

Vermont Association of  
Broadcasters

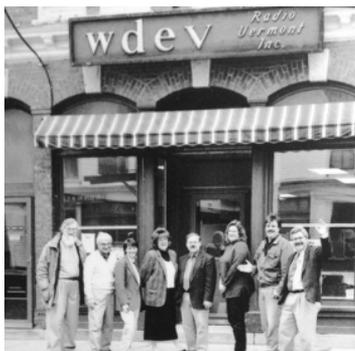
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August,  
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85 Years for 'The Friendly Pioneer'



Belated Happy Birthday wishes to Radio Vermont Group's WDEV-AM in Waterbury. On July 15 the station celebrated 85 years on the air. WDEV is Vermont's fourth-oldest station still in operation, following WQDM (now WRSA) in Saint Albans, WSYB in Rutland and WCAX-AM (now WVMT). The Squier family has owned WDEV since 1935. Congrats!

Colleran joins WPTZ Anchor Desk



Brian Colleran has joined NewsChannel 5 to anchor the 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts on WPTZ and the 10 p.m. newscast on The Valley's CW.

The Long Island native has more than 20 years experience in local television, with stints in Baltimore, Colorado, Alabama and, for the past eight years, Florida. Last year he won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award.

He and his wife are the proud parents of a daughter and son and are excited to call the Champlain Valley their new home. Welcome and good luck!

## Make Your Nominations for the VAB Hall of Fame

### HALL of FAME

The VAB is now accepting nominations for our annual broadcaster awards, including the Hall of Fame, Broadcaster of the Year, Community Service Awards and Distinguished Service Awards.

If you know someone or a station that deserves special recognition at our late Autumn awards banquet, [click here](#) to go to our on-line nomination page. You'll also find criteria for the different awards. Don't wait too long: nominations close on Friday, September 16.

If you'd like to visit our on-line Hall of Fame, please [click here](#).

### August 26 Deadline:

### ALL Stations Must File EAS/ETRS "Form One"

On September 28, 2016, at 2:20 p.m. ET, the FCC and FEMA will conduct the second nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System. All radio and television stations must be prepared to participate in this test. The nationwide

test will assess the reliability and effectiveness of the EAS. The test message will clearly state that the alert is only a test of the EAS. The results of the nationwide EAS test will be captured and analyzed using the FCC's new EAS Test Reporting System (ETRS).



All broadcasters must register in the ETRS and must complete the filing of ETRS Form One by August 26, 2016.

Certain "day of test" information will be required on ETRS Form Two on September 28, and additional information regarding your participation in the nationwide test will be due on ETRS Form Three by November 14, 2016.

The FCC will conduct a webinar today, August 1, at 2 p.m. ET to help explain the new reporting system and requirements. To learn more and to register, please [click here](#).

## AM REVITALIZATION: SECOND TRANSLATOR WINDOW OPENS

The effort to revitalize the AM band continues. Last Thursday, the FCC's first filing window for Class C and D stations to apply for FM translators closed. On Friday, a second filing window opened for Class A and B stations (as well as Class C and D stations that didn't file in the first window). The second window will remain open until October 31.

An AM stations may acquire an FM translator that is within a 250-mile radius of the AM station. If approved by the FCC, the translators may be used to rebroadcast an AM signal within the station's primary contour.

Stations may file only one application to move or modify an FM translator. If a station filed an application during the first window but was rejected, they may not file again.

To avoid interference or for other reasons, an applicant may change the FM frequency after approval is given, but the translator must be used to carry the AM signal for a minimum of four years.

Given the one application rule, stations must not only comply with all FCC technical rules, but must also be careful to make sure their acquisition agreement for the targeted FM translator is airtight. If a deal to buy an FM translator were to fall through after the application is filed, the AM station would be out of luck.

During the first filing window, more than 700 applications were filed. Of those, 630 have already been approved, according to a report in *Radio World*. The second window is also expected to be a busy one.

### HELPFUL LINKS:

The FCC's original Public Notice regarding the two filing windows can be read [here](#).

They have a handy tool, which can be found [here](#) that will identify all FM translators within an AM station's 250 mile radius.

Another handy tool, which can be found [here](#), helps stations find available FM channels. - Jim Condon

## VAB FILES COMMENTS TO MODERNIZE PUBLIC FILES

*By Scott R. Flick, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman  
LLP*

State Broadcasters Associations representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, recently filed Joint Comments in strong support of the FCC's proposal to eliminate the rule which requires broadcasters to maintain letters and e-mails from the public in their public files.



We made the following points:

(1) In light of the accessibility of other means by which the public can communicate with broadcast stations, including on social media where such communications typically are preserved and publicly accessible, the requirement that stations retain letters and e-mails is outdated. We also noted that numerous broadcasters associations have made this point to the FCC in the past, so the elimination of the requirement now is, at a minimum, timely.

(2) Because the public correspondence portion is the final vestige of the public file required to be maintained in a paper format, elimination of the requirement would enable stations to dedicate staff resources to more productive uses as well as to provide a more secure and safe work environment for their staff.

(3) While radio stations outside the top 50 markets and those with fewer than 5 full-time employees are not required to move their public files online until 2018, the elimination of the final aspect of the physical public file may encourage them to do so earlier.

(4) Because commercial broadcasters are the only entities required to maintain correspondence from the public in their public files, elimination of the requirement would provide for regulatory parity with other FCC-regulated businesses.

(Click [here](#) to read the latest FCC Enforcement Monitor from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.)