



Fairfax Public Access

# FPA Playback

## New Phones, New Numbers

With the addition of FPA's voice-over internet protocol phone system comes new telephone numbers. The old main number will still forward calls for at least another six months, but by using our new number in combination with the correct extension, callers may be able to directly dial the correct department and bypass the switchboard and directory menu completely.

New callers unfamiliar with whom they need to reach can still access the directory by calling the new main number at **571-749-1100**.

All extensions are derived from the new 1100 number, with many keeping the last two digits from their old extensions. Example: the training department could be reached with the old number by dialing 703-573-1090, which connected callers to the main switchboard. They then asked for, or punched in, extension 1016. As the new extension for training is 1116, callers can now skip those steps and dial directly by using 571-749-1116.

Following is a list of the most commonly used extensions, all available directly using the common prefix of 571-749 – (extension number).

|      |                         |      |                               |
|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 1101 | Office Manager          | 1111 | Equipment Room                |
| 1102 | Training Coordinator    | 1116 | Director of Training          |
| 1103 | Development Manager     | 1117 | Internet Services (nova. org) |
| 1104 | Accounting              | 1118 | Director of Programming       |
| 1105 | Programming Coordinator | 1119 | Engineering                   |
| 1106 | Programming Manager     | 1120 | Director of Production        |
| 1108 | General Manager         | 1122 | Director of Operations        |
| 1110 | Executive Director      | 1133 | Master Control                |

## Date for New Promo Spots

August 15th has been set aside as the date for producers to shoot new show promos. Radio and television producers who would like to have a new on-air television promo created for their shows are encouraged to call the Production Department at extension 1120 to schedule a specific shooting time. Blocks of time will be appointed on a first-come, first-served basis between the hours of 1 and 6pm, and all requests must be received no later than August 9th. This will be the last opportunity until October to have a staff assisted promo made, so schedule yours today.

## Closings

During summer quarter 2005, FPA will be closed to both members and the general public for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 5.

Call to verify that the station will remain open during extremely severe weather such as heavy thunderstorms or hurricanes, times when there can be a loss of power.

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## From the Training Department

Cheyenne Johnson has recently moved from the Equipment Room staff to a temporary full-time position in the training department, where she'll be studying with Monique Jeter throughout the summer. Monique, who will be leaving the position shortly, has agreed to stay on part-time to facilitate training and help with her eventual replacement. Congratulations to both women on their new job opportunities.

Beginning this summer quarter, FPA will be offering three new training courses in post-production, designed to help producers and editors improve the quality of their work. The department is also interested in hearing ideas from members for future seminars relating to television or radio production.

For more information about these or any other training courses, or to register, contact the training department at either extension 1116 or 1102.

### ***DVD Studio Pro*** (begins August 8)

Learn how to author, chapter and encode DVDs of your programs with interactive menus. Course prerequisite: certification in Final Cut Pro or Final Cut Express.

### ***Apple Motion*** (begins September 14)

Take your editing skills to the next level with the ability to add motion and animation to text and graphics. With hundreds of filters and effects at your disposal and the ability to design with them in real time, you can reach a level of artistry and sophistication that Final Cut alone can't provide. Course prerequisite: certification in Final Cut Pro or Final Cut Express.

### ***Adobe Photoshop*** (start date TBA)

The place to start for all your graphics needs – text, pictures, titles, photo manipulation, it's all right here. No course prerequisite.

## From the Programming Department

**3/4 Inch Tape Deleted** - All producers who have submitted programming in the last 5+ years are being asked to please pick up their old 3/4 inch tapes in order to make room in our tape library. We will be discarding any unclaimed 3/4 inch tape as of July 16, an extension from the original date set in May. While picking up your tape, take the opportunity to update your information in the database. To arrange a pickup date and time, contact Stephen Grider directly at 571-749-1105.

**Update Your Show Information** - If you haven't already, publicize your program on the FPA website at [www.fcac.org](http://www.fcac.org). Each listing, whether for TV programs on Channels 10 or 30 or radio programs on WEBR 37, has its own pop-up window complete with a show description, optional photo and link to a show-related website, if desired. For a listing, or to update a current listing, email [rkennedy@fcac.org](mailto:rkennedy@fcac.org) with info.

**Thursday Night Shorts** - Think beyond the 28 minute talk show format, and expand your creativity! Come up with a concept or idea for a short - a music video, a performance art piece, an animation segment, a mini-movie - then commit it to tape and have it run on our weekly program that highlights those shorts. Some of the pieces that have aired have been entered in contests or festivals, so if you've got one you're planning to enter, we'd be happy to run it here too. For details and guidelines contact Rachel Kennedy in the Programming Department, or pick up a submission form at the Equipment Room. Dream short!



## Volume 1, Issue 3

### FPA Takes Four Hometown Awards

For the 2005 Hometown Video Festival, FPA producers were honored with three winning entries and one honorable mention, marking the first time in several years that FPA has won multiple awards in the nationwide contest. In addition, FPA has the distinction of receiving more Hometown Awards this year than any other access facility – Public, Education, or Government - in the entire Washington metropolitan region.

The annual awards, sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media, recognize the achievements made by PEG stations from around the country. Entries are judged by panels from more than 60 community media stations, constituting a jury of peers – producers who are involved with creating and airing cable access programming. This year ACM received nearly 1,500 entries nationwide, 19 of them from Fairfax Public Access.

The winning entry in the Instructional/Training category was John Buckreis's program *Gardening With Dr. John: Landscaping Made Easy*. In the category of Empowerment, top honors were awarded to Francine Davis for her show *Tips From a Tipster: Metro Handicap Accessibility*. The Public Service Announcement Award was given to Jerry Ferguson and *PSA for Heart Health*, a PSA created with students from one of FPA's Field Package classes. Producers Dawn Jones and Pamela Haines received an Honorable Mention in the Informational Talk Show category with their program *Business Beat*.

"Congratulations to the winners and 'thank you' to all who entered programs in this year's Hometown Video Festival," said FPA General Manager William Hutchinson. "Competition is getting tougher every year, but our content is solid, as is the overall quality of our audio and video. Everyone has much to be proud of."

### Member Meeting Set for September 18

The annual member meeting and election for board members is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2005. According to the FPA bylaws, any member of Fairfax Public Access who is an in-county resident and in good standing is eligible to vote in person at the annual election, but all members are encouraged to attend the general meeting, even those ineligible to vote. Votes by proxy and mail-in or absentee ballots are prohibited. In order to fulfill the requirements of a voting member in good standing, all new memberships must be received no later than 9pm on August 12, the date of record. Current members who allow their memberships to lapse or expire between August 12 and September 18 will be rendered ineligible to vote.

For the 2005 meeting, there will be two elected positions to fill on the Board of Directors. Nominations for the positions will be accepted from the date of notice, July 20, until the final day of nomination, August 19, when all candidacy statements must be filed before 5pm. No nominations will be accepted after this date, and FPA bylaws prohibit nominations from the floor of the members meeting. Statements of candidacy must include the candidate's full name, home address, work and home phone numbers, and email address. In addition, statements must be accompanied by a current resume, an essay of no more than 100 words as to why the candidate is running, and the candidate's signature. There are no other restrictions for eligibility.

The list of candidates and statements will be posted at FPA and on the website at [www.fcac.org](http://www.fcac.org), as well as mailed or e-mailed to eligible voters no later than August 29. The September 18 election begins at FPA as soon after 3pm as a quorum of voting members is reached. Votes are cast by secret ballot, and administered and tabulated under supervision of the League of Women Voters. Ballot boxes close two hours after voting begins, and results will be announced immediately after ballots have been counted and reconciled with the voting list.



FAIRFAX PUBLIC ACCESS

WWW.FCAC.ORG

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Phone: 571-749-1100  
Fax: 703-573-1210  
E-mail: askfpa@fcac.org

FPA Board of Directors

General Manager

Hours of Operation

Jim Southworth      Georgia Graves  
Steve Mullen        Phil Hargis  
Dave Bainum        Tim Bowden  
Jim Housel         Jeffrey Sachs  
Charlotte Yakovleff

William Hutchinson

Executive Director

Charles Finn Peña

M,Tu            Noon to 10pm  
W, Th, F        1pm to 10pm  
Sat.             8am to 8pm  
Sun.             Noon to 6pm

**Ask the Engineer**

*Q: Why doesn't my tape/disc play in this (machine), when it played perfectly well in another?*

A: This is a problem that has plagued broadcasters for many years, and has only become more noticeable with widespread use of digital media.

Broadcast machines – such as VTRs, DAT recorders, CD recorders, etc. – rely on being able to track a stream of data that has been recorded to the media in question. In order for this to work properly, the devices which write the data and the devices which read the data need to be somewhat aligned with each other. That is to say, the player needs to read the same part of the disc or tape upon which the data was written.

Typically, this isn't a huge problem. Modern playback devices have methods of compensating for small tracking adjustments. However, issues arise as equipment ages. Read/write heads tend to wear down, tape motor speeds can vary, and other operational differences can cause a recording to work perfectly well in one machine, but not be playable at all in another. Compounding the situation, digital media tends to exhibit a "cliff effect" – you either have a perfect signal, or you have nothing at all.

So how is this issue dealt with? A lot of it is taken care of on the maintenance end. Regular service and upgrades keep recorders in good playing condition. Gentle equipment use will also extend the

life of tape heads. CDs and DVDs, unfortunately, are a bit more of a problem. As recording standards are tweaked from time to time, something recorded on a newer machine may not play back properly on an older one. This is especially true of DVDs and consumer DVD players.



*FPA Chief Engineer Pete Misisco*

*"(Television) can teach, it can illuminate and yes, it can inspire. But it can do so only to the extent that humans are determined to use it to those ends. Otherwise, it is nothing but lights and wires in a box."*

*- Edward R. Murrow*