Inside the Magic Box

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 9/14/2012

We're looking for just the right box. A TV studio is essentially a big box of a room, and we hope that somewhere near the center of Franklin 02038 is just such a box that could be perfect for us. Our ideal box is on the ground, minimally 30 feet by 30 feet with an inside clearance altitude of 15 feet or so. We've found several places that have space, but with support columns scattered here and there.

What's inside our box? You've seen pictures: Big lights hanging down from a grid with cameras at quiet attention, usually looking at some furnishings where it's brightest, and the rest of the box is pretty subdued. Doesn't sound like a very magical place. However, it is to us.

That gives us pause to think outside our magic box. What do we surround it with? How do we create an inviting place that encourages creative thought; promotes volunteer engagement and support for other worthy Franklin organizations?



We hope to build our new studio as a place where magic can happen. When TV began, "The Box" in the Den or Parlour cum TV room was magic. It brought us the ability to see and to think way outside the box, beyond the horizon, and eventually, around the world. The voice would say, "Through the magic of TV, we now take you to (far place)". In the annals of TV history there are storied studios that created amazing magic. The BBC's Alexandra Palace

launched TV in 1936. RCA's Empire Studio premiered at the 1939 World's Fair. Philo Farnsworth's experimental TV station (shown here) was in Wyndmere, PA.

But, magic won't happen just because we will have a nice big boxy studio. Studios are potential. People are kinetic. People make magic. So, we hope to populate our studio with people who wish to conjure a touch of TV magic – with stories, insights, salutations, ruminations, conversations, demonstrations – et cetera.

Perhaps that might be you?

Take a moment to think inside the box. What magic could you create in it? Consider volunteering and learning how The Magic of TV happens. For without you, there is no magic.



Where We Are Going

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/30/2012

As I write this, we are operating from small-ish (cramped) downtown backroom offices of 600 or so square feet. Our current address houses a makeshift lobby/office, a makeshift studio area and makeshift video control and editing areas. For us, the makeshift era is about to end. We will be moving soon, into an expanse new facility designed expressly for modern television production.



Our new location will be the market building at 23 Hutchinson St. Above is our concept design for our new studio to be completed, perhaps by this time next year.

The Hutchinson St. location is only a half-mile South of downtown via either Union St. (West end of downtown on 140) or Cottage St. (East end of downtown on 140).

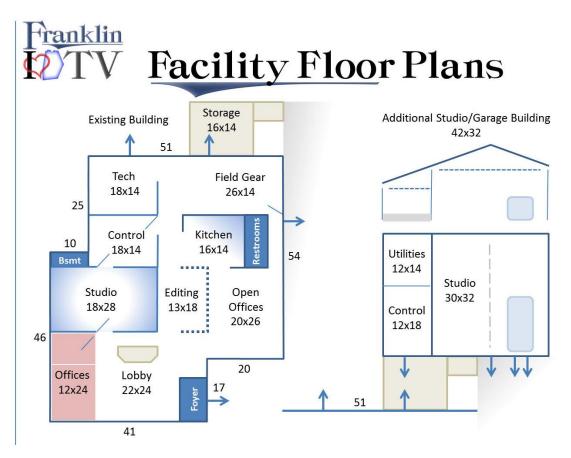
Much remains to be done, but we are making progress.



It's a Bold Plan

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 12/07/2012

Last week you got a first look at our planned new home at 23 Hutchinson Street. Well, we have a plan coming together for the inside as well. For those who like to let their imaginations walk through floor plans, this is our current room layout. As realtors might claim, it's a flowing design with plenty of sun-splashed openness where we want it; darkness where we need it (studio and control rooms). Our bold plan shown here is a first pass with much detail to be filled in.



More importantly, for folks interested in video production and creating their own TV programs, it will be an inviting, comfortable place. Hopefully, it will be one that sparks the imagination while it feels a bit like a second home.

If we can do all that, then our floor layout is indeed a bold plan.



At Last, The Deed is Done

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 2/8/2013

January 14th came. January 14th went. Just another date to most people, but it was anticipated to be a very momentous day for us at Franklin TV. We were going to close the sale on the property for our new studio-to-be. Deed in hand; the sellers were ready and happy to sell. The buyers (us) were quite ready and happy to buy.

Didn't happen. (Ooops!)

Someone made a small clerical error in the paperwork – two transactions earlier. A typo! A simple scribe's lapse. Someone we will never know got some numbers wrong when recording the deed. That tiny mistaken entry surfaced during a standard title search. We could not move forward until the error was corrected. No doubt, it was as frustrating for sellers Reddy and Pria Gali as it was for us. That took three long weeks, but finally it was resolved, and the Sun returned.



Our deep appreciation to Eileen Mason at Re/Max Executive Realty. She found the place for us. She helped us figure out how to make it all work. She chased down the closing details. She made it all happen.

If Mark Twain was right, "No good deed goes unpunished", then Eileen might be in for a rough patch.

With Eileen's insight, experience, and help, the deed is done.

Smiles all around from:

FCCA President, Ken Norman, Eileen Mason, and the sellers, Reddy and Pria Gali.

Object lesson: This is why your elementary school teachers insisted that you always double-check your homework – dot every last i; cross every t; review the capitalization, punctuation, yada-yada.

Lesson learned.

And, thanks for watching!

Our Community Access

Franklin V

And the Journey Begins

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 2/15/2013



This is where we are today. Not much to look at. Never was. Our present home of these recent years is humble at best. Stuffing a TV studio, live control room, editing systems, racks of distribution equipment and an office into a mere 600-ish feet is an uncomfortably tight fit to say the least.

However, that is about to change. Now that we have our new property at Hutchinson St. we are moving. The new digs aren't ready yet. Won't be for months. But, move we must.

Therefore we are moving the whole of it from our cramped 600-ish square feet and temporarily jamming much of it into 400 square feet. Madness, you say. But, our madness is backed up by good reason. We are setting up temporary operations – our small studio and all – in a trailer parked next to our new building where the construction will be taking place.

There are many special details to getting a TV studio just right. Being on site will allow us to work closely with our builders on soundproofing, lighting, technical installation issues, special air conditioning and cabling, etc.

And thus, our journey toward creating something new and better begins.

Being in a trailer on site might be reminiscent of camping out in the back yard at night as a kid.

We will chalk it up to high adventure.

When our trailer finally leaves, come whenever - I suspect that in some quiet way we will miss it.

And, thanks for watching!



Packing It In-Part 1 of?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 2/22/2013



In the weeks to come as our studio moves to 23 Hutchinson St. I'll put up some snaps of our progress. How many parts to this series are there? Who knows? Lore has it that you haven't settled into your new place until you finally locate the salt and pepper shakers. It'll be a while.

The old place is becoming a little less familiar. As we shut down all our computers and production gear, it's becoming a bit more sullen. We're surrounded by packing boxes, yet the rooms are oddly emptier. We are in those boxes. The place knows we're leaving.

The week has been busy with emptying shelves, rummaging and sorting through old boxes and filling new ones.

Moving phrases that we've all said/heard:

What is all this old stuff?
We still have one of these? Why?

Can't lose that special attachment - again.

Who packed the tools already? I need 'em.





And, the chaos of conducting our move goes on.

Most moves are not just about relocating. Moves force us to reorder our lives. That's a deeper chaos than just losing track of odds and ends. But, from this temporary, self-inflicted frustration comes a new order – a fresh sense of direction and purpose.

We leave our spent and unnecessary parts behind.

And, thanks for watching!

Our Community Access

Franklin

V

Packing It In - Part 2 of?

Our moving experience-we survived the trauma. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 3/1/2013

Nothing moves things along like a deadline. Wednesday was it: Moving Day!







And, thanks for watching!

After being in one place for decades, stuff collects. We got rid of much old stuff, yet still filled the truck. We had stuff in every cranny. Finally, the crannies were empty and the truck was jammed.

Off we lumbered. It was only a half-mile. A mere ten minutes later and we're just as feverishly unloading the truck. Systematically (Yes, we did have a system), everything went into our new building or our trailer.

My next deadline? Get it all wired and operating properly before the weekend.

Done. (Whew!)

Our thanks to Gallo Moving for making it all go smoothly.



Packing It In-Part 3 of?

Our moving experience-we survived the switch. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 3/8/2013

Another week; another deadline. Wednesday was it (again): Switch Day!



Switch Day means that our three channels were switched successfully from our old program system at Main St. to our new equipment at Hutchinson St.

The old equipment racks will be dismantled, and most of the distribution gear in them will be retired.

We are completing our new distribution system, even as we send out programs.

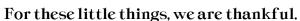
Our labor intensive task at hand for this week: transferring

and scheduling our library of current programs into our new servers. We will have a new program schedule posted next week.



Although Thursday was a gray and snowy day, we all

stayed very comfy in our new temporary home. Who knew that moving into a trailer would be a step up from where we were? We have windows and light. We have more space. We have ample parking, peace and quiet.



And, thanks for watching!



Packing It In - Part 4 of?

Our moving experience – demolishing – to rebuild. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 3/15/2013

It's starting to feel normal, whatever normal is. Being and working in our new place is taking on that every-day-ness that says this is where we belong. Yes, it's a trailer and the new place is technically next door, but we have found our normal.



We like to think of ourselves as being ensconced in our cozy trailer. Ensconced is good. It's better than being encamped. In our old place we felt more, um - entombed.

Our channel distribution system already resides in the new building, and there is now a lot of construction surrounding us. We have to isolate our tech gear from the (cough) demolition dust.

While Pam Jones was working on our schedule she experienced a shift from ensconced to enshrouded - as workmen put up a plastic barrier to minimize all the dust around our equipment. We do plan to let her out once the dust settles (literally).

An observation: Nothing generates a deep sense of progress like ripping apart everything around you.



As a metaphor for progress, sometimes a necessary deconstruction must take place for reconstruction, renewal, and the good things that lie ahead. Sometimes a bright future starts out a bit messy.

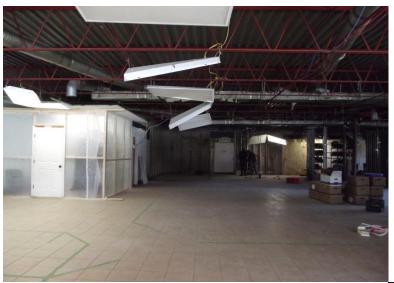




Packing It In - Part 5 of?

Our moving experience - that empty feeling. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 3/22/2013

Generally speaking, the word *empty* usually conveys some negative connotation. We have spent or used up something of value.



The demolition crew is gone and our new building is now starkly empty. However, the initial reaction from most people is positive, "It's so big".

Emptiness becomes openness.

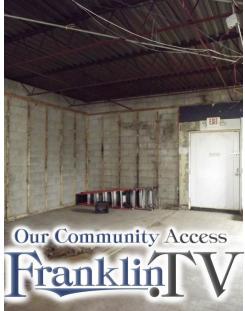
With everything gone, we have that clean slate before us, and we can begin to see how our future fits into this place, and how this place fits our needs. Yes, it all fits.

These are not pictures of an aftermath. They are the *before* pictures. The hint of what is to come is marked on the floor in green tape. Walls will go up. Rooms will take shape.

The photo at the right is the before picture of one of our new studios. Lovely, no? It will be.

This is the point where we fill in the emptiness with our imagination.

And, thanks for watching!



Packing It In-Part 6 of 6

Our moving experience - at last, the last hurrah! by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 3/29/2013

While embracing and enjoying trailer life as our new normal, we've been clearing out the old digs. The last of the dead gear and other detritus has been hauled away. Our old studio is empty now, and the illusion of spaciousness has been restored.



It's just about the same size as our trailer, but not so evenly laid out. I'm standing in one corner of what was the studio area. The little 8 by 10 room to the left was the lobby/office/kitchen. The other room was our storage closet and live control room. The open area to the far right was where our programs were edited and prepared for distribution. Not hard to imagine it all in someone's basement.



And, thanks for watching!

Moving an ongoing enterprise often raises the question, "How do we keep doing what we do while moving?"

Our old programming system kept running for a week after the initial move while we installed our new gear. The system is retired now. It deserves one last heroic moment in the Sun before being dismantled.

At the outset of our adventure, I noted that no move is complete until you unpack the salt and pepper shakers.

Found'em.

Hooraah!



A Studio Grows in Franklin

Our building experience - Clearing the Lower 40 by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 4/5/2013



In the midst of moving, we have also been planning and designing our new building. Now it's time to prepare the grounds. Part of the property is a tiny park. The rest is natural woods in rough condition with invasive vines, deadfall, damaged trees, and piles of junk and trash. Through the winter, we met with Franklin's Conservation Commission to survey the grounds and set some goals for properly managing the growth.

On Wednesday, we began the business of cleaning up the Lower 40 as we like to call it. There was detritus to haul away and mulch; a number of dead and distressed trees to clear away.



And, thanks for watching!



Picking trees as if they were daisies is not something you see every day. Machinery with muscle and reach gets it done. Clean and ready for a fresh growing season, our Lower 40 should be more pristine as the new healthy vegetation grows in.

Our goal is to maintain the wooded area in its best natural state. With reasonable stewardship, it will become an attractive backdrop for the rest of the property.

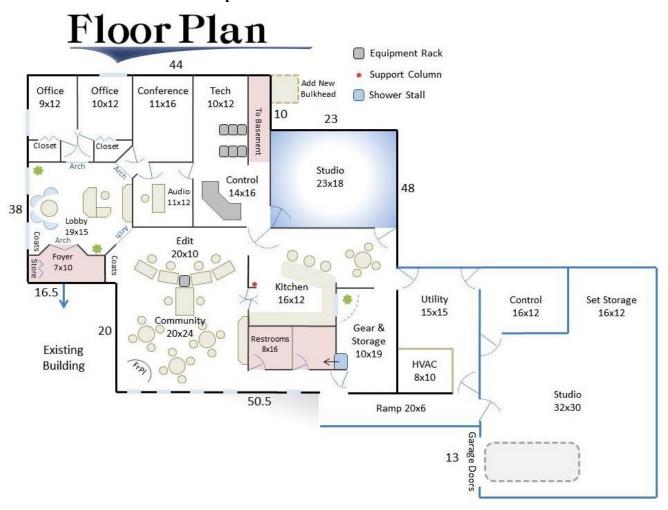


Architectural Update

Rooms with a view - of a bright future. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 4/19/2013

In our November 30 and December 12, 2012 newsletters, we featured a first peek at what was on the digital drawing board for our new studios. That early vision has been further pondered, obsessed over, and fine-tuned.

Now the plans are in the hands of Dennis Colwell Architects, and it's their turn to obsess and fine-tune as experts.



At this point, we are very close to a final plan, and construction will begin in May for completion by late summer. Obsession becomes anticipation.

And, thanks for watching!

Our Community Access

Franklin

V

Planning - For Success

There's no such thing as too much planning. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 6/30/2013



After many months of planning and more planning, we shift from architects toward contractors as we go through the bidding process to construct our new studios. That means more questions from builders and a lot more — planning.

So, I thought including a generic picture of a builder would be nice. In these pictures, the generic people usually hold some very important generic plans and they point.

Pointing is good, (except when teachers, parents or police are pointing at you). We see pointing as affirmative. What are they pointing at? I like to think that they are pointing toward that bright exciting future, assured by thoughtful planning. (Did that last sentence come off just a bit over the top? I planned that.) Once we start construction, every aspect of our studio design will have been planned to the smallest detail.

Here are a few of my favorite oft uttered quotes on planning:

"A goal without a plan is just a wish." — Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

"Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all is a form of planning."—Gloria Steinem

"If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up someplace else."— Yogi Berra

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."—Benjamin Franklin

Planning helps us avoid going from 'too early to tell' directly to 'too late to fix'.

— Author unknown

And finally, my favorite, (because I wrote it):
"Time spent planning is not deducted from your life span.
In fact, you gain an extra bonus day at the end for every hour you plan.
So, plan — to live forever."

And, thanks for watching!

Our Community Access

Franklin

V

Doorways to the Future

They don't look like much now, but just wait. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 7/14/2013



You would think that a *Doorway to the Future* would be something a bit more grand. In time it will be. As we continue construction for our new studio, we are at the stage where we are considering the many design details.

What should the main entrance to our studio building. The Franklin Media Arts Center look like? What is an appropriate, "good first impression"?

I would like it to be an entrance that says,

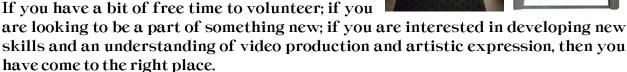
"Welcome - to your future."

It need not be ostentatious; just warm and inviting.

Our other day-to-day doorways face each other. Life in our construction trailer is comfortable enough and will continue on through the end of the year. We meander back and forth between the building and the trailer as we set about our daily tasks. It has become routine.

None of these look like doorways to your future, but they could be.

Why would you want to pass through them?



We're not much to look at right now, but after years of planning and preparation, our own future in Franklin's Media Arts Center is not that far off.

If you are at all curious about the future - yours or ours, stop by. Just bang on the trailer door.







Details, Details, Details

A well designed access studio is many things. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 7/21/2013



During our search for an appropriate facility for our Franklin TV studios we also visited several other communities.

We continue to make the rounds, noting how access studios serve their towns and what ideas work particularly well.

Some studios had a very warm, inviting atmosphere. Check.

Some had spacious community rooms and conference facilities. Check.

Some had expanse studios with ample clearance for lights. Check.

Some had fully functional kitchens for producing cooking shows. Check.

Some had very organized and carefully installed technology. Check.

All had one thing in common: Someone who was willing to help us by sharing his/her insights and vision. There are several communities that are building new facilities. Some have gone before us. Others will follow.

To those who were gracious with their time and insights, we offer our thanks.

To those who have yet to embark on their own mighty trek into the future, we're happy to offer our full support.



A Banner Week

Our Proclamation of Sovereignty. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 8/4/2013



When I joined FCCA15 months ago one of the first tasks I tackled was generating all of our identifying artwork – for our posters, stationary, banners and the like. I hung one banner outside of our entrance and another in our cramped lobby/office area. A large banner declared who we were and made us real.

When we relocated to 23 Hutchinson St. we settled into our new normal. We're fixing up the building while we operate from the studio in our trailer.

When folks stop by to visit, some mention that they have trouble finding us. - Oops!





Time to put up our banner for all to see. Time to fly our Franklin.TV flag - and perhaps declare our sole, supreme sovereignty over the building and parking lot. Putting up a sign does feel a bit like marking territory - planting a conqueror's flag.

The big banner declaring who we were made us real - again, and reinforced our sense that this is our home. A tiny task; a small celebration; a big banner week.



We Have Moved-Again!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/3/2013

For many years our small studio and offices were maintained by Comcast and located at 10 Main St. In 2011 Franklin's volunteer committee, The Cable Board became incorporated as Franklin Community Cable access, Inc. / Franklin TV. That's when things began to move forward.

Last February we moved the entire operation (all 600 square feet) from Main St. to a building we purchased at 23 Hutchinson St. More accurately, we moved into a trailer parked next to our building, currently being converted into our new studios. We moved about a half-mile south of downtown. This week we moved the entire operation (all 400 square feet) about – 15 feet. Yes, we moved our trailer forward a bit to make room for construction of our new studio.

We moved forward - making a subtle change for the better. Mailing address is the same. View out the window? About the same. But, that small yet necessary move makes it possible for us to grow.

Therein resides our story of progress. We are continually making a series of small yet necessary moves-always forward-just a bit more.

Yes, we moved again.

We will never stop moving.

And, thanks for watching!



Fenced In - for the Moment.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/10/2013



Our fence arrived. (!?!) It brought a touch of reality shock as the first visible sign that after many months of planning and waiting, we were actually going to start construction.



I never thought I would welcome the notion of being fenced in.

The construction fence will be here for safety through the winter as we begin the work of converting the former mini-mart & restaurant into our TV studio.

As snow melts in spring, the fence will go away. The trailer (our cozy home these

past ten months) will leave as well. It's improbable to compare a trailer and a chain link construction fence to the utopian suberban home and white picket fence.

For us - for now - that's what they are.

The "big yellow equipment" will be showing up soon enough to dig up ground and pour our foundation. Then, a new building will emerge.



Much change lies ahead. At the moment we find ourselves surrounded by it.

And, thanks for watching!



We Have a Lot of Roof.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/24/2013

I looked out the window and saw - nothing. It was the kind of nothing made of big city steel where the highway overpass could be at arm's reach. The parking lot was gone. The trees and grass were gone. The sky gone.

Wha -? The steel was moving - slowly creeping past my office window.

I'm having an "Arthur Dent" moment. Is this the intergalactic superhighway? 1





No. It's just our dumpster. Looks like we scored the XXL 'Family Size" model. Is that good?

Last week our fence magically appeared. Now, the dumpster. What's next?

Then the roof fell in. Or, more precisely, it was dropped off. Stuff is showing up.

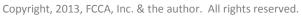
It's a lot of roof. When someone says, "It's a lot." This is quite literally what that looks like.

It's one parking lot's amount of roof.

Things are becoming a bit cramped, but it's all good.

It's all good.

And so, it begins.





¹See: Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Progress is a Dirty Job!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 12/8/2013

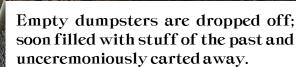




The big yellow equipment showed up this week and made its presence known in short order. Suddenly, huge dumpsters were being filled with trash, concrete, stone, wood, and other earthy detritus. (Where did all this stuff come from?) The rear grounds are being carved up to make way for the foundation of our new studio.

It's one thing to imagine all the work to be done. (before - after) It's quite another to witness it. (during)

The 'during' part can be unsettling. One minute there's our loading dock. Next minute, there's the open space where it was. The ornamental well was reduced to rubble where it once stood. In short order, a seemingly permanent landscape is reduced to a fleeting memory.



Ground-breaking work is unsettling, but a necessary thing for progress. The progress I've often mentioned and looked forward to is now here in full force.

 $(Stare\ far\ beyond\ the\ upper\ pair\ of\ images\ to\ fuse\ them\ into\ a\ 3D\ view.)$



Walls Are Happening!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 1/19/2014

Our crew spent the better part of last week pulling floor tiles. Keith and Adam went at it with their air hammers until we were completely floored - or in our case, de-floored.

A nasty, noisy, dusty job. (Ugh!)

Then the walls arrived – or at least the studs for them. A truck showed up with a hefty load of 2x4.

That's when your inner kid kicks in, "Hey, I know - Let's build a <u>fort!!"</u>

Whenever we see new walls being studded out there is a certain unique optimism that rises from the smell of wood dust as newly cut timbers rise from floor to ceiling. Something big and important is taking shape. We are fascinated by open walls.

It's not a fort, but it's the next best thing. It's our new TV studio. (Yes!)

And – I admit, however reluctantly, that Keith and Adam's fort building skills are better than mine. Perhaps they can save me some lumber?



Photos by the author and (the better ones by) Matt Ferrara. Copyright, 2014, FCCA, Inc. & the author. All rights reserved.



We Are being Framed!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 2/9/2014

Yes, it's true. I tell you, we're being completely framed.

We did nothing wrong - I swear. Honest!

We didn't plan for this to happ-oh, wait. We did.

We sat down with our architects and engineers. We plotted and planned everything, down to the last detail. But, we didn't actually do it.

It's true, we ripped up the whole place, like drunk roadies partying with the band in a cheap motel.

When we were done there wasn't much left.

The evidentiary photos of our alleged misdeeds are in 3D. You can review the evidence in true 3D by staring past the page into the distance. When you do this properly, the two left/right photos will fuse into one 3D image.

As far as all these new walls go, it wasn't us. It was two other guys - Keith and Adam. Yeah, it had to be them. Somehow, they snuck in and just started putting up all these walls - walls all over the place. They had tools. They had the means, the motive and the opportunity.

Next thing you know, those guys will show up with plasterboard. That'll just be their attempt at a cover-up.

As for reconstructing the crime scene, that's our story, and we're stickin' to it. We got nothin' else to say without our lawyers present.

And, thanks for watching!









When Planning Pays Off!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 2/16/2014

We began planning our move to Hutchinson St. in October of 2012. When we arrived a year ago our first task was to install our temporary playback system. We did that with a long term plan in mind. We set up our racks and installed our connections to Verizon and Comcast in an isolated corner.

Note our floor plan in green tape on the floor.





We framed the equipment area with plastic to keep the construction dust away from our playback systems.

Shortly after that we ripped up the place to make way for the new. More recently, Keith and Adam from F&P Molla have been busily framing and building since the beginning of the year. The guys are doing a great job. The lines of tape are now real rooms.

Next, we remove the temporary plastic frame and roll our racks - all still connected and working - to their new temporary position so Keith and Adam can finish framing the surrounding walls.

Another successful step, completed in only a few minutes. Thanks to some long-term planning, our program operation and our construction are both continuing apace without disruption.

This is where I pause for a moment, to be pleased rather than surprised when it all actually works.

And, thanks for watching!

February, 2014
Our Community Access

Franklin

They Came With Shovels!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director $\,2/23/2014\,$



Are we still making progress? Rebuilding is pretty serious when the bathrooms go away. Last week we ripped one out to make way for the concrete cutters. They sliced up a big section of floor to lay in some new drain pipes.

Then the shovels came out. They dug a grave sized hole several feet. We didn't find any bodies, mastodon bones or other surprise disruptions to

progress. No Indian burial site. No Jimmy Hoffa. Just dirt. Oddly comforting, that. Then, in a dark about face, we paused a moment to consider how many we might fit in there before we close it up.

In retrospect, we should have tossed in a time capsule (the usual coffee can containing news of the day, greetings to an optimistic future, token artifacts), but we just added a few pipes. Seems like a waste of a perfectly good hole if you don't toss in something laced with a touch of mystery or scandal. Opportunity digs but once. They put all the dirt back, and the new concrete is hard now.



Oh, well. Maybe next time...

And, thanks for watching!



For This Too Shall Pass!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 3/2/2014



The Old Farmer's Almanac was right (sigh!)

In fact, they were the only ones who were. They called for a winter of deep snows and deeper temps. So, begrudging congrats to them on behalf of all those fancy weather computer models what got it all wrong.

The Almanac also claims that winter will continue across an unrelenting March, and spring will arrive late - (heavy sigh!)

I prefer to limit my cold experience to frosty summertime beverages. Otherwise, point me toward the nearest warm sunny rock.

Then it finally happened. The day that we were secretly dreading came to pass.

Our last bathroom went away - and the outhouse arrived. Now, we're roughing it. We are crossing the Rubicon!

For the next while we will be living the life and strife of our pioneer settlers.

However, we are moving ahead crisply and headed for the home stretch. In the next month, HVAC, electric services and indoor plumbing (Yes!) will be installed.

For now, as I sit in the icy blue cold of our Komfort Kastle, philosophizing, I await the coming of spring's welcome warmth. For this too shall pass.

And, thanks for watching!









Home is Now Happening

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 3/16/2014

When we began our 'Great March' to find an appropriate building for our studios we had to pack our crystal ball wherever we went. We had to peer into the future.

Squinting. Gazing into the distant mist. Whatever works. We had to see "Studio".

In 1519 Hernán Cortés landed in Mexico. He said, 'Burn the boats'. No going home for the Spanish conquistadors. This real estate was their new home.

Once we bought our real estate - we were doing the same thing. We burned our wallet. We were committed.

With some trepidation, destruction and construction, we marched forward. The grand plan is becoming our new reality. As walls go up we see what was once only a plan taking on real shapes and spaces. Subtle things happen. The easy, straight line walk through an open space from here to there is now constrained by walls. Our simplest navigation is given a new direction.

Cortés, navigating to a New World, knew that he was home. So do we. So do we.

And, thanks for watching!



Darkest Before the Dawn

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 3/30/2014

That's the aphorism folks roll out when it seems like the hard part just won't let go.

Well, what say we have a look. Winter's had its way with us. The long awaited vernal equinox has passed, and amidst the bleakness we're ready for some spring.

Spring is an optimistic time. Verdent warmth is on its way. Knowing the better days that lie ahead may not lift today's cloud cover, but it does lift our spirits.



Trailer, still cozy. (Check!) Snow, slowly melting. (Check!) Dumpster, slowly filling. (Check!) Outhouse, 20 degrees w/ 40mph gusts. (umm - Check!!)

We're hangin' in there because the next handful of months should be crazy with all the details coming together to complete the first part of our long trek to dawn. It seems odd to gaze upon a bleak landscape such as this and be excited about coming here every day. But, excited we are. We're not looking at the temporary bleakness. We're looking forward - to the sunrise.

And, we thank you for watching!

Our Community Access

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Suddenly, Spring Sprang

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 4/6/2014

I was anticipating a quiet week, all in all. Silly me! Spring jumped out from behind the bushes and brought on all of the work that construction crews do outside.

Suddenly, we're in high gear. On Tuesday they dug up most of the back, cleaning up all the nasty detritus that had gathered or grown in over the years. We had a lot of it.



By end of day things were looking more respectable. Nature has more room now.



Wednesday morning, and - more digging. A lot more digging. No time was wasted trenching in the footings for our studio extension. It was mecha/steampunk ballet at its best. That shovel was flying all the way to Thursday.

We also began skinning the entire building exterior. With new siding it will look a lot better than the ugly gray cinderblock.

We have also been gathering video of our progress along the way. A special is in the works.

Friday came with wooden forms and the pouring of our studio footings.







Ooh! Wet cement!

Heft my mark. Solid evidence of my heavy hand in this project-from the bottom up.

And, we thank you for watching!

Our Community Access

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Managing in the Moment.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 4/13/2014

The questions keep coming.

- "Where should we place the On-Air signs?"
- "Is it okay to relocate the generator to the rear of the building?"
- "Which areas of the ceiling have tiles, and which areas are open?"
- "What about soundproofing on this wall?"
- "Should these lighting tracks be one or two circuit-are they dimmable?"

All week long we have been in high gear. We are recording our progress as we go. In the not too distant future, this organized chaos will be done - and a memory. It will be a very good one.

The work has been proceeding smoothly. Electrical wiring. Generator. Foundation. Exterior siding. Interior trim. Workmen are tackling the building on several fronts.



touches that can make a big difference in the end. No one is left guessing. Questions get answered. Most importantly, everyone working on this project has good ideas to contribute. Real-time communication and close collaboration is getting it done.

In a word - Smooth.

And, we thank you for watching!

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This is where our decision to move here sooner than later is paying off. No matter how carefully things are thought out - no matter how much detail is reflected in the architect's plans - what happens on site during construction is much more dynamic.

Every day we and the crew can make instant decisions about all the small



Samples, Swatches & Such

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 4/20/2014



When it comes to choice, we suffer from an embarrassment of riches. Too many options. The quiet agony that accompanies choice - as we choose, we eliminate; we rule out. The vast possibilities

inevitably become that singular direction, and we move on; hoping that our chosen direction turns out to be the best among all options.

In moving forward, choose we must.



Why is choice often so difficult? This process of elimination puts our personal happiness at risk. How often have we stood paralyzed in the frozen food aisle? Let's see... "Vanilla, chocolate - choc- no, umm, vanil- no, wait..."

Choices that affect our personal happiness often have no safety in numbers. They are emotional choices that have to come from the gut.

Color schemes, appliances, finish and trim materials. All this choice also means that we are entering the later stages of completion. The amorphous vision is becoming

"concretized". And yes, we even had to select concrete.

Our good news: We do have two clear guiding principles for making most of our choices.

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First: Are the colors, textures and details "TV friendly"?
Not all things look attractive in front of a camera.
Second: (and more important) Is it comfortable and inviting?

That makes many of our choices easier. Yes, when it comes to choice, our cup runneth over. We just haven't gotten around to choosing the cups yet. Let's see... Blue? Gree-no-

And, we thank you for watching!

Things Are Looking Up.

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 4/27/2014



Yesterday was a gloriously clear spring day when the sky above is crisp and blue, and jet contrails are on high.

The days are changing more rapidly, and the trees just woke up. This is spring.

You can't help but look up.

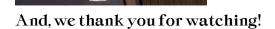
The walls arrived - on two huge flatbed trucks.

As we looked up, they were craning pallets of sheetrock directly over our trailer and straight into our front door. Impressive.

The studio walls are filled with sound proof material, and the interior walls will now take on a permanence that few people can really sense from the architect's floor plans. The walls will transform the plans from a construction project into a real place – a real home.

The home stretch.

Yes, things are looking up.







If The Walls Could Talk

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 5/4/2014



No climbing walls when we get a little crazy. No banging heads on walls when frustrated. No running into walls whenever we get stuck.

So - this week we are getting accustomed to having walls and the spaces they define. Next week we will begin to prettify them up with paint, color and trim. Transformation begets more transformation every week - as studs become walls that give shape to the spaces that define us and what we do. From the very outset, we paid particular attention to these spaces that will (hopefully) invite and inspire.

Now, for the first time, we can finally begin to see that which we have imagined for so long.

What's the phrase - If these walls could talk? I think they're saying, "Welcome home".

And, we thank you for watching!

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The truckload of wallboard that arrived last week is now flying up. Walls are becoming real and (quite literally) rock solid.

We must now accept the fact that we can no longer just slip through the walls whenever we want to go directly from A to B.

We have to obey the walls. Walls demand respect. Walls have limits - and rules.





Meet The Perpetrators

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 5/11/2014

Meet the perps. These are the guys who must carry the burden of blame for the design and construction of our amazing studio facility.

Dennis Colwell (L) is our architect.

Paul Molla is our builder.

These are two pretty smart dudes.



These are the guys who oversee the project, 'from the paper up'. Like me, they've been working all the details of our building plans for a long time.

When architects and builders look at a plan, they see the end game far more clearly than most of us. There is a sensibility at work, and the lines on the page aren't merely lines, but solid things-real walls and rooms.



The similarities to making a house or a film are striking. A builder is like a film producer who organizes and deploys all the subcontractors and materials to make it all come together. An architect is like a film director who visualizes the project's design from the start. Movies have their scripts. Buildings have their plans.



They read building plans like Spielberg reads scripts or Mozart reads sheet music.

As they inspected our nearly completed studio, there were no big, "Ooh's & Aah's!"-just that confident satisfaction of seeing what they've already seen and known all along. It's all coming together beautifully -as planned-and yes, it's all their fault.

And, we thank you for watching!



So Near, And Yet So far!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 5/18/2014



We have been fighting the good fight against all the dust and haze of construction. Our program distribution system is hangin' in there, but we are losing. The dust is everywhere. (sigh!)

When we finally do move in, there'll be a lot of equipment cleaning and reinstalling ahead.

So-when do we fi-nal-ly move in? Good question. A hard date eludes us, but it will be summer. We can see the glorious end looming in the distance – through all the (cough) dust.

More and more of the finish work is happening. Door and window trim. Plans and dates are being set for flooring and painting.

I remind myself it is a patient time.



Yes-a patient time, and worth the wait.

And, we thank you for watching!





Real Soon Now!

From Patience - to Payoff! by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 6/22/2014



In the last month we've been tackling many cosmetic details in our building. The fireplace in our Community Room is now completed.

We've also been wallboarding, plastering and painting up a storm. The fuzzy stuff you see on the ceilings is soundproofing to reduce outside noise as well as make the rooms quieter overall.

This week we began the excavation to complete the foundation of our extension. As we wrap up phase one of our renovation we are beginning our expansion.

Final electrical work – switches and lights, the backup power system, kitchen appliances and counters, floors, ceilings, etc. More remains to be done.



But, Real Soon Now! Really!



Our patience and persistence has a big payoff in store for us. We will get it right. The result will prove to be well beyond our original expectations.

And, we thank you for watching!



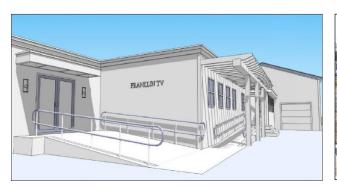
It's All About Access

Access = Foundation of Freedom = Access by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 7/6/2014

As we celebrate our cherished independence on this Fourth of July (forthajooleye), let's enjoy a moment to consider all that our independence can mean. Public Access TV is at the core of our first amendment right to freedom of speech and assembly. Franklin TV and other access studios insure that all citizens enjoy local access to freely speak to all other citizens via the mass medium of television. Access means many things to many people.

Citizen Frank Falvey exercises that right of access with every program he creates. Both he and I enjoy a shared passion for a free and open exchange of thought. Steve Sherlock provides access to local information for citizens via the internet. Both contribute to community by their acts. This free movement of information and ideas is a core freedom we assume as a right of every citizen in equal measure. Freedom of assembly – the free movement of citizens themselves is a core freedom that we also assume flows to every citizen in equal measure, but it doesn't. That's why we have the ADA. The Americans with Disabilities Act insures freedom of mobility – access and independence for all.

Our new studio facility is fully ADA compliant. At first blush, there's the added cost and complexity. However, in truth we all benefit. We push the automatic door opener when we have a heavy burden to drag in. We use the rampways for our rolling luggage at the airport. Daily life becomes just a bit easier for all of us.





For those among us who have mobility limitations, this is what freedom looks like. Our ramped foundation supports the core foundations of our most basic freedoms of access, mobility and assembly – independence. As we all age (gracefully?) we can thank the ADA for helping to insure our independence.

And, we thank you for watching!



Rising to the Occasion, Part 1

A studio grows in Franklin - Our large studio is going up. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 7/20/2014

Phase two of our grand plan is now underway. We have begun framing our large studio, a garage-like structure that extends from the rear of our main building. It feels a little like an old New England barn raising.



The walls rise to 16 feet. In our 32'x 32' studio the height is necessary to have ample room to mount studio lighting above the larger sets that this room can accommodate. I took this photo from the roof of our trailer.

Franklin TV will have a unique community TV studio with drive-in access for big stuff. Big studio for big TV projects with big stuff. Our studio can rise to the occasion.

And, we thank you for watching!

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Rising to the Occasion, Part 2

A studio grows in Franklin – The Art of Building by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 7/27/2014





Witness the art of building. There is this something about line and form in our structures that all at once makes sense both functionally and visually.

In so doing, we find art. Is it a lofty cathedral?

Cathedral - no. Lofty - yes. Barn lofts work for me. Expanse, open, inviting, they make us look to the sky. Even when empty, they are filled with imagination. That's why we do love our big open spaces.

When you look up, you just might see it as high art.

And, we thank you for watching!

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Rising to the Occasion, Part 3

A studio grows in Franklin - Form Follows Function by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 8/03/2014



It's so big! That has been a consistent first observation from everyone. It's so big. As an Access TV Studio, it is generously proportioned. More significantly, it will be very functional. Its form has been carefully planned to enable all manner of local TV programming. Once just a plan, now it's a place, realized, solid, spacious.



Last week's open, airy view of sky has become a roof. Our form is complete. The framing for our studio is done. Now we add the finishing interior touches to our main building during the next few weeks while we skin the entire exterior.

Electricity is starting to flow. Water as well. After a long and quiet winter's hibernation, our main building is finally waking up. It's coming to life.

Windows and doors are being mounted. Floors are being cleared and the clutter of all the construction is giving way to the final push of finish work.

When people ask why the big addition, I just say, "TV Studio". I watch the idea click into an immediate understanding. Good form does indeed follow function.

And, we thank you for watching!



Water, Water Everywhere

But - in all the wrong places... by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 8/17/2014



When the late day Summer downpours arrive we have a sudden rush of water flowing everywhere. It cascades off the roof in splattering sheets. Torrents waterfall all around us, flowing from the rooftops of our building and our trailer, forming ponds and puddles – also all around us.

Navigation on foot gets tricky.

The irony? We have no water.



The luxury of running water is one of those ever-present conveniences that we all take for granted. Back in early February our water went away. Our bathrooms went away, replaced by the outhouse. The sinks-gone. We pondered the notion of melting the winter snows for our very survival.



Then we figured out, "Hey, we could just go buy some." (Duh!) In the weeks and months that followed we guzzled our gallons and got on with it. We do think of ourselves as,

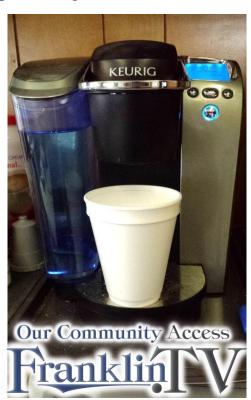
"The glass (or jug?) is half full" people.



After seven months, a miracle.
The plumber finally finished.
We-have-water!
We're happy! Our Keurig is happy.

And yes, our cup runneth over.





Let There Be Light!

 $Stepping \ out \ from \ the \ darkness$ by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director \ 8/24/2014



"Let there be light!" (pause)

I threw the switch. I smiled. It was that moment of being pleased instead of surprised when it all works per plan.

I knew immediately that my calculations were exactly on the mark. I earned my smile. My first glimmer of insight came in early spring. No one returned my calls about a lighting plan. LED lighting design is very new. Even the consultants were still in the dark (so to speak).



Having no help from the purported lighting experts, I was on my own. I spent a handful of lost weekends developing our lighting plan, researching a vast array of the latest LED luminaires and bulb designs.

On Day One, when God said, "Let there be light!", God didn't mess around. I didn't either. After days of research, I tossed in my best illumination engineering, some photometric standards and a few Excel spreadsheets for taste. We lit our 5000 square feet to perfection. Every room in the place is camera friendly. Light throughout is a uniform 3000K at 50 to 60 Fc base light with a 1 f/stop lift at strategic points with accent track lights. All are dimmer adjustable, and the whole place runs on only 12% of the power for incandescent bulbs. We're pretty green.

It's all good.

However, that leaves me to wondering -Now that filament and CFL bulbs are passé, what kind of *bright idea* bulb to draw in the future?

And, we thank you for watching!



From Park to...?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 9/14/2014



When we first acquired the Hutchinson St. property for our studio one of the things we liked was the land itself. The grounds had once been a park. Not a public park, but more a labor of love that someone had cared about in the past. One of the earlier owners added some personal touches.

At one time there were small flower plots here and there, their beds framed artfully by orderly paver stones.

There was a wishing well, a park bench, an entrance arch and other evidence of a place that someone wanted folks to visit, relax, enjoy. I say 'evidence' because most of these touches had fallen to ruin. In more recent years the grounds had become overgrown, unkempt. We were looking forward to restoring the park-like setting.

We still are, but we face challenges. As a Franklin commercial property we have an obligation to create a rain garden that returns rain to the soil. It takes up a big part of what was the park. It doesn't look like much at the moment, but we plan to make our grounds inviting in some way. More to come...

And, thanks for watching!

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Previsualization!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 9/21/2014



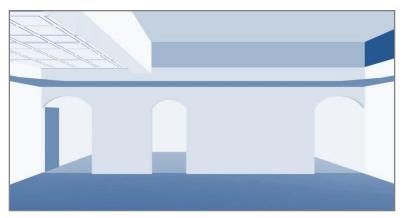


Previsualization. It is the art of using a computer to see the future. We use many programs like Photoshop to get a peek at what will be - someday. Previsualization is a key part of planning, whether it's a building or video project. Our new studio is very similar to our original concept art. "Previz "helps us to fine-tune our designs

and make improvements that are not readily obvious in an architect's floorplans.

Even the simplest concept sketches -napkin doodles - are helpful. Even during the early stages of our construction we kept updating our visual references to insure that we were doing the right things; making the best choices. The ongoing design goal is simply to take what is already good and make it all the greater.

Our decision to add a second ADA access ramp led to the extended studio corridor and pergola that we added to the side of the main building. We also sought to make the exterior more attractive and visually appropriate for our neighborhood.



The relationships of rooms, doors and traffic flow were also refined through Previz.

This simple image provided the insight for placement of a fireplace in our community room. We also moved a main wall by 4 inches to align the control room door with the archway at the left.

During the entire construction, and especially while framing the rooms, Previz art and photos provided reality checks and opportunities to make minor adjustments.

Even this week, with construction coming to an end, we continue to Previz some of the remaining details. Our kitchen is in the middle of the building. Thus, it has no windows. Most kitchens have a big bright window overlooking a back yard.

Thanks to Previz, now we do too. Our 'window' is a TV set. This mockup shows the final effect when it's fully installed.

Using Previz, we can squint out that window and into a future that's so bright we gotta wear shades.

And, thanks for watching!



Franklin)





So, What's Your Angle?

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 9/28/2014



Dogs have this way of looking at you with heads twisted at an odd angle when they're not certain if there's a ball or treat involved. You got their attention. They just can't figure out why. I was getting a dog-angled look of curiosity from our architect.

Early in our building's design I said that I needed to plan out my camera angles and sight lines in the studios,

the kitchen, and other TV friendly rooms. This was a new angle. (pun intended) Beyond the usual right angle of floors to walls and ceilings, I was planning how to lay out rooms for future camera placements and angles.

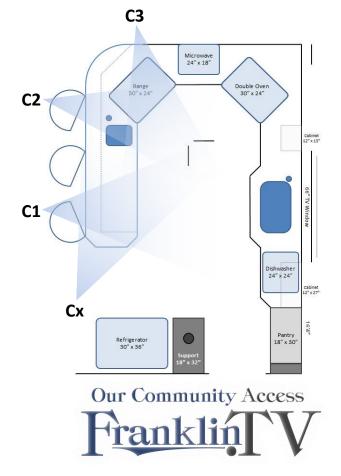
The top photo is our larger stage area (storing some construction materials). This is the camera angle at 18 feet - the upper catwalk deck. There's another balcony camera platform at 9 feet.

The floor plan at the right shows how our kitchen peninsula and appliances are arranged for food prep workflow and yes, three (or more) camera angles.

Our new digs are very camera friendly. We also planned our facility to be very community friendly. Bringing cameras and community together - a key angle.

As for our architect's brief curiosity, I just told him I was just doing my best to work all the angles.

And, thanks for watching!



Turco & Pisano Market

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 10/05/2014

We've been at our new location for some time now, but we are still patiently ensconced in our trailer as we complete our building. More Franklinites come to that trailer in the course of making TV happen.



"Franklin TV..."

"Umm - Hi. Can you tell me where you are?"



"Sure-

Turn South onto Union St. from Route 140 at the cemetery. Hutchinson is a half mile down on the left. We're number 23." (pause)

Then I say, "The Turco & Pisano Market?"

"OH! Right! THAT's your studio now? Wow...!"
They remember. They recall something beyond the building.

The old market was a neighborhood landmark and social hot spot for decades. On Sunday mornings the men would gather in back in an Italianate version of Rockwell's *Barber Shop*. Like the old market, we hope that our studio will continue to be such a welcoming place for community to happen.

Rockwell moments still linger here and there, tucked into the folds of time all around Franklin.

Just look around. They're not very hard to find.

And, thanks for watching!







Studio - Lookin' Good!

It's also sounding pretty good. Almost done. by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/02/2014

One of our last tasks in constructing Franklin TV is the completion of our large studio addition. Until recently, the room looked much like any other expanse open garage/barn/warehouse. Even with the lighting grid and catwalks in place overhead, some folks would ask if we would be using the space for storage.

Suddenly, all that changed. This week we installed the foam soundproofing. It's sprayed onto the ceiling and walls to a depth of about six inches, providing excellent thermal insulation and sound deadening. The room looks and sounds different now. It's not a nondescript empty space anymore. It's a TV studio. The echo of hollow emptiness is gone. As large as it is, the foam's acoustic diffusion makes it more intimate, quieter.





The spray team is just finishing up the entire room and everything is coming together nicely. We have more to do. There'll be some additional surface treatment and some testing and tuning of the room's acoustics.

When we fly the curtains and lighting it will be ready.

We also have to install our video/audio control room wiring and systems. All of this technical work will be done over time while we are, at last, in our new home.

Real soon now!

The front section of the building; the offices, meeting rooms, kitchen and smaller studio, are complete and fully-wonderfully-functional. Home stretch.

And, thanks for watching!



A Moving Moment!

At long last, we are in our new home (sort of). by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/09/2014

On Thursday, 10/30/2014, The Conservation Commission moved and voted to accept our final as-built plans. On Monday, 11/02, The Planning Board also so moved and voted. With everyone so moved - well, so were we. Thus, we did too.

Just like that, we moved. Were we ready to move out of our construction trailer and into the new space we've been designing and building during these last 21 months? No need to ask us twice. The very next day we were toting, pulling and dragging it all out of the trailer and into our new digs. Then we watched the trailer roll away: A poignant pause for us to bid farewell to one home and say hello to another.

We are no longer ensconced. (See our newsletter of 03-15-2013: Packing It In, Part4) Now we're entrenched, and we're not leaving here anytime soon. Surrounded by expanse, we are just becoming accustomed to a new experience – elbow room.

Our construction fence went away as well. With trailer and fencing now gone, we finally took in an unobstructed first look at our new home. We gazed upon it and saw that it was good. And, yes, we were very moved, indeed.

And, thanks for watching!







Franklin V

Home, Sweet Home, At Last!

by Pete Fasciano, Executive Director 11/23/2014

I'm standing in Home Depot for the second time today. I was here yesterday – and the day before. I'm having flashbacks to all the big and little necessaries that we must do to get our new house in order. We are nesting. Nesting is work. Welcome to the joys of new home ownership. The smug and nested among you are thinking, 'Been there. Done that. Buffed the appliances and countertops with that T-shirt."

Well, I too have "done" new home ownership - three times. I'm a serial offender. Even with all that experience I am always taken aback by all the tiny tasklets that need tending. Buy this widget. Install that finial. Fix those hanging things (before they fall off - again). Guys know this as, "The HoneyDo list".

New business home? That's the Olympics of home ownership. However, we are thrilled to finally be moving in. This is the glorious day and puttering challenge that we signed on for so long ago. We now have a spiffy new place in which to putter. We get to use power tools too. It's not all bad. However, I'm reminded of just how much work goes into making a new place into a home. We have our building. We are just beginning to make it a home.

"Home maker". I have a renewed respect for all the invisible work that this entails. No easy task, this. My recent forays into Bed, bath & Beyond, Christmas Tree Shops, Williams Sonoma, Target, Walmart, and too many other retailers high and low has chastened and humbled me. I navigate an empty cart with wiggly wheel along too narrow aisles. I'm surrounded by faux abundance, yet I find nothing. I note vaguely earnest women foraging and fretting for a bargain – each in private pursuit to find something – useful or decorative – having personal worth greater than its price. They are simply trying to stretch a dollar to fit a dream.

They are making a home.

This Thanksgiving, take special note of the home you are in. No matter how humble or grand the setting, a home maker moved mountains and bargains to make your holiday a little more special. Appreciate the effort. Thank your home maker.

This year? We are most grateful and thankful for our new Franklin TV home. Let the home making begin.

And, thanks for watching!

Our Community Access

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