

Kokomo's KGOV Channel 2: Convenient Local Involvement

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KGOV Channel 2 has successfully hit Kokomo's air waves!

Today, the City of Kokomo launched its very own government access television channel. The City has entered into a public/private partnership with Insight Communications, who donated labor, equipment and materials to bring city government directly into the homes of the public. This convenient and easily accessible means of communication will provide citizens with the information they would otherwise receive by physically attending government meetings or reading local newspapers.



"Over a year ago, I announced our plan to produce a television channel for our local government to provide TV access to our citizens so they can be more informed about what City Government does, what projects are in the works, upcoming events and how citizens can get involved," says Mayor Matt McKillip.

In an effort to make government more open and efficient, KGOV, like the city website, e-zine and the city's newsletter, is yet another way the City can communicate regularly with every Kokomo resident. This proactive approach confirms and upholds the City's philosophy of continuous improvement.

McKillip remembers "when television first came on the air. It was regarded as a miracle—a means of education, a way to communicate, and a forum for ideas."

KGOV is striving to achieve some of the same essential goals set forth by the founders of television.

McKillip believes that TV is still working to achieve those ideals, and a lot of city governments around the US are trying to use television for one of its original purposes: "to communicate with involved, active and curious citizens."

Just as exciting having your local government televised, KGOV is also available for online viewing, taking accessibility one step further. Insight Channel 2 and www.cityofkokomo.org are both great ways to stay involved and enjoy the convenience of KGOV.

KGOV Channel 2 familiarizes and informs citizens on how city government is run, encourages participation and involvement, and reveals how and why decisions are made and what Kokomoans should expect as a result of those decisions. KGOV provides viewers with an exciting and visually stimulating first hand experience with local government.

KGOV is currently running a mixture of locally produced programs, such as Tyson, the Kokomo Fire Department's arson dog investigating a case, the city's automated

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trash program in action, economic development efforts, upcoming events, emergency information, how to identify a methamphetamine lab, Oktoberfest, and last summer's park concert and fireworks show. Other shows are being created and produced, including several profiles of city employees working for the citizens of Kokomo.

Council President Greg Sheline stated, "This is great for Kokomo!" He continues, "I'm all for putting live public meetings on KGOV; this is a good tool for keeping the public up to date about upcoming activities and events. The possibilities are endless."

In the next phase, viewers will have the ability to watch key events, such as Kokomo Common Council meetings, Board of Public Works and Safety meetings, Plan Commission meetings, etc. from the comfort of their own homes. The convenience of KGOV will allow those residents who lead hectic lives and do not have time to sit through meetings to maintain knowledge of current local issues. As a result, KGOV will pave the way to a better understanding of our community and government.

"The launch of KGOV ties directly to our strategic plan to improve the quality of life in Kokomo," explains McKillip. "The channel allows citizens and visitors to Kokomo to be more informed about and involved in our community. Now that we are seeing our plan unfold, I am very excited to see the positive impact KGOV will have on the citizens and our city. "

Kokomo Government TV uses the latest digital technology to broadcast a signal equal to that of network television.

"We are so proud to be a partner in the KGOV system," said David Leighton, President of [LEIGHTRONIX](#). "The NEXUS Digital Video Controller offers the very latest in digital video technology, and was designed to serve the needs of public, education, and government video channels."

"We are pleased to be a part of this milestone in the history of Kokomo City Government," said Sue Misiunis, District Vice President for Insight Communications. "By partnering with the City on KGOV, it once again demonstrates cable's commitment to local communities."

KGOV Channel 2 is included in the basic Insight cable package, so current customers can start enjoying the benefits of KGOV right away! Those who are not already Insight customers and wish to receive KGOV via television are encouraged to contact Insight Communications at (765) 453-9075.

For additional information on the KGOV digital video playback operations, please contact LEIGHTRONIX at (800) 243-5589.