

## MEDIACOM CABLE FRANCHISE – INFORMATION SHEET – Ocean View, DE

Please share this information freely to help us address the misinformation being shared!

**The Cable Franchise Agreement that the Town of Ocean View has with Mediacom relates solely to Cable TV. It does not cover the company's internet service/nor broadband.**

**Mediacom is currently the only cable provider in Ocean View but that is only because no other provider has chosen to offer this service.** We can and would negotiate additional cable franchise agreements if any company showed interest. There is not rule prohibiting Ocean View having more than one cable provider, many Towns and Cities in Delaware do and we would likely as well if a reputable company approached the Town.

**Regarding internet service in our area,** it is correct that currently Mediacom is the only option for most in Ocean View and some surrounding areas. However, internet service is not subject to a franchise agreement with a Town or City. Comcast is now offering residential cable and internet service in Bethany, and South Behtany. We are told they will continue to add communities but have yet to receive a time frame for doing so here in Ocean View. Again, there is no exclusivity provision/monopoly except for Mediacom being the only provider interested in being here at this time.

**To that end, over the last three and half years, we have engaged with Comcast regarding their coming into our community to offer residential cable and internet.** As you can imagine, their decisions to provide service are economically driven and based on the cost to build and the number of customers to be gained. There is competition with other markets that they serve for where they will spend money and when. **Late in 2021 the Town was contacted by Comcast who requested certain necessary information and advised they were interested in starting the process to obtain a Franchise agreement. As of March of 2023, they continue to evaluate the timing for doing so.**

For now, any concerns related to internet or cable tv service from Mediacom that Ocean View residents have can be brought to my attention. **I have worked on many issues for residents with Mediacom.** I would be happy to engage Mediacom on behalf of any resident who wishes to share their concerns.

Carol Houck, Ocean View Town Manager - **Updated as of March 2023**