WISCONSIN COMMUNITY MEDIA

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2015 Significant Community Program Award honoree

"In the production of that one episode, Matt Glowacki exemplified what is great about community access television. He not only got himself immersed in his community, he got his wife involved as well."

by Jeff Robbins

In April of 2014, I was new to my position as executive director of the Sun Prairie Media Center. One of my priorities was to broaden the programming appearing on our community access channel to include more people of color and differing abilities.

An Internet search brought up Matt Glowacki's name and I was immediately intrigued by Matt's story. Who wouldn't be? Born with no legs. Runs multiple businesses. Paralympic athlete. Successful motivational speaker. Best of all, he lived in Sun Prairie, so he was definitely 'local' enough for local cable access TV.

Producer Matt Glowacki

An initial meeting proved productive. We hit it off. Better still, Matt had ideas. He wanted to adapt for TV his then current series of motivational talks called "Doing Happiness." He wanted to tell his story but keep the focus on people who were busy "Doing Happiness in Sun Prairie." He wanted to introduce a segment called "Bunch of Flowers" that would honor unrecognized folks in the community with a special surprise bouquet. And he wanted to highlight the community work of Sun Prairie resident, Kevin Mengelt, whose wife Maureen had been killed by a drunk driver in 2013. Kevin had started an annual memorial run to honor the memory of his late wife. Matt wanted to cover the run, talk to the community about Maureen and her tragic death, and Kevin's triumph in the face of that tragedy. Most ambitiously of all, he wanted to spearhead the installation of a Maureen Mengelt memorial plaque to be erected near the site of the fatal accident.

Matt on the studio set of *Doing Happiness in Sun Prairie* at Sun Prairie Media Center.

In the production of that one episode, Matt Glowacki exemplified what is great about community access television. He not only got himself immersed in his community, he got his wife involved as well. He not only learned about cameras, lighting, interviewing, and being on television, he got his wife equally engaged in the process, as she enthusiastically took on the role of video editor, wardrobe consultant, and de facto executive producer.

Most importantly, with his program he reminded Sun Prairie of the power of positivity, the power of perseverance, and the power of community. And with his hard work, positivity, and perseverance, Matt did in fact get his plaque honoring Maureen, helping to ensure that Maureen Mengelt's memory and spirit live on.

Watch *Doing Happiness in Sun Prairie* online at ksun.tv. Find KSUN on Charter cable channel 983 and Kids-4 on 984.

West Bend's first annual film fest gets kids involved with filmmaking

Stop by Regner Park at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 20 to see what West Bend's middle and high school students (ages 10 – 18) have created on video. In June, students submitted short videos up to six minutes long to the film fest co-sponsored by West Bend Community Television and the city's Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department. A panel of local artists is now judging the work. First, second, and third place awards will be given to the Best Short and Most Creative in each age group. Movies start at dusk.

Watch WBCTV on Charter cable 986 and 987 and AT&T 99 or online at http://west-bend.pegcentral.com.

Milwaukee residents watch *Council Rewind* for highlights

With eight standing committees funneling issues into fifteen regular city council meetings each year, no one has time to keep up with it all. That's why City Channel started *Council Rewind* in the summer of 2013.

To create the show, Milwaukee City Channel staff members Dennis Geraghty and Dustin Weis review committee agendas and select two or three topics they believe will be of most interest to residents in the current three-week committee/council meeting cycle. After the city council meets, Dustin selects clips from the committees and council that best explain the issue, the debate, and the vote and edits them together into a half-hour program. An in-studio wraparound is shot to tie the segments together.

Council Rewind is cablecast three times a day for two weeks beginning the Friday after the last council meeting. The show received national recognition by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) in 2013, placing 3rd in the Public Affairs category.

Watch *Council Rewind* on Time Warner cable channel 25 and AT&T 99 or online at http://city.milwaukee.gov/cityclerk/CityChannel.

Honoree Mick Givens with WCM Executive Director Mary Cardona

Rice Lake's Givens inducted into the WCM Hall of Fame

Former director of Rice Lake TV, Mick Givens, is the newest member of the WCM Hall of Fame. Mick exemplifies what WCM looks for each year in recognizing the careers of Wisconsin community media professionals – statewide leadership and devotion to the mission of public, education, and government access TV.

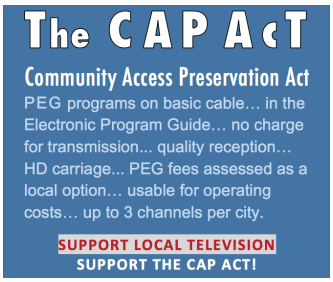
Mick began volunteering at the fledgling Rice Lake station in the 1980's while employed by Marcus Cable as the District Manager. By 1995, he was managing it. Mick was part of the first group to join WCM (then WAPC) in 1998 and served on the board twice, most recently as Secretary and President from 2009 to 2011.

Wisconsin Rapids Solarus subscribers can now watch local shows in HD

In May, Solarus began cablecasting the River Cities Community Access Media channel 3 in HD on its system. HDTV provides picture quality that is substantially better than that of standard definition television.

Solarus is the only video provider in the state to cablecast access channels in HD, although nearly all local media centers produce programming in the higher quality format. "We want to express our sincere appreciation to Solarus for continuing to advance the quality of its communications services, which enables RCCA Media to enhance the viewing experience of its customers," said Tom Loucks, Media Coordinator of RCCA Media.

Charter carries the same channel in SD on channel 985. Everyone can also watch RCCA programming on-demand online at rccamedia.org.



U. S. Senate legislation provides support for community television

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) has introduced the Community Access Preservation Act (S. 1244) to enhance support for community television on cable systems.

The bill would have a significant effect on Wisconsin because it would restore the ability of municipalities to assess a PEG fee on cable subscribers to support local programming. The bill would also enable municipalities to request video providers to list the names of access channels and their program schedules on the electronic program guide. This would make a huge difference to local channels, enabling viewers to see access channel schedules as they see the schedules of other channels and record programs for later viewing. Only a few channels across the state are now listed in the EPG.

The *WCM Quarterly* is produced by Wisconsin Community Media, *"supporting community expression through media since 1998."* Find YOUR community media center by using the search tool at www.wisconsincommunitymedia.com. Find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinCommunityMedia. Contact Mary Cardona, Editor and Executive Director at 608-215-5594 or email exec@wisconsincommunitymedia.com.