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Verizon tunes in to WVVH

By David Reich-Hale

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SOUTHAMPTON – WVVH-TV is going regional.

The small Hamptons television station, which is available on UHF channel 50 and on Channel 78 on Cablevision's East End system, has struck a carriage agreement with Verizon's FiOS television.

Executives hope the deal will give the station the exposure it's craved since Cablevision first added WVVH to its East End service in 1995.

"It's a carriage agreement with Verizon for all of New York," said Ernie Schimizzi, president and co-founder of WVVH. "As they roll out the service in Westchester, Rockland, Nassau, Suffolk, New York City and New Jersey, our station will be available. It's a big step for us."

WVVH is also in talks with Time Warner Cable, the dominant cable provider in Manhattan and Queens, to carry the station on its New York City systems.

On the other hand, Cablevision has not added it to any of its non-East End systems.

"We've always been willing to expand on its platform, but it hasn't happened," Schimizzi said.

Cablevision had no comment.

The station is not available to DirecTV customers.

WVVH carries various sports and entertainment programming, including Canadian Football League and American Hockey League games. It also carries the Hamptons Classic Horse Show.

Its news division covers the East End. The station is a finalist for a Press Club of Long Island award. The PCLI is holding its annual awards gala on June 8.

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