

PAL-TV / HMBC

Civic Operations Manual

Volunteer & Staff Section

— 1823 —



Welcome to PAL-TV.

Hobart Municipal Broadcasting Corporation

PAL-TV has been broadcasting Hobart's finest municipal oddities since 1982. Our mission is simple: *to inform, confuse and entertain.*

We are a Village-governed civic broadcaster, operating out of our studios at 108 Hopewell St. Our programming includes Council Replays, Community Bulletin Board, Possum Fest Highlights, Historical Society Lectures, and the unpredictable Dale Hour.

We are not affiliated with PBS or the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, nor are we allowed to contact them per, court order.

A Brief History of PAL-TV.

- **1982 – Founding:** Created by Village Ordinance 801 (CCC §801.01) as Hobart’s public access broadcaster. Operated above 102 Hopewell St. with donated gear.
- **1985 – Fire:** Coffee maker + transmitter = blaze. Control room destroyed, station moved to the basement. Station moved to 108 Hopwell St.
- **Late 1980s – Golden Years:** Peak with Council Replays, Gardening Hour, and Possum Fest Live! “Talking Possums” won a county fair ribbon.
- **1990s – Silent Decade:** Accidentally off-air nearly 10 years due to paperwork and equipment failures; staff still filed reports and attended Counting Hour.
- **2001 – CPB Revoked:** Affiliation lost for “irregularities.” Assistant Program Director Gloria Pritchard: “*Good riddance, we never needed your tote bags.*”
- **2005 – Return:** Volunteers revived PAL-TV with a forgotten transmitter found in a shed at Public Works; first broadcast was “We’re Back” scrawled on a card.
- **2010s – Modern Era:** Rebuilt with donations and surplus gear. Expanded to PAL After Dark, Garden Club Debates, the infamous “Found Footage Friday.”
- **Today:** Faint but proud signal of Hobart’s civic life, still under Village oversight. New Press Secretary brought updated branding, website, staff restructuring... and mysteriously, *new funding.*

Our Mission.

PAL-TV exists to:

- Document the daily triumphs and ongoing tragedies of Hobart civic life.
- Amplify local voices, faint signals, and unexplained noises.
- Provide the citizens of Hobart with the illusion of choice in programming.
- Broadcast Hobart back to itself until it listens. Or files a complaint.

PAL-TV operates on the goodwill of volunteers, duct tape, and unreturned extension cords. We are Hobart's mirror, its amplifier, and occasionally, its hum.

PAL-TV is Hobart's home for community broadcasting. Every council replay, every Garden Club debate, every strange late-night program is made possible by local support. We operate on a budget held together with tape, goodwill, and the occasional bake sale.

Volunteer Staff Roles.

As a volunteer, you may be asked to:

- Assist in production – hold lights, trip over cords, and yell “We’re live?”
- Support costuming, props, and Possum Fest logistics (bring tape).
- Serve as emergency on-air talent when scheduled hosts vanish.
- Handle mascots, banners, and minor crises during parades.
- Archive tapes labeled only as “?” or “Maybe Council.”
- Reboot the transmitter by touching it and hoping.

Volunteer Perks

- Possible on-air credit if remembered.
- Free, unlimited lukewarm coffee.
- 100% future merchandise discount (once merch exists)
- Unlimited exposure to low-power VHF signals.

Training & Orientation.

- **Equipment currently operational or partially operational:**

- Panasonic AG-455 / Ikegami HL-79A
- Panasonic AG-1980P / Sony U-Matic
- Grass Valley 100
- Chryon Max!
- Overhead Projector
- How to roll credits with only two working letters.
- Handling unscheduled feeds (do not report).
- The correct ratio of coffee to static.
- How to conduct a Council interview while the floor hums.
- Public File access (per FCC, or what passes for it).
- What not to touch (see appendix: Do Not Touch)

- **Expectations & Conduct**

- Show up vaguely on time.
- Respect the equipment – treat it better than the staff.
- **On-air rule:** Pants are required.
- Council footage may not be edited to add raccoons (again).
- **Safety Reminder:** If the tower hums louder than normal, step away.



Should a raccoon be using this historical relic of a camera?
Probably not.

Key Contacts and Staff.

- **Randall Lummis**
Station Manager
r.lummis@whbt.org
- **Gloria Pritchard**
Program Director
info@whbt.org
- **Arlo Bixby**
Chief Engineer
a.bixby@whbt.org
- **Josh King**
Village Administration
josh.king@hobartohio.org

Office Location

PAL-TV
Civic Broadcasting Building
108 Hopwell Street
Hobart, OH 45678

Across from the Proctor County Common Pleas courthouse, next to the vending machines that don't work.



PAL-TV operates under the Village of Hobart, Civil Control Code, Title VIII Frequencies & Signals. All passes, IDs and signals remain property of the Village of Hobart.