



# Apple Valley, Farmington, & Rosemount Cable Commission

October 11, 2010

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## Cable Franchise Agreements / Ordinances

A Franchise Agreement is required for a company to provide cable television service in a community. The requirements for a Franchise Agreement are defined in the United States 1996 Telecommunications Act, and Chapter 238 of the Minnesota State Statutes. Communities may enter into Franchise Agreements individually, or collectively as a Joint Powers Commission. Communities with individual agreements may also form commissions to administer them cooperatively.

A Franchise Agreement is essentially a contract that establishes the terms and conditions for the use of the Public Right of Way by a cable company to provide service and do business in a community. The franchise is non-exclusive. This means that the City does NOT limit cable service to a single provider, although in many cases, only one provider has entered the market. The granting of exclusive franchises is not permitted under Minnesota state law, and any company or entity that can demonstrate the financial and administrative capacity to operate a system may apply for one. The entity receiving a franchise is designated as the Franchisee, and the community or commission is identified as the Franchise Authority.

The current Franchise Agreement that the cable company has with each of the cities of Apple Valley, Farmington, and Rosemount are for a term of fifteen years, and will expire in 2014. The cable company cannot change ownership during the term of the franchise without the approval of the Franchise Authority.

## PEG Access and Franchise Administration

Charter Communications has franchise agreements to provide cable television services to the communities of Apple Valley, Farmington, and Rosemount. The cable company provides five channels for Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) use. The Cities of Apple Valley, Farmington, and Rosemount jointly administer these channels for their cities through the Apple Valley Farmington Rosemount Cable Commission (AFRCC). Residents who subscribe to cable television service can watch city council meetings live or as recorded cablecasts on the government access channels.

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## Cable Commission Objectives

The Apple Valley, Farmington, and Rosemount Cable Commission was formed as the result of a Joint Powers Agreement entered into by the three cities in 1999. Each city has a separate Franchise Agreement with the cable company, but the goals were to:

- Gain greater efficiency in franchise negotiations, oversight, and administration with the cable company than each of the three cities would have individually;
- Be able to share resources and costs associated with cable franchise administration, and provide Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) Access programming to subscribers;
- Ensure uniform cable coverage and service quality in their communities.

The representatives to the Cable Commission are the City Administrators of Apple Valley, Farmington, and Rosemount – or their designated appointees. The Commission Chair is rotated annually amongst the member cities. They normally meet four times a year to approve the operational policies and budget of the Commission, and to address issues that

## Commission Activities and Administration

The Cable Commission created the position of Cable Coordinator to administer day-to-day operations under the direction and policies of the Commission. The Cable Coordinator is responsible for a variety of duties including, but not limited to:

- General franchise administration and oversight;
- Maintaining the live and recorded television programming that is shown on Government Access Channels 16 and 22;
- Monitoring the operation of Educational Channel 10 and operate Public Access Channel 12, which are part of the Franchise Authority's jurisdiction;
- Reviewing complaints that subscribers have been unable to resolve with the cable company, and taking corrective action if necessary.

## Public, Education, Government (PEG) Access Channels

The cable company provides five PEG channels for public, educational, and government use. The Cities of Apple Valley, Farmington, and Rosemount jointly administer these channels for their cities through the Apple Valley Farmington Rosemount Cable Commission (AFRCC). Residents who subscribe to cable television service can watch city council meetings live or as taped cablecasts on the government access channels. The following is a summary of the AFRCC PEG channels:



### o Regional Channel 6

The Minnesota Legislature created Metro 6 as part of Chapter 238, the state cable telecommunication statute. All cable operators in the eleven-county metro area must carry Metro 6, and it is intended to be a common carrier for Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) Access programming.

### o Educational Access Channel 10

Channel 10 is made available to the schools to produce informational programming about the districts and their schools, as well as televising their sports and other events.



### o Public Access Channel 12

This channel is for general use by the public to present community announcements featuring a wide variety of interests, opinions, and perspectives.

### o Government Access Channel 16

The Cities of Apple Valley and Farmington show live and recorded telecasts of their City Council and Planning Commission meetings, as well as other programs of interest to their communities.



### o Government Access Channel 22

The City of Rosemount shows live and replayed telecasts of their City Council and Planning Commission meetings, as well as other programs of interest to their communities. Recordings of the Dakota County Board meetings are also replayed on this channel.

**Apple Valley, Farmington, &  
Rosemount  
Cable Commission**

Apple Valley Municipal Center  
7100—147th Street West  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Phone: 952.953.2686  
Fax: 952.953.2515  
E-mail: [channel16@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:channel16@ci.apple-valley.mn.us)

**For more information about AFRCC Government and  
Public Access television visit us on the web at:**

**[http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us/Channel\\_16](http://www.ci.apple-valley.mn.us/Channel_16)**

**To contact Public Access Channel SDC 12**

**please send an e-mail to:**

**[publicaccess12@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:publicaccess12@ci.apple-valley.mn.us)**



## Government Access Programming

Residents who subscribe to cable television service can watch city council meetings live or as recorded cablecasts on the government access channels. The individual cities and the joint commission produce a variety of programming, including:

**City Meeting Coverage.** Government Access Channels 16 and 22 televise all of the Apple Valley, Farmington, and Rosemount City Council and Planning Commission meetings live. Meeting coverage is also replayed various days and times to provide more opportunities for citizens to be better informed about their local government by being able to watch it at their convenience.

**"Valley Beat"** is designed to provide the citizens of Apple Valley with information about programs available in the community, crime prevention, and public safety. Episodes may include segments on topics applicable to the season (such as Tornado Awareness, Halloween Safety, and National Night Out) or general topics that apply year-round (such as Traffic Safety, Neighborhood Watch, Child Passenger Safety and Police Technology).

**"Hook & Ladder"** is produced bimonthly by Apple Valley. It highlights the work of, and shares information about, the public safety departments in our community.

Message Board. Channels 16 and 22 also generate an electronic bulletin board which provides notices of events, meeting times, and other important information.

