



Montague Community Cable News

April 2012

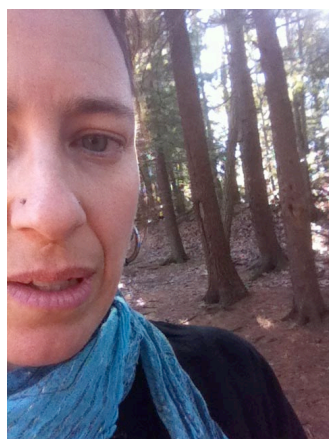
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MCTV Membership: How Montague Makes TV!

Community producers make community TV. Lately, the campaign to reach out to residents, local government and organizations to learn what they'd like to see on and put on MCTV has created a situation in which we are long on community requests, and short on active member-producers. But our active producers are making lots of local TV!

Member Profile

Andrea Nasca, who began working with MCTV this winter, says "Ever since OWS [Occupy Wall Street] started, I've been on fire,



Andrea Nasca

impassioned by the energy of this global uprising and raising of consciousness, and feeling more empowered and optimistic than I've ever felt in my life. I wracked my brain and searched my heart for how I could best participate, given my skills, my limitations, my interests. It occurred to me to contact MCTV and see what it would take to do some programming about OWS and related issues. I feel, as so many of us do, that the mainstream media is both lying boldface, as well as distorting reality to maintain the status quo of the 1%.

"Owen answered the phone and was very

enthusiastic! He said I could use the equipment, get trained to edit AND I could do whatever I wanted to...wow. I jumped right in and filmed the OWS NE Bus Tour that stopped in Noho for several days. I also filmed a program about the tenth anniversary of Guantanamo, Move To Amend speaker David Cobb, revolutionary local artists working with school children, Bernie Sanders at the VT Yankee Rally, the Trayvon Martin Rally in Springfield and the St. Anne's parade in New Orleans at Mardi Gras!

"I have met some wonderful, amazing people. It's really fun and exciting to do interviews, learn to work in the studio, learn to use film editing software and using my energy to help propel humanity into a more sustainable and compassionate future. The editing process can be challenging but with Owen's help, we're making great progress.

"I am passionate about using alternative sources of media to help inform the public about the importance of participatory democracy, social justice issues and the urgency for more and more people to wake up to their power. I look forward to interviewing any one of you about these issues and meeting you in the streets to raise up our voices in solidarity: power to the people!"

MCTV Seeks a New Home: Grand Trunk Media and Cultural Center

MCCI, the 501(c)(3) that runs MCTV, seeks to renovate and move into the old Cumberland Farms building with both Turners Falls River Culture and the Montague Business Association

(MBA). MCCI would foot the entire bill for repairs and renovations. The cost is estimated to be about \$80,000 to \$110,000. MCCI would donate about 25% of the floor plan, free of charge, to RiverCulture and the MBA. Director Lisa Davol would have her own private office, and there would be about 450 square feet of permanent exhibit space. The MBA would have a desk and brochure display space in an open area outside of RiverCulture's area. With the remaining 1,700 square feet MCTV will have doubled their space allowing them to expand their training, editing and community-use areas.



Board member Mik Muller is the lead contact on the proposal. Muller presented the proposal with supporting information to the town government on April 17, first at a board meeting of the owner of the property, the Montague Economic Development and Investment Corp., (EDIC), and then at the Town's Selectboard meeting. Either rehabilitating the building to comply with the Building Inspector's order to rid the building of mold or razing it would both compel the Town to seek funds through Town Meeting. EDIC decided to seek a tenant (pending final approval from the state, which has an agreement with the Town about appropriate uses of the property). EDIC explained to the Selectboard that MCCI had presented a proposal that would put the building to an appropriate use, voicing its support for the "Grand Trunk Media and Cultural Center" concept, and that renting to a tenant who would both take on the costs of fixing up the building and house other economic and cultural development organizations was beneficial to the Town. EDIC asked for the Selectboard's cooperation, though EDIC has the sole authority to dispense with the building as it sees fit. The Selectboard voted 2 to 1 to support EDIC's pursuit of MCCI as a tenant.

For more information, email GrandTrunk@MontagueTV.org.

What Would We Do Without Laurel Facey?

MCTV member Laurel Facey is ensuring that local talks, performances and meetings are available for all to watch. Recently, she covered Middle Eastern expert and Wendell resident Robert M. Haddad's talk, "The 'Arab Spring' in Syria: Causes and Explanations of the Current Crisis" at the Wendell Free Library. Facey reports, "Haddad, professor emeritus of History and Religion at Smith College and former President of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, spoke about the uprising of mainly Sunni Muslims against a regime controlled largely by members of the minority Alawi sect, to which Bashar al-Asad belongs. Haddad explained the climb to power of the al-Asad family and of a military controlled by the Alawis. Factors preventing an easy solution to this crisis were also explored." Thanks, Laurel!

Membership Renewal

We'd like to update our membership database. Members, please give us your current contact information, preferred method of communication, interest in training and volunteering, and availability. Contact Cindy at outreach@montaguetv.org or 863-9200.

Board Update

The Board is having its annual meeting at 5 PM on Weds. May 2 at MCTV. MCTV members are invited to Board meetings. On the agenda: financial report, station reports, next steps on Grand Trunk proposal, and more.

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welcomes contributions from members of MCTV, the Cable Advisory Committee and the general public. Contact Cindy Tarail, Outreach Coordinator, at 863-9200 or outreach@montaguetv.org for more information.

