

NEW TALK SHOW DEBUTS IN THE MENDHAMS

***“Mendham People”* Features Local Residents, Hosts, and Producers**

A new local talk show featuring Mendham residents will be making its debut on public access TV station, Mendham TV 25 on February 1, 2008. Guests will range from a WMMHS 2005 graduate who is building an orphanage in Nepal to a former NY Giants football player to Grammy nominees. The show, titled ***Mendham People***, is being produced by longtime Mendham Township residents and active Mendham TV25 volunteers Gail Mooney and Tom Kelly. Local hosts will bring diverse viewpoints to the show.

“I knew that for Mendham TV 25 to be watched and embraced by our communities we needed a regular program that was relevant to The Mendhams,” says Mooney. “We wanted to produce a show that would be for Mendham people, about Mendham people and by Mendham People and could not be found on any other channels. So we came up with the idea of having a show where our local hosts would have conversation with some of our communities’ most interesting people. My husband Tom Kelly and I have lived in Mendham Township for 15 years and have always been amazed at the interesting mix of people in our towns. Since we have the expertise in broadcast production and an interest in the community, we decided to go forward and make the show happen.”

The station, which was created in the fall of 2006, can be viewed through Patriot Media on channel 25. It has recently also become available through Verizon on Channel 22, and the viewing area now extends to Chester, one of the sending districts for the West Morris Mendham High School.

“The idea of public access TV came from Barry Goldwater and Fred Friendly back in the sixties,” says Mooney. “We are firm believers in public access TV and giving people a voice and a role in their communities. The goal is to provide access to local information whether it be a public bulletin board or a show like ours. We have found in the three years that we have volunteered at Mendham TV 25 that the residents want to see themselves and their neighbors on TV and find out what’s going on in their town.”

“Tom Kelly and I produced, filmed and edited the shows using our own funds, equipment and time. Our hope is that underwriting and other funding through PBS type means will enable us to sustain the program by producing new shows. We are confident that the members of our communities will support a show that is about them – the people of The Mendhams,” says Mooney.

The station startup cost was funded by Patriot Cable; ongoing programming costs are to be covered by underwriting and fundraising activities. Up to now, the station has mainly served to alert residents to events in the community.

"Mendham People is certain to heighten the already strong sense of community we have in the Mendhams," says Board member Geri Bain Keroack. "When you watch Mendham People, you can't help but be proud of our community's many talented, generous spirited residents. The Board is very grateful to Gail and Tom for donating their time and expertise to produce this show. We hope to raise funds to continue producing ***Mendham People*** and to develop other relevant local programming in the future."

For a schedule of when ***Mendham People*** will air, more information about TV-25 and underwriting opportunities, please visit www.mendhamtownship.org and click on TV-25.