays at WPBN Channel 7&4 in Traverse City, MI.

**Spencer Ray (15)** is a Radio Broadcasting Assistant at ESPN in Bristol, CT.

**Treasure Roberts (16)** is a Coleman A. Young/Comerica Foundation Scholar recipient and will be interning this summer at NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt.

**Anthony Sabella (11)** is a Reporter at WTKR News 3 in Norfolk, VA.

**Allison Scott (14)** is a Reporter/Multimedia Journalist at WCHS/WVAH TV in Charleston, WV.

**Joe Starr (15)** is a Government Production Specialist at Public Media Network in Kalamazoo, MI.

**Brandie (Hansen) Yates (07)** is now the Executive Producer of Programming at HOMETV in Okemos, MI.

**Brandon Wirth (14)** is now a Technical Media Producer at WILX Channel 10 in Lansing, MI.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

**2017 Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) Broadcast Excellence Awards:** Best Photojournalist Award - **John Pompeo (86)**, TV Merit Award for News Reporter - **Josh Sidorowicz (12)**, TV Merit Award for Membership Appeal: Join WKAR Team - **Al Martin (12)**

**2017 MAB Student Broadcast Awards:** **Connor Hansen (14)**, **Brett Kast (14)** and **Mandy MacPherson (16)**.

**2017 MSU Outstanding Alumni Award:** **Amy Guild McGraw(86)** will be honored with this award at a ceremony April 8, 2017.

**Julie Dunmire (15)** has been named Outstanding Senior from the MSU School of Journalism Faculty for the academic year 2016/2017.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Kristina Fossbackk Ferris (11)** welcomed the newest addition to her family, Jonas Ryan Ferris, born January 24, 2017.

**Evan Pittan (99)** and his wife welcome their first son, Daniel Dennis, born January 20, 2017.

**Anthony Sabella (11)** married Kristen Seymour on June 18, 2016.

Email us updates at [homtv@meridian.mi.us](mailto:homtv@meridian.mi.us)



[www.homtv.net](http://www.homtv.net)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

# **NEW BUSINESS**



**To: Communications Commission**

**From:** 

**Brandie Yates, HOMTV Executive Producer/Internship Coordinator**

**Date: March 29, 2017**

**Re: Changes to HOMTV/CAMTV Production Rate Card**

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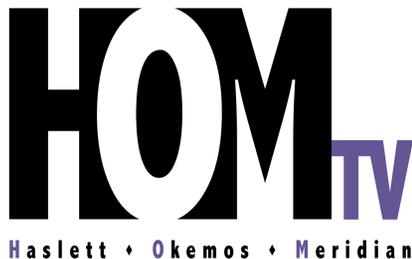
Throughout the years, HOMTV and CAMTV have provided various production services, including creating television program series, commercials and marketing videos, sporting event coverage and feature films for multiple area partners, organizations and agencies. Staff feels that the current Production Rate Card does not accurately represent the services being provided and are requesting the production packages offered be simplified and that the rates be changed to comparable 2017 pricing. The equipment listed on the current Production Rate Card should also be updated to reflect the new HD equipment.

Simplifying the production packages being offered and updating the rates will attract more organizations to partner with HOMTV and CAMTV to utilize the outlined production services.

Staff is requesting that the Commission discuss the changes to the Production Rate Card and move TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE CHANGES.

Current Production Rate Card - Attachment A

Proposed Production Rate Card Package and Pricing Changes - Attachment B



# Studio Production Rate Card

*Facility,  
Equipment, and  
Project Rates*

5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
Main: (517) 349-1232  
Fax: (517) 853-4096  
homtv@meridian.mi.us  
www.homtv.net

## Post Production & Graphics

**Final Cut Editing - G5 Rate**  
Offline Editing \$125/hr  
After Effects 2D Graphics \$125/hr  
Photoshop CS Graphics \$80/hr  
DVD Authoring \$150/hr  
Rendering \$50/hr  
Digitizing \$65/hr

**Final Cut Editing - iMac Rate**  
Offline Editing \$125/hr  
Photoshop CS Graphics \$80/hr  
Rendering \$50/hr  
Digitizing \$65/hr  
Scripting \$80  
Voice Over \$100/page  
Talent Cost

## Non-Profit Services

**Studio Production \$100/hr per 2 people**  
(height to light grid)  
Lighting options + gels available  
Keywall  
Up to two people  
Lighting Panel  
Black, Blue, and Green curtain on tracks 200  
degrees coverage  
Three Sony Cameras on Pan/Tilt Heads, tripods,  
dollys  
Two Microphone Inputs

**Field Production \$ 30/hr per person**

\* Additional fees may apply for overtime, evenings,  
weekends, and holidays.

## Staff Rates & Extras

**Field Production \$50/hr per crew member**  
For on-site events or productions, we would be  
happy to send a field crew.

**Production Staff Rate**  
Rate Level I First 5 hours \$40/hr  
Rate Level II After 5 hrs \$50/hr  
Rate Level III Special hrs \$75/hr

\* Special Rates include overtime, evenings, weekends, and  
holidays.  
\*\* Staff minimums may apply.

**Conference Room & Township Hall Facility**  
*Call for latest rates.*  
21 ft. x 15 ft.  
Seats eight people comfortably  
Beverage Station  
Sink  
Conference Phone  
13" TV Monitor with VCR  
\* Cost does not include phone charges.

**Multi-Format Dubbing**  
*Call for latest rates.*

**Tape Stock**  
*Call for latest rates.*

\* Minimums may apply  
\*\* Additional Staff Rates may Apply.  
\*\*\* Rates Subject to change at HOM-TV Studio Discretion.

## Getting Started

At HOM-TV, we have a fully equipped studio and talented staff of Directors, Editors, Producers, and Production Assistants who can help YOU create your product or message for the public. We can help in many different ways. We have both studio facilities and post production facilities capable of handling everything from a television series and television commercials to corporate videos and feature films.

We strongly encourage pre-production consultation to explore our creative options, solidify a budget, and plan the process. Rates may vary and availability is limited.

### For Consulting & Rates, Call:

**Main: (517) 349-1232**

**Fax: (517) 853-4096**

**Email: [homtv@meridian.mi.us](mailto:homtv@meridian.mi.us)**

\* HOM-TV reserves the right to decline any projects or clients at any time.

## Studio Production Package A

### Studio Package A \$150/hr (2 hour minimum)

(height to light Grid)  
Lighting options + gels available  
Up to six people  
Black, Blue, and Green curtain on tracks 200 degrees coverage  
Four Sony Cameras with  
Tally Lights, VF, Servos, Fluid head Tripods and Dollys  
Six Microphone Inputs  
IFB Capabilities  
Video/JPEG playback at Studio

### **Control Room**

Global Streams Globecaster SC-1000 Switcher  
Panasonic AG-A850 Linear Edit Controller  
Two Panasonic DVCPRO AJ-D650 Decks  
One Panasonic DVCPRO AJ-D640 Deck  
Four Cameras/CCU's Sources  
Behringer 24 channel Audio Board  
Waveform/Vectorscope Monitors  
Recording capabilities on MPEG, DVD and DVC Pro  
CD Player

Program Output to 36" Plasma Monitor for Guests.  
Maximum of one hour worth of Engineering Included.

### Studio Package A with Lights & Curtains/Keywall

#### **Only \$75/hr**

No Equipment - You provide your own Equipment.  
No Setup Time.  
No Breakdown Time.  
No Use of Control Room.

\* Minimums may apply.  
\*\* Additional 20% charge applies for overtime, weekends, evenings, and holidays.  
\*\*\* Rates Subject to change at HOM-TV Studio Discretion.  
\*\*\*\* Packages Subject to change without notice.  
\*\*\*\*\* Additional options are available upon request.

## Studio Production Package B

### Studio Package B \$120/hr (2 hour minimum)

Same as Studio Production Package A, except:  
Two Microphone Inputs only  
No IFB  
No Studio Set Background, Curtain Background only  
No CD Player

### Studio Package B with Lights & Curtains/Keywall Only \$60/hr

No Equipment - You provide your own Equipment.  
No Setup Time.  
No Breakdown Time.  
No Use of Control Room.

\* Minimums may apply.  
\*\* Additional 20% charge applies for overtime, weekends, evenings, and holidays.  
\*\*\* Rates Subject to change at HOM-TV Studio Discretion.  
\*\*\*\* Packages Subject to change without notice.  
\*\*\*\*\* Additional options are available upon request.

**Proposed Changes to Production Packages & Rates:**

**Live or live-to-tape meeting coverage, sports coverage and event coverage as well as program series creation would be quoted based on the following Production Packages:**

**Production Package A:**

- \* 1-2 person crew
- \* \$1,200 for 4 hours
- \* \$150 for each additional hour

**Production Package B:**

- \* 3-5 person crew
- \* \$1,700 for 4 hours
- \* \$150 for each additional hour

**Production Package C:**

- \* 6 + person crew
- \* \$2,200 for 4 hours
- \* \$150 for each additional hour

**Each package would include pre-production consultation, field or studio production, post-production editing, graphic creation, finalizing and dubbing.**

\*If the program is aired on either HOMTV or CAMTV, the package would also include programming and marketing across multiple platforms.

\*\*For a program series, the package would be quoted per video produced.

\*\*\*In-kind media sponsorship quotes for non-profit organizations will be quoted for Production Package B at a 25% discount totaling \$1,350.

**A La Carte production services would be quoted based on the following options:**

**Marketing or Commercial Video**

- \* 1 video up to 10 minutes in length
- \* \$1,500 flat rate
- \* Includes pre-production consultation, field or studio production, post-production editing, graphic creation, finalizing and dubbing.

**Editing/Graphics Only**

- \* 1 person crew
- \* \$90 per hour
- \* Includes pre-production consultation.
- \* No field or studio production.
- \* Use existing footage provided for post-production editing and graphic creation.
- \* \$15 to finalize and dub 1 copy

**Field Production Shooting Only**

- \* 1 person crew
- \* \$90 per hour
- \* Includes pre-production consultation.
- \* Single camera shooting.
- \* No editing or graphic creation.
- \* \$15 to finalize and dub 1 copy



**To: Communications Commission**

**From:** *Brandie Yates*

**Brandie Yates, HOMTV Executive Producer/Internship Coordinator**

**Date: March 29, 2017**

**Re: Introduction to HOMTV Alumni Giving Scholarship Program**

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For 35 years, HOMTV's Internship Program has primarily offered unpaid internships that provide students with hands-on training and experience to prepare them for careers in the television and communications industry. Over the years, staff has been approached by prospective intern applicants, as well as interns already accepted into the program regarding the need for financial support to offset costs in order to participate in an unpaid internship. This need has grown as we continue to expand the program to additional colleges and universities requiring commuting from different parts of the state such as Mt. Pleasant (Central Michigan University), Saginaw (Saginaw Valley State University) and Detroit (Oakland University).

With the generosity of HOMTV's Alumni Network, staff is looking to create an Alumni Giving Scholarship Program to assist interns financially with costs associated with our program, including mileage, housing, professional clothing and career development opportunities. While encouraging participation in the HOMTV Internship Program, this support will also allow us to strengthen the depth of the interns' experience and provide them with an opportunity they may not necessarily afford otherwise.

Selection criteria for the scholarships will be determined as the program further develops. Staff anticipates offering higher scholarship levels (\$2500 - \$5000) to interns who have already completed their first semester of the Internship Program and lower scholarship levels (\$500 - \$1000) will be offered to incoming interns in their first semester. The number of awards will be based on available program funds and demonstrated intern interest and need.

Staff is requesting that the Commission discuss the concept and move TO APPROVE THE INTRODUCTION OF A HOMTV ALUMNI GIVING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM as a means of assisting new and returning interns.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**VIDEO SERVICE  
PROVIDER(S)**

# Xfinity TV App For Select Roku Devices Begins Beta Trial

By Andrew Ferrone, Vice President of Pay TV, Roku, and Michael DelCiello, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Business Development, Comcast

Today we are releasing a beta of the Xfinity TV app for Roku in the U.S., providing Xfinity TV customers across the country even more choice in how they access the programming that is included with their cable subscription.

Featuring an immersive guide with rich graphics, imagery, personalized recommendations and detailed information for tens of thousands of movies and TV shows, the app will allow Xfinity TV customers to watch live and on demand programming, including local broadcast and Public Educational and Governmental channels, as well as their cloud DVR recordings, delivered over Comcast's secure private managed network, on Roku devices in the home.

The Xfinity TV beta app gives customers the ability to use and explore the beta Roku channel while Comcast continues to test and improve performance, enhance it with additional features and functionality, and refine the experience to ensure that the app works smoothly. To enjoy the Xfinity TV beta app on the Roku platform, simply add it from the Roku Channel Store. Initially, the Xfinity TV beta app will be available on Roku TV models and all Roku players released in the last couple years including the popular Roku Express, Roku Express+, Roku Streaming Stick (model 3600), Roku Premiere, Roku Premiere+, Roku Ultra, Roku 4 (model 4400), Roku 3 (model 4230 and 4200), and Roku 2 (model 4210). We will work to expand support to additional Roku players throughout the beta as part of the official launch.

[Click to download](#)

We plan to officially launch the Xfinity TV app later this year, but for now we can't wait for people to try it out and enjoy more choice and flexibility in accessing their Xfinity cable subscription on their Roku device. Your feedback is important during this beta trial and you will be helping the Comcast team improve the experience. To learn more about the Xfinity TV app for Roku and provide feedback, visit [www.xfinity.com/xfinitytvbeta](http://www.xfinity.com/xfinitytvbeta).

Happy Viewing!

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NINETEEN MICHIGAN NONPROFITS BENEFIT FROM COMCAST FOUNDATION GRANTS  
TOTALING \$351,000**

*Grants help expand digital literacy, promote community service and build tomorrow's leaders*

**PLYMOUTH, MICH., JANUARY 12, 2017** – Nineteen Michigan nonprofit organizations expanded digital literacy, promoted the importance of community service and helped build tomorrow's leaders thanks to \$351,000 in grants from the Comcast Foundation in 2016.

"I appreciate the Comcast Foundation's continued investment in our state's nonprofit organizations," Gov. Rick Snyder said. "Thanks to the tireless efforts and extremely important contributions of these various organizations, Michigan is a better place to call home."

"With more than 3,700 Michigan employees and a presence here that spans four decades, our company has deep roots across the state," said Tim Collins, senior vice president for Comcast in Michigan. "At Comcast, we believe it's our duty to invest in nonprofit organizations that share our commitment to strengthening the communities we serve and live in."

**The organizations receiving Comcast Foundation grants in 2016 include:**

City Year Detroit (\$100,000)  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit (\$30,000)  
Association of Chinese Americans (Madison Heights) (\$23,000)  
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (\$20,000)  
Urban League of Detroit and Southeastern Michigan (\$20,000)  
100 Black Men of Greater Detroit, Inc. (\$15,000)  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Michigan Capital Region, Inc. (Lansing) (\$15,000)  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan (\$15,000)  
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (Dearborn) (\$13,000)  
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan (Ypsilanti) (\$10,000)  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint (\$10,000)  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Holland (\$10,000)  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland and Macomb Counties (\$10,000)  
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Muskegon Lakeshore (Muskegon) (\$10,000)  
Girl Scouts of Southeast Michigan (\$10,000)  
Grand Rapids Urban League, Inc. (\$10,000)  
Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Inc. (\$10,000)  
Southwestern Michigan Urban League, Inc. (Battle Creek) (\$10,000)  
Turning Point (Okemos) (\$10,000)

Including the support in Michigan, the Comcast Foundation donated \$19 million in 2016 to nonprofit organizations in the communities it serves nationwide. In addition to the grants from the Comcast Foundation, Comcast also responds to community needs through local sponsorships and in-kind support, such as airing public service announcements, employee volunteerism, and providing technology equipment and services to educational institutes and local libraries across the country.

**About the Comcast Foundation**

The Comcast Foundation was founded by Comcast Corporation in June 1999 to provide charitable support to qualified non-profit organizations. The Foundation primarily invests in programs intended to have a positive, sustainable impact on their communities. The Foundation has three community investment priorities—expanding digital literacy, promoting community service, and building tomorrow's leaders. Since its inception, the Comcast Foundation has donated \$195 million to organizations in the communities nationwide that Comcast serves. More information about the Foundation and its programs is available at [www.comcast.com/community](http://www.comcast.com/community).

###



**Jan 30, 2017**

## **Xfinity X1 Gets Customers Ready for the Big Game**

By Andy Hunter (<http://corporate.comcast.com/comcast-voices?author=319>) , Vice President, Programming, Comcast Cable in Sports (<http://corporate.comcast.com/comcast-voices?category=sports>)

As the Patriots get ready to take on the Falcons in Super Bowl L1 on February 5, Comcast will once again help Xfinity TV customers get ready for the biggest game of the year by creating the ultimate football destination on X1. Available now, X1 customers can explore 30-minute recaps of every Super Bowl, watch highlights from this year's playoffs, browse related web clips from top sports networks and even get a sneak peek at some of this year's most-anticipated Super Bowl commercials. X1 customers can easily browse and access this special Super Bowl collection via Xfinity On Demand, the X1 sports app or by saying "sports" into the voice remote.

On game day, X1 customers can watch the game on FOX from any screen in the home - on the TV and across devices via the Xfinity TV app. Additionally, X1 customers can pull up the sports app on their TV and track real-time player and team stats as the action unfolds.

Also, fans on-the-go can visit FOX Sports GO and live stream the game from smart phones, tablets and computers.

We're committed to offering the best viewing experience across platforms and big events like the Super Bowl allow us to showcase the new and existing X1 features that make it easier for customers to discover, engage and savor these iconic moments. Enjoy the game!



February 6, 2017

Ms. Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator  
Meridian Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community. I am writing to notify you a change to the channel lineup.

On or about March 14, 2017, Esquire will no longer be available on the Comcast channel lineup.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner  
Director, External Affairs  
Comcast, Heartland Region  
1401 E. Miller Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48911



## Important Information About Your Comcast Business Hosted Exchange Email Service

Account Number: 8529114160270017

Homtv-Meridian Township  
5151 Marsh Rd  
Okemos, MI 48864-1198



Dear Valued Customer,

Microsoft is replacing the Hosted Exchange email platform with Microsoft Office 365. The Office 365 platform offers various options for email and storage capacity for end users. As a result, Comcast Business will begin retiring its Microsoft Hosted Exchange email offering as early as 12/31/16.

Following the retirement date, Comcast Business will not offer Microsoft email with Comcast Business Internet service. Comcast Business customers wishing to receive email services will need to contract separately with Microsoft or one of the other email providers.

At this time, no immediate action from your company is required. In the coming weeks, you will receive additional communications from Comcast Business with options for migrating your company's email service to the new Microsoft platform. These additional communications will come to the primary email address on file (please check SPAM folders to ensure you receive these communications).

We appreciate your business and will continue to keep you informed about this change. Should you have questions, please call 1 (866) 950-3792 or visit [business.comcast.com/CloudSolutionsMigration](http://business.comcast.com/CloudSolutionsMigration)

Thank you,

Comcast Business Cloud Solutions Support

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**COMPLAINTS/  
COMPLIMENTS**

# Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

**Complaint Number** 2017-001

**Date** 3/17/2017

**Name** John Ruh

**Street Address** 1808 Birchwood

**City / Zip** Okemos 48864-

**Work Phone** **Ext**

**Cell Phone**

**Home Phone** (517) 349-2955

**Email**

**Best Time to Call**

**Best Time to Service**

**Service Provider** Comcast

**Reason for Calling** Complaint

**Unburied Cable**       **Waiting for Service**       **Missed Service Call**       **Cable Box**   
**Bad Reception**       **Cable Out**       **Cannot Phone**       **Other**   
**Bad Treatment**       **Bad Information**       **No Response to Request**

**Problem Description** Mr. John Ruh stated he has been dealing with this issue for over 1 year. He was told that if he went and purchased a modem from Best Buy that he would no longer have to pay the rental fee of \$10 per month. He purchased the modem over a 1 year ago and has received some letters of explanation and some credits for the \$10 rental fee, but then this month he was billed again. He has contacted customer service many times, hence the letters and credits but he doesn't feel that he is being understood completely and would like the issue resolved once and for all. His last conversation was with Heria, Comcast Customer Service. Mr. Ruh is expecting a return phone call and resolution to his issue. Thank you in advance,

**Problem Before?** No      **Ongoing**        **MPSC Information Given**

**Assigned Staff** Andrea Smiley

**Staff Response** Forwarded complaint to John Gardner, Director of External Affairs for Comcast and explained to the customer that he would receive a call from customer service. I also instructed the customer to call me back in a week if he didn't hear from Comcast.

**Resolution**

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**PROGRAMMING**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2017

**Media Contact:** Deborah Guthrie

Communications Director

[guthrie@meridian.mi.us](mailto:guthrie@meridian.mi.us)

517.853.4380

## **HOMTV Launched New Throwback Thursday Program**

**Okemos, MI** —HOMTV Channel 21 of Meridian Township began airing the new program *Throwback Thursday*.

*Throwback Thursday* will feature HOMTV interviews, programs and broadcasts throughout the years. In recognition of Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary, *Throwback Thursday* will dig through the archives of HOMTV and recognize the rich history of the community. For more information on *Throwback Thursday* please contact Deborah Guthrie at 517.853.4380.

*Throwback Thursday* aired Thursday January 6th. Host, Deborah Guthrie took a look back at a "Reflections" interview in 1993 with Ted Wonch about Meridian Township's purchase of Wonch Park.

HOMTV proudly sponsored the documentary "Meridian: The Lines That Define Us". The documentary provided a closure look into the history of Meridian Township featuring local residents.

###

*HOMTV is Meridian Township's award-winning government access channel providing exclusive gavel to gavel coverage of township meetings and additional programming that offers news and information about the community. HOMTV programming can be viewed on demand at [www.homtv.net](http://www.homtv.net).*

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**5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 349-1232**

**[www.homtv.net](http://www.homtv.net) [homtv@meridian.mi.us](mailto:homtv@meridian.mi.us)**





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 13, 2017**

**CONTACT:** Brandie Yates, Executive Producer  
517.853.4208 | [yates@meridian.mi.us](mailto:yates@meridian.mi.us)

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## **HOMTV Launches New Website with Video Integration from New Provider**

*Closed Captioning Added to Township Meeting On-Demand at HOMTV.net*

**Okemos, MI** – Meridian Township’s award-winning Government Access Channel, HOMTV, recently unveiled their new website at [www.homtv.net](http://www.homtv.net) with a fresh look and added functionality.

The new website is both user-friendly and mobile friendly with responsive design across all platforms. Users can now search news stories based on various categories and view current and previous programs, including Township meeting coverage, with ease. Other features of the new website include search capability, visitor account accessibility to follow and comment on content, as well as a community events section.

“The previous website was nearly 8-years-old and was feeling very outdated from a user and administrator perspective. We are excited for all the new features and hope our audience will be able to utilize the site to find news, Township meeting coverage and our programs much easier,” said Brandie Yates, HOMTV Executive Producer.

HOMTV has also partnered with a new provider, Swagit Productions LCC, for live and on-demand video streaming of Township meetings and local original programming. In addition, Swagit is providing closed captioning services for archived on-demand meetings. HOMTV’s live video stream and on-demand closed captioned meetings are paired with an indexed agenda that have made it easier for a viewer to jump to topics or agenda items that are most relevant to them. This service is conducted off-site, freeing up valuable time for HOMTV staff and interns.

In 2016, the HOMTV website underwent a complete overhaul in terms of both design and usability.

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.



A PRIME COMMUNITY  
[meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 3, 2017**

**CONTACT:** Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director  
517.853.4380 | [guthrie@meridian.mi.us](mailto:guthrie@meridian.mi.us)

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## **HOMTV Provides Closed Captioning Service for On-Demand Township Meeting Coverage**

*New Service Accommodates a More Inclusive Audience*

**Meridian Township, MI** — HOMTV partnered with a new online video service provider, Swagit Productions LCC, offering closed captioning services for archived on-demand meetings which began in January 2017.

Meridian Township meetings with closed captioning include: Environmental Commission, Park Commission, Planning Commission, Township Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. There is a 24 hour turnaround time for closed caption meetings to be available.

Providing closed captioning services was part of a three year process.

- 2014 The Meridian Township Board passed a Resolution in support of PEG channels stating: "It is important to preserve PEG channels and funding for PEG channels and to ensure that PEG channels continue to be available to the entire community to serve residents."
- 2015 The Communications Commission and Township Board set a goal to explore closed captioning options.
- 2016 The Township Board approved the 2017 budget year for these services.

Tax dollars are not affected by the service. Funding for closed captioning is from PEG fees & franchise fees collected from AT&T and Comcast annual gross revenue for the use of the public rights of way. Monies collected are designated for use by the Township Board & Communications Commission to provide Communication services including the HOMTV Government Access Channel to the residents of Meridian Township and provide the playback of the CAMTV Regional Access Channel.

"It is not required by the FCC for PEG channels to provide closed captioning but the Township feels strongly in having this be provided to its residents and we are happy to have this as an additional HOMTV programming service," Deborah Guthrie, Meridian Township Communications Director.

HOMTV's live video stream and on-demand closed captioned meetings are paired with an indexed agenda that have made it easier for viewers to jump to topics or agenda items that are most relevant to them.

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.



A PRIME COMMUNITY  
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