Community Television is inextricably ingrained in the fabric of the communities that are lucky enough to have one.

In each community, these PEG stations are a buzz with folks signing out cameras to tape a variety of events. Foxboro Cable Access (FCA) is no exception. Elementary school plays and holiday concerts, Middle School music & drama, High School music, sports, drama, and any other event you can imagine. Graduations, National Honor Society Induction Ceremonies, and our crowning achievement this year – our FHS Varsity Girls Basketball season including their State Championship win!

You see, FCA doesn’t produce any programming. We, the people do. The residents of Foxborough. FCA, along with our funding partners (Comcast & Verizon), give folks the tools and the training to produce an array of programming. And it’s not just the schools. Many individuals and many organizations in town take advantage of this community service. The Historical Society, Historical Commission, Founders Day Committee, Foxboro Jaycees, Foxboro Recreation, Friends groups, our town library; almost every concert, parade and ceremony, lecture - any event you can imagine and too many to mention here. Community talk shows, including one with our Town Manager are quite popular. Weekly church services are big here, too.

It’s not just entertainment. Town government meetings including the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, CIP, annual & special town meetings, Veterans ceremonies and other informational town events including emergency meeting and notifications. Whether it be through FCA’s community bulletin board or via video tape, FCA helps make it happen. About 10 years ago when we had 2 big storms (a topical storm & surprise October snow storm within 8 weeks of each other), we lost power to the most if not the entire town for up to a week each storm. At every emergency Selectmen meeting FCA volunteers and staff were there taping the meeting, conducting interviews with EMA Chief, editing them at one of the few places in town with a generator and posting them to social media. It was the only way to get the latest local information out to the community.

One group in town who takes full advantage is our Senior Center. The Council on Aging & Human Services tapes nearly every event and informational meeting that they offer.. Seniors sign out equipment, tape the event and use FCA’s facilities to edit their programs. They also tape shows in our studio.

Our senior population is quite vibrant in town, but not all can attend these programs when they are offered. Some of our seniors are in ill health, take care of spouses, their grandchildren and in some cases still work. The taping and airing of these programs is vital to getting the information to them. And again, it’s not just entertainment. Representatives from HESSCO & SHINE, attorneys & CPAs conduct forums for our seniors on Medicare and other topics. We also have our awesome Aging Mastery Program that offers invaluable information to our seniors on their financial, emotional and physical well being and to those who care for them. All available for viewing on FCA TV and the FCA website.

Did I mention file sharing sites such as Mass Access, TelVue Connect, archive.org and other file sharing programs make is super easy to share great content with & from other towns?

Residents – from all over the country - producing programming for all to benefit from and for all to enjoy.

It is quite shocking to think that these vibrant community treasures could all be gone.

Full disclosure time. I am not only a resident, I’ve been on staff here at FCA for 18 years and I’ve been a volunteer producer, camera op, director, you name it since it’s inception 34 years ago. The service FCA provides is invaluable to the community offering what no other entity can. We bring entertainment and information to the community the way only local television does.

I have also signed my parents’ names to these comments since they share my sentiments and directly benefit and enjoy the programming FCA has to offer.

We are vehemently opposed to this and strongly urge you to take **no action** that would have a disasterous impact on this vital community resource.

Thank you.