



Westford Community Access Television, Inc.



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter



Summer is here! At least that's what the calendar tells us but evidence of its warming presence is strangely lacking. Instead, we've seen rain – lots of it and brisk, un-summerlike, temperatures. Luckily though there's a silver lining (ray of sunshine?) known as Westford CAT. Not only do we have lots of new programming to help you endure those rainy days, we also have some great new equipment just waiting to be used! Read on to hear all the details and on that next bout of rainy, cool weather remember your three PEG channels, 8, 9 and 10. Or, even better, drop by our studio for a tour and learn more about the great community resource that is Westford CAT.



We've had a lot of activity since our Spring Newsletter including a record breaking month of April that saw an amazing 12 studio shoots and an overall flurry of volunteer activity both behind the camera and in front of it. May kept us busy with numerous town meetings including the Annual Town Meeting which was covered with three cameras to better present all of the discussions, debates and presentations. June saw us covering another Special Town Meeting and, speaking of special, also saw us hosting a visit from Lt. Governor Tim Murray who was the guest on State Representative Jim Arciero's summer "Legislative Update" show. Westford CAT also had its own Annual Meeting that month and a copy of our most recent Annual Report can be found on our website: www.westfordcat.org.

And then there were the new TV programs! Public Access Ch. 8 aired several new stand alone community programs, including the Health Department sponsored "Emergency Preparedness Lecture," coverage of the "Apple Blossom Parade" and informational talk shows from the Westford Recycling Commission and The League of Women Voters. There was also multi-camera coverage of a Westford Farmer's Market sponsored screening/Q & A of an acclaimed PBS documentary about the corn industry called "King Corn". Mary and Bob Ethier also finished a new "Llama Treks through the Bible" show, an innovative blend of puppet show, live action, music and interviews! Two new series also premiered on Ch. 8: "Rotary in Action" and "The I Like Ike Show."

"Rotary in Action" is a new half hour program hosted by Westford Rotary member Marshall Tisdale, who is also the Producer. Each episode features a guest connected to Rotary as well as a short video from Rotary International that showcases some of Rotary's activities and charitable causes around the country. Marshall intends for 'Rotary in Action' to,

"increase awareness about the good things that rotary does as an organization and how much fun it is to be a part of the Westford Rotary."

Two shows have already been produced. The first featured Rotary President Elect, Tom Courtney and the second spotlighted Rotarian Kathi Duprey, founder and organizer of the annual "Blues-N-Brews Festival.

The second new series is a different animal altogether. "The I Like Ike Show," produced and hosted by new volunteer Ira Keltz, is Westford's answer to such legendary variety shows as "The Sonny & Cher Comedy Hour", "The Hudson Brothers Razzle Dazzle Show" and the "Donny & Marie Show". Ira describes it as "a family friendly variety show that will feature comedy segments, musical performances and entertainment for all ages."



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"If you find yourself stuck in bed, quarantined by Swine Flu, incarcerated or just can't find the remote control, you WILL watch this show and you will like it!" urges Ira.



As you can guess from the above quote, one of Ira's many talents is his sense of humor and you can find laughs in abundance on "The I Like Ike Show." Take that Donny and Marie!!

Not to be forgotten is our [Educational Access Ch. 9](#), which has benefited from some new programs of its own including "The Haystack Observatory Lecture" the "Westford Academy 2009 Graduation" and "Pathways to China" a program produced at the Westford Academy studio about students recent trip to China. Also on Ch. 9 were several exciting Nashoba Tech basketball games. The Tech also produced three new episodes of "Nashoba Talks" and continued their live daily show "Good Day Nashoba" through the end of the school year. Fans missing the show for the summer need not despair as a "Good Day Nashoba: Summer Series", aired live for four Fridays in July.

[Government Access Ch. 10](#), is still your main source for town meeting replays. We've added some additional replay times for Board of Selectmen and Planning Board meetings and you can still see all 9 hours of Annual Town Meeting as well as the shorter Special Town Meetings held on June 18 and July 30. The Westford Health Dept. sponsored a **H1N1 Flu panel discussion program** from UChannel, a website that provides academic lectures and events. For a complete schedule simply visit our website www.westfordcat.org and click on the link "TV schedule" then scroll down to Ch. 10.



Here's something cool ... new equipment!

Westford CAT recently had the proverbial "Christmas in July" (well, May in our case) with the receipt of some great new equipment. What did we get? Well, for starters, two brand new Canon XH A1S HD camcorders, along with new tripods and assorted accessories. These new field cameras feature a broad range of capabilities and advanced professional features that will help make your footage look and sound better than ever. In addition to the field cameras we also received a new JVC studio camera to replace our 10 year old KY-19 camera. This camera joins our other newer studio cameras for a uniform set and we can now boast that all three of our camera's tally lights are working! Other neat goodies include a portable hard drive with a removable 120 GB "mediapac" that we'll soon be using to record town meetings and other events with and a new Mini-DV/DVD deck for use with our Avid non-linear editor. Speaking of Avid, we'll soon have an upgraded version of our non-linear editing software along with a more powerful computer to run it on. Training on the new equipment is always available and is simply a phone call or e-mail away. Don't wait!

Oh, if you've noticed an unusual glow coming from our lobby area when you drive by our Groton Road studio, no need to worry. It's not aliens or late night experiments with radiation, it's simply our new lobby monitors! We now have three flat screen LCD monitors in our lobby each one displaying one of our three channels – 8, 9 & 10!



Community Television and You!

Producing & editing your own program, covering an event or function in town or even just learning about Westford CAT's important role in providing information and resources to the community are fun, different ways to wile away the lazy days of summer. It also shows your support for Community Television. With summer vacations in full swing, remember to add Westford CAT to your list of activities.