BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Sling TV, Fubo & Philo

Lower-cost live TV compared honestly: prices, local channels, sports, recording, free trials and canceling

A plain-English guide for anyone cutting the cable bill

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

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For Sling TV, Fubo & Philo · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your guide to three of the lower-cost ways to watch live TV over the internet instead of through cable: Sling TV, Fubo and Philo. Read it in any order and at your own pace. It explains what each one costs as of November 2026, which channels you do and don't get here in Northeast Ohio, how recording works, how many TVs can watch at once, and how to try one and cancel it without surprises. Prices and channel lineups change often, so where the service's own sign-up page differs from this guide, the sign-up page has the final word.

Part 1 — Getting Started

1 A Note from Bill
2 What a Live-TV Streaming Service Is
3 The Three at a Glance
4 What You Need Before You Sign Up

Part 2 — Sling TV

5 Sling Orange, Sling Blue, or Both?
6 Sling's Extras: Locals, Recording & Passes
7 Signing Up & Watching Sling

Part 3 — Fubo

8 Fubo's Plans & Prices
9 Fubo & Hulu + Live TV: What the Disney Deal Changed
10 Fubo Sports & My Local Sports
11 Signing Up & Getting Around Fubo

Part 4 — Philo

12 Philo's Plans
13 What Philo Doesn't Have
14 Signing Up & Getting Around Philo

Part 5 — Locals, Sports, Recording & Devices

15 Local Channels in Cleveland & Akron
16 Guardians, Cavs & FanDuel Sports Network Ohio
17 Recording (Cloud DVR) Compared
18 How Many TVs Can Watch at Once
19 Devices That Work

Part 6 — Free Trials, Bills & Canceling

20 Free Trials Without Surprises
21 Canceling Sling, Fubo or Philo

22 Price Increases, Pausing & Switching
23 Scams & Fake Support

Part 7 — Choosing One & Getting Help

24 Choosing the Right One
25 When to Call Bill
26 Your Sling, Fubo & Philo Cheat-Sheet

PART 1

Getting Started

What a live-TV streaming service really is, how Sling TV, Fubo and Philo compare at a glance, and what you need in place before you sign up for any of them.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. Maybe the cable bill came again and it was higher than last month. Maybe a neighbor said "I just use Sling now" and you'd like to know whether that could work for you. Or maybe you're helping a parent who watches the same handful of channels every day and is paying for two hundred more. Whichever it is, this guide is for **you**.

I'm Bill. I've spent more than 30 years working with technology, and these days I help folks here in Portage County feel at home with theirs. Choosing a TV service has become surprisingly complicated: plans with color names, add-ons, local-channel fees, and prices that change twice a year. I wrote this guide the way I'd explain it sitting on your couch with the remote: patiently, in plain English, and without trying to sell you anything. I don't earn a penny from any of these companies.

What this guide will do for you

- Explain what Sling TV, Fubo and Philo each are, in plain words, and who each one suits.
- Give you honest prices as of November 2026, including the extras that make the bill bigger than the advertised number.
- Tell you straight which services carry our Cleveland and Akron local stations, and which don't.
- Sort out where the Guardians and the Cavs are now, after FanDuel Sports Network Ohio went away.
- Compare recording ("cloud DVR"), how many TVs can watch at once, and which devices work.
- Walk you through free trials and canceling, step by step, so you never pay for something you meant to stop.

The big promise: you can't break it

Trying a streaming service is not like signing a cable contract. None of these three asks for a yearly commitment. If you pick one and don't like it, you cancel and you're done at the end of that month. Your TV, your internet and your other apps keep working exactly as before. The only real mistake is forgetting to cancel, and Part 6 makes sure that doesn't happen.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why this matters

Many households pay for far more channels than they watch. Picking a smaller live-TV package that matches what you actually watch can trim your monthly bill, and you can change your mind any month.

And I'm only a phone call away

If anything in this guide leaves you unsure, call me at **(330) 200-8042**. There's no such thing as a silly question, especially about channel lineups.

Let's start with what these services actually are.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Live-TV Streaming Service Is

A **live-TV streaming service** is cable TV delivered over your internet connection instead of through a cable box. You still get a channel guide, live news and shows as they air, and the ability to record. The difference is that it comes through an app on your TV or streaming stick, and you pay the service directly, month to month.

How it differs from Netflix or Hulu

Netflix, Prime Video and plain Hulu are **on-demand** services: a library of shows and movies you pick from whenever you like. Live-TV services carry **channels** such as CNN, HGTV, ESPN or the Hallmark Channel, playing live on a schedule, just like cable. Many people end up with one live-TV service plus one or two on-demand services.

The three in this guide, in one sentence each

Service	In plain words
Sling TV	The "build your own" option. Two smaller base plans, Orange and Blue, that you can take on their own or together, plus add-ons.
Fubo	The sports-heavy, cable-like option. Big channel lineups with local stations, and now part of the same company as Hulu + Live TV.
Philo	The budget entertainment option. Lifestyle, reality, movies and drama channels for the lowest price, with no sports and no local news at all.

Words you'll see

Word	What it means
Local channels	Your area's ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX stations, such as Channel 3, 5, 8 and 19 in Cleveland. Not every service carries them.
Cloud DVR	Recording without a box. Your recordings are stored on the company's computers and play on any of your devices.
Streams or screens	How many TVs, phones or tablets can watch at the same moment on one account.
Add-on	An extra package you pay for on top of a plan, such as more sports or more recording space.
Regional sports network	A channel that shows a local team's games, like the old FanDuel Sports Network Ohio.

GOOD TO KNOW

An antenna fills a gap

Two of these three services may leave out some or all of the local channels. A simple indoor antenna picks up Cleveland's local stations for free, with no monthly bill. Bill's guide to TV antennas covers it, and Chapter 15 explains how an antenna fits with each service.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing the difference between "live" and "on demand" stops you from paying twice for the same thing, and helps you see which kind of service actually replaces your cable.

CHAPTER 3

The Three at a Glance

Here is the whole comparison on one page. Every number is as of November 2026, before taxes and before any local-channel fees or add-ons. The chapters that follow explain each line.

	Sling TV	Fubo	Philo
Starting price	Orange $45.99/mo; Blue from about $46/mo	Pro $88.99/mo; Fubo Sports $64.99/mo	Essential $25/mo; Bundle+ $33/mo
Local ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX	Some on Blue in select markets; no CBS	Yes, on most plans	No
Sports	ESPN and ESPN2 on Orange; FS1 on Blue	Lots, including Guardians games in 2026	None
Recording	50 hours free; unlimited for $5.00/mo more	1,000 hours on Pro	Unlimited
TVs at once	Orange 1, Blue 3, both 4	Up to 10 at home	3
Free trial	No regular trial	Short trial, varies	7 days on Essential

The short version

- **Want sports and your local stations in one app?** Fubo comes closest of the three, but it costs the most.
- **Want news and general cable channels for less?** Sling Blue is the usual pick. Add an antenna for local stations.
- **Watch mostly HGTV, Food Network, Hallmark and reality shows?** Philo is the cheapest by far, as long as you don't need sports or local news.

HEADS UP

The advertised price is rarely the final price

Local-channel fees, regional sports fees, extra recording space and add-on packages can raise the monthly total. Before you sign up, look at the final number on the checkout screen, the one that says what you'll pay after any first-month discount ends.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With one table you can rule out the service that clearly doesn't fit, and spend your time comparing only the two that might.

CHAPTER 4

What You Need Before You Sign Up

All three services work on equipment many homes already have. Check these four things first and sign-up day goes smoothly.

1. Home internet that's steady

Live TV streams continuously, so the connection matters more than for email. Most home internet plans sold today are fast enough for one or two TVs. If videos already buffer in the evening, fix that first, or the live channels will freeze too.

2. Something to watch on

A smart TV with the service's app, or a streaming device plugged into the TV such as a Roku, Amazon Fire TV stick, Apple TV or Google TV device. Phones, tablets and computers work too. Chapter 19 covers devices.

3. An email address and a card

Each service needs an email address for your account and a payment card, even for a free trial. Use an email address you check, because price-change notices arrive there.

4. Your ZIP code

Local channels and regional sports depend on where you live. Each service asks for your ZIP code, and the channel list it then shows you is the real one for your home. Use your home ZIP code, not a relative's.

Before you cancel cable

1. Write down the five or ten channels you actually watch each week.
2. Check that the service you're considering carries each one in your ZIP code.
3. Find out whether your cable company bundles internet with TV. Dropping TV can change the internet price, so ask what internet alone will cost.
4. Ask whether there's an early-termination fee on your cable contract.
5. Return any rented cable boxes and get a receipt.

TIP

Keep cable until the new service is working

Sign up for the new service first, use it for a week, and only then call the cable company. That way you're never without TV.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Ten minutes of checking means no surprise missing channel, no unexpected jump in your internet bill, and no week without the evening news.

PART 2

Sling TV

Sling's two color-coded plans, what local channels and recording cost extra, what happened to the day passes, and how to sign up and find your way around the app.

CHAPTER 5

Sling Orange, Sling Blue, or Both?

Sling TV, owned by DISH, sells two base plans named after colors. They overlap a little, but each has channels the other doesn't. You can take one, or both together for a combined price.

Sling Orange

- **Price:** $45.99 a month as of November 2026.
- **Known for:** ESPN and ESPN2, plus a selection of entertainment and family channels.
- **Local channels:** none.
- **Screens:** one at a time. Only one TV or device can watch Orange at any moment.

Sling Blue

- **Price:** starts around $46 a month, and costs more where Sling includes local stations (Chapter 6 explains the local-channel fee).
- **Known for:** more news and general entertainment channels, plus sports channels such as FS1. No ESPN.
- **Local channels:** FOX, ABC and NBC, but only in select markets.
- **Screens:** up to three at a time.

Orange & Blue together

Taking both gives you every channel from each plan and up to four screens at once. The combined price has been listed at $60.99 a month before local-channel fees, and it costs more where Sling includes local stations in your area. Reports on the exact 2026 figure differ, so check the price Sling shows for your ZIP code at sign-up.

	Orange	Blue	Orange & Blue
Monthly price	$45.99	About $46–$55, by area	From $60.99, more with locals
ESPN	Yes	No	Yes
FS1	No	Yes	Yes
Local FOX, ABC, NBC	No	Select markets	Select markets
Screens at once	1	3	4

Which one fits?

- **Live alone and want ESPN?** Orange. One screen is enough for one viewer.
- **Want news channels and more than one TV?** Blue.
- **A sports household that also wants news?** Orange & Blue, or look at Fubo in Part 3.

TIP

Look at the channel list for your ZIP code

Channel lineups shift from time to time. On sling.com, choose a plan and look for the full channel list before you pay. Tick off your must-have channels from the list you made in Chapter 4.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Sling lets you pay only for the half of the lineup you'll use, instead of a big package. For many single viewers, Orange or Blue alone is the cheapest way to get familiar cable channels.

CHAPTER 6

Sling's Extras: Locals, Recording & Passes

Sling's low starting price is real, but a few extras can change your monthly total. Here they are, so nothing surprises you.

The local-channel fee

Where Sling carries local FOX, ABC or NBC stations on Blue, it now charges more for that plan. Since February 2026, Blue with all three local stations costs about $9.00 a month more, and Blue with one or two costs about $4.00 more. Sling said the change reflects what local stations charge it. Sling does not carry CBS stations at all, so Channel 19 isn't on Sling anywhere.

Recording (DVR)

Every Sling plan includes a free cloud DVR with **50 hours** of recording space, and Sling keeps those recordings for up to nine months. If you record a lot, the **Unlimited DVR** add-on removes the storage limit for $5.00 a month. Chapter 17 compares recording across all three services.

Sports and other add-ons

Sling sells optional add-on packs, such as an extra sports pack, for a monthly fee. They're optional. Add one only if a channel you truly want lives there, and check the price on the add-ons screen, since these change.

What happened to Sling's day passes

Starting in 2025, Sling sold short passes: a day, a weekend or a week of Sling Orange, handy for one big game. Disney and Warner Bros. Discovery took Sling to court over them, and news reports since say Sling has stopped offering the passes. If you see an ad for a Sling day pass, check sling.com itself before paying; treat an outside ad as out of date.

HEADS UP

Add up the real monthly total

Blue plus the local-channel fee plus Unlimited DVR plus a sports pack can climb quickly. Write the total on paper before you decide, and compare it with the other services in Chapter 3.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing the extras ahead of time means you choose the ones you need, skip the rest, and get the price you expected on your first bill.

CHAPTER 7

Signing Up & Watching Sling

The simplest way to sign up for any of these services is on a computer or phone web browser, then sign in on the TV. Typing an email address with a TV remote is slow.

Sign up on the web

1. On a computer or phone, type **sling.com** into the address bar yourself. Don't tap an ad.
2. Enter your home ZIP code when asked, so the plans shown are the real ones for your area.
3. Choose Orange, Blue, or both. Look at the channel list.
4. Skip add-ons for now. You can add them later.
5. Create your account with your email address and a password. Write both on the Cheat-Sheet in Chapter 26.
6. Enter your card. Read the final monthly price on the review screen before you confirm.

Sign in on the TV

1. On your TV or streaming device, open the app store and install the **Sling TV** app.
2. Open it and choose to sign in.
3. Many TVs show a short code and a web address. On your phone or computer, go to that address, sign in, and type the code. The TV signs in by itself.
4. If you're not given a code, type your email and password with the remote.

Getting around

Sling's app has a home screen with rows of shows, and a **Guide** that looks like a cable channel grid. To record, highlight a show and look for a **Record** option. Recordings appear in a DVR or "My TV" area. Names move a little between devices and app updates, so look for those words rather than an exact spot.

> TIP
>
> **Make a favorites row**
>
> Most live-TV apps let you mark favorite channels so they appear first in the guide. Look for a heart or star when a channel is highlighted. Ten favorites makes the guide far less overwhelming.

GOOD TO KNOW

Going away for a while?

Sling lets you pause a subscription instead of canceling it. The "Ways to Make Life Easier" topic has the steps, and Chapter 22 explains when a pause makes sense.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Signing up on a computer and signing in on the TV with a code saves you from pecking out an email address letter by letter with the remote.

PART 3

Fubo

Fubo's plans and 2026 prices, what changed after it combined with Hulu + Live TV under Disney, its lower-cost sports plan, and how to find your way around the app.

CHAPTER 8

Fubo's Plans & Prices

Fubo began as a sports service and still leans that way, but its main plans carry a broad, cable-like lineup: local stations, news, movies and entertainment channels, along with a long list of sports channels. It's the most expensive of the three services in this guide, and it's also the one that comes closest to replacing a full cable package.

The main plans, as of November 2026

Plan	Price and what it is
Pro (also called Essential or Core in some areas)	$88.99 a month. The main plan most people mean when they say "Fubo."
Elite (Ultra in some areas)	$98.99 a month. More channels than Pro.
Bigger plans	Fubo's support page lists higher tiers such as Ultimate at $113.99 and Deluxe at $118.99 a month.
Fubo Sports	$64.99 a month. A smaller, sports-focused plan; Chapter 10 explains it.

Why the price went up in summer 2026

For part of 2025 and 2026, Fubo lost NBC and the other NBCUniversal channels in a contract dispute, and it lowered prices while they were missing. A new deal was announced on June 10, 2026. When NBC came back in each area, most plans went up about $15 a month. Fubo said that reversed the discount it had given during the blackout, plus higher channel fees.

One catch: the deal didn't bring back every channel. Reports say channels that NBCUniversal spun off into a separate company, Versant, such as USA Network, SYFY and MS NOW, were not part of it. If one of those is a must-have, check Fubo's channel list for your ZIP code.

Fees that can be added

In some areas, Fubo adds a separate **regional sports fee** to the Pro plan at checkout, while higher plans fold it into the price. Taxes are extra too. The checkout screen shows the total for your ZIP code.

HEADS UP

Promotional prices end

Fubo often advertises a lower first month. Look for the words that say what you'll pay after that, and set a calendar reminder for the date it changes.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Fubo can be the one bill that covers your local stations, news, entertainment and sports, so you don't have to juggle two or three services to get them all.

CHAPTER 9

Fubo & Hulu + Live TV: What the Disney Deal Changed

You may have heard that Fubo and Hulu + Live TV "merged." Here is what that actually means for you.

What happened

In October 2025, Fubo and Hulu + Live TV were combined into one company. Disney, which owns Hulu, controls about 70 percent of it. But the two services did **not** turn into one app or one plan. Fubo kept its own app, and Hulu + Live TV stayed in the Hulu app.

What it means for you

- The two still run as separate services, with separate apps, prices and accounts.
- News reports describe the companies starting to work together, such as selling each other's plans. Details change, so check each service's own website before you sign up.
- If you already subscribe to one of them, the deal itself doesn't require you to do anything.

How the two compare on price

As of November 2026, Hulu + Live TV costs $99.99 a month with ads, and it includes Disney+ and ESPN in that price. Fubo Pro costs $88.99. If you already pay for Disney+ separately, Hulu + Live TV's bundle may be worth comparing. Bill's guide to Hulu covers Hulu + Live TV in detail.

GOOD TO KNOW

One subscription doesn't give you the other

Paying for Fubo doesn't give you Hulu + Live TV, and the other way round. They're sister services, not one service with two names.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You can ignore the headlines and simply compare the two on price and channels, as two separate choices.

CHAPTER 10

Fubo Sports & My Local Sports

If what you mostly want is sports plus your local stations, and not a hundred entertainment channels, Fubo has a smaller plan for that.

The Fubo Sports plan

Fubo Sports launched in September 2025. It's built around ESPN's channels and local ABC, CBS and FOX stations, plus other sports channels, for less than the full Pro plan. As of November 2026 it lists at $64.99 a month after a discounted first month for new customers.

My Local Sports, the add-on

On September 29, 2026, Fubo launched **My Local Sports**, an add-on for the Fubo Sports plan that brings in your area's team channel, where Fubo has a deal for it, plus some free sports channels. The price depends on how many team channels your area gets; one early example was $10 a month for a single channel. The launch list included the Blue Jackets Hockey Network, along with channels for several teams outside Ohio. You can only get a team's channel if you live in that team's home area.

Whether My Local Sports includes anything for Northeast Ohio teams depends on your ZIP code. Enter yours at checkout and the add-on screen shows what's available. Chapter 16 covers the Guardians and Cavs in detail.

TIP

Sports fans: check NBC separately

Some sports, like Sunday night football, air on NBC. Make sure NBC is listed for your ZIP code on whichever Fubo plan you pick.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A sports fan who doesn't need the big entertainment lineup can save about $24 a month compared with Pro, and still keep ESPN and the local stations.

CHAPTER 11

Signing Up & Getting Around Fubo

Fubo works the same way as Sling: sign up on the web, then sign in on the TV.

Sign up

1. On a computer or phone, type **fubo.tv** into the address bar yourself.
2. Enter your home ZIP code. Fubo shows the plans and local channels for that address.
3. Pick a plan. Open the channel list and look for your must-have channels.
4. Create an account with your email and a password, and enter your card.
5. Read the price shown for after any trial or first-month offer, then confirm.

Sign in on the TV

1. Install the **Fubo** app from your TV's or streaming device's app store.
2. Open it and choose sign in. If a code appears, go to the web address shown on the screen with your phone, sign in, and enter the code.
3. Choose your profile if asked, and you'll land on the home screen.

Getting around

Fubo has a **Guide** with the channel grid, a home screen of suggestions, and a recordings area. To record, highlight a show or game and choose **Record**; for a series, look for an option to record every episode. Sports fans can follow a team so its games are easy to find.

TIP

Watch several games at once

On some devices, Fubo can show up to four channels on one screen. The "Ways to Make Life Easier" topic has the steps.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Following your teams and recording a whole series means the games and shows you care about are waiting for you, without hunting through the guide every day.

PART 4

Philo

The lowest-priced live-TV service of the three: its plans, what it leaves out on purpose, and how to use it day to day.

CHAPTER 12

Philo's Plans

Philo is built for people who watch entertainment, lifestyle and movie channels and don't care about sports. Leaving sports out is what keeps the price so low. In March 2026 Philo reorganized into three choices.

Plan	What you get, as of November 2026
Philo (free)	No card needed. More than 120 free, ad-supported channels.
Essential, $25 a month	70+ live TV channels plus the free channels. Unlimited recording, kept up to a year.
Bundle+, $33 a month	Everything in Essential, plus AMC+, and access to HBO Max (Basic with Ads) and discovery+. It replaced the older Philo Core plan.

These prices are for signing up directly on philo.com. If you subscribe through another company's billing, such as a TV maker's or streaming device's store, the price can be different.

The kind of channels Philo has

Philo's lineup leans toward lifestyle, reality, drama and movie channels: the sort of channels people keep on in the background in the afternoon. Lineups change, so check the full list on philo.com for your favorites before paying.

Is Bundle+ worth $8.00 more?

Only if you'd otherwise pay for one of the included apps. If you already want HBO Max with ads or AMC+, Bundle+ can cost less than paying for them on their own. If you don't, Essential is enough.

> **TIP**
>
> **Start with Essential**
>
> Essential comes with a free trial and Bundle+ does not (Chapter 20). Try Essential first; you can move up to Bundle+ later if you find you want the extra apps.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

For about the price of a couple of streaming apps, Philo gives you a channel guide full of familiar cable channels, with unlimited recording included.

CHAPTER 13

What Philo Doesn't Have

This chapter matters as much as the one before it. Philo leaves out two big things on purpose.

No sports channels

Philo carries no sports networks: no ESPN, no FS1, no regional sports. If someone in the house wants to watch the Browns, the Guardians or the Cavs, Philo alone won't do it.

No local channels or local news

Philo carries no local broadcast stations. That means no Channel 3, 5, 8 or 19, no local news, no local weather coverage, and none of the network shows on ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX as they air.

How people fill the gap

- **An antenna** for the local stations, free. Many homes in Portage County can pick up the Cleveland stations; Bill's antenna guide explains how to check.
- **Your local stations' free apps** for news, if you can't use an antenna.
- **A separate sports option** for the one or two teams you follow. Chapter 16 covers local teams.

HEADS UP

Severe weather

If you rely on TV for storm warnings, don't make Philo your only TV source. Keep an antenna or another way to get local news, and keep a weather radio or phone alerts turned on.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing what's missing up front means you won't cancel cable on Friday and discover on Sunday that the game isn't there.

CHAPTER 14

Signing Up & Getting Around Philo

Sign up

1. On a computer or phone, type **philo.com** into the address bar yourself.
2. Choose the free option, Essential, or Bundle+.
3. Philo may sign you in with a code sent to your email or phone instead of a password. Enter the code when it arrives.
4. For a paid plan, enter your card and check the monthly price before confirming.

Sign in on the TV

1. Install the **Philo** app on your TV or streaming device.
2. Open it and choose to sign in. Follow the steps on the screen, usually a code to enter on your phone or a link sent to your email.

Profiles for everyone in the house

Philo lets one account have up to 10 profiles, so each person gets their own list of saved shows and their own viewing history. Choose your profile when the app opens.

Recording on Philo

On Philo, recording is often called **saving**. Highlight a show and choose to save it, and new episodes are kept for you. Paid plans have no limit on how many you save, and Philo keeps each recording for up to one year as of November 2026.

Signing out a device you no longer use

If an old TV or a relative's tablet is still signed in, Philo's help center has a page called "How to sign out of other devices." It's worth doing when you sell or give away a TV.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With your own profile, your saved shows don't get mixed up with everyone else's, and the app opens on the things you like.

PART 5

Locals, Sports, Recording & Devices

The questions that decide which service fits a Northeast Ohio home: our local stations, the Guardians and Cavs, recording, how many TVs can watch, and which devices work.

CHAPTER 15

Local Channels in Cleveland & Akron

For most people the local stations matter most: the evening news, the weather when storms roll in, and the big network shows. Here is how the three services handle them in our area.

Our local stations

Station	Network
Channel 3, WKYC	NBC
Channel 5, WEWS (News 5)	ABC
Channel 8, WJW (FOX 8)	FOX
Channel 19, WOIO (19 News)	CBS
Channel 43, WUAB	MyNetworkTV, a sister station of Channel 19

Service by service

- **Fubo:** carries local stations on its main plans. 19 News has said it is carried on Fubo, along with YouTube TV and Hulu + Live TV. NBC returned to Fubo in summer 2026 after a long dispute (Chapter 8).
- **Sling:** Sling Blue includes local FOX, ABC and NBC only in select markets, and Sling carries no CBS stations at all. That means no Channel 19 on Sling.
- **Philo:** no local stations of any kind.

How to check your own address

1. Go to the service's website and start the sign-up, or look for a channel-lookup page.
2. Enter your **home** ZIP code. Portage County ZIP codes are in the Cleveland TV market.
3. Look for the station names or call letters in the list: WKYC, WEWS, WJW and WOIO.
4. If one is missing, it isn't included for your address, whatever an ad says.

The antenna option

Every one of these stations broadcasts free over the air. An indoor or attic antenna, bought once, brings them in with no monthly fee, often in sharper picture than streaming. Many homes pair an antenna with Sling or Philo to cover the locals. Bill's guide to TV antennas and free local channels walks through choosing and aiming one.

TIP

Local news apps are free too

Channels 3, 5, 8 and 19 each have a free news app and a website with live newscasts at many times of day. They're a handy backup if you can't use an antenna.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Checking your ZIP code before you pay means the Channel 3 news or the Sunday game is there on day one, not a disappointment after the cable is gone.

CHAPTER 16

Guardians, Cavs & FanDuel Sports Network Ohio

For years, Guardians and Cavaliers games lived on a cable channel called Bally Sports Ohio, renamed FanDuel Sports Network Ohio. That channel is gone, and local teams have moved. Here's where things stand as of November 2026.

What happened to FanDuel Sports Network

The company behind the FanDuel Sports Networks told its NBA and NHL teams in spring 2026 that it would stop operating after their 2025–26 seasons. Baseball teams, including the Guardians, had already left before the 2026 season. So no service, Sling, Fubo or any other, carries FanDuel Sports Network Ohio now.

The Guardians

In 2026, Major League Baseball produced the Guardians' local TV games, called **Guardians.TV**. Fans in the team's home area could stream them through **CLEGuardians.TV** in the MLB app, or through a TV provider that carried the channel. Fubo's own Guardians page says it carried CLEGuardians.TV for 2026. Channel 3 also simulcast some games free. Plans for the 2027 season had not been announced when this guide was written.

The Cavaliers

- Starting with the 2026–27 season, the Cavs' local games stream on **DAZN**, a separate app with its own monthly price. It isn't part of Sling, Fubo or Philo.
- **Fifteen games are free over the air** on Channel 19, Channel 43 and Rock Entertainment Sports Network. An antenna is all you need.
- Nationally televised games on ESPN, ABC or NBC aren't on DAZN; they're on those networks, which Sling Orange and Fubo carry in varying combinations.

The Browns and the Buckeyes

Browns games air on the national networks, mostly CBS and FOX, so they show up on Channel 19 or Channel 8. That makes an antenna or Fubo the simple choices; Sling has no CBS. Ohio State football is spread across FOX, NBC, CBS and a few cable channels. Bill's guide to watching Northeast Ohio sports keeps the full team-by-team list.

HEADS UP

Sports-stream ads

Search for "watch the Guardians free" and you'll find sites full of pop-ups and fake "update your player" buttons. Stick to the team's official pages, the services in this guide, and your antenna.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing the old sports channel is gone keeps you from paying extra for a service just to get it, and points you straight to where your team actually is now.

CHAPTER 17

Recording (Cloud DVR) Compared

All three services can record shows for you, with no box in the house. Recordings are kept online and play on any TV or device signed in to your account.

	Sling TV	Fubo	Philo
Included space	50 hours	1,000 hours on Pro	Unlimited
More space	Unlimited DVR, $5.00/mo	Varies by plan	Not needed
How long kept	Up to 9 months	See Fubo's help pages	Up to 1 year

Recording a show, step by step

1. Open the service's **Guide** and find the show, or search for it by name.
2. Highlight it and press **Select** or **OK** on the remote.
3. Choose **Record** (Philo may say **Save**). For a series, pick the option for all episodes or new episodes.
4. Later, look in the DVR, Library or Saved area to play it.

Things that surprise people

- On some channels, a recording may not let you skip ads. That depends on the channel's rules, not on you.
- Recording a series can fill a 50-hour Sling DVR quickly. Record "new episodes only" where offered.
- If you cancel, your recordings usually go away with the account.

TIP

Record the news you miss

If you're out at 6:00, set a series recording for the evening newscast. It's waiting when you get home.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Recording frees you from the TV schedule: your shows and games wait for you, and you can watch at whatever hour suits you.

CHAPTER 18

How Many TVs Can Watch at Once

Each service limits how many TVs, tablets or phones can stream at the same moment. If two people in the house watch different things in the evening, this matters.

Service	Streams
Sling Orange	1 screen at a time
Sling Blue	3 screens at a time
Sling Orange & Blue	4 screens at a time
Fubo	Up to 10 screens at home, fewer when away from home
Philo	3 screens at a time

What happens when you go over

The newest screen usually shows a message saying too many devices are watching. Stop playback on one of the others and try again. Nothing is wrong with the account.

HEADS UP

Sharing outside the house

These services are meant for one household. Sharing a login with family in another town can cause "home location" messages or blocked channels, especially local stations and sports.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Matching the stream count to your household avoids the evening argument over who gets to watch, and keeps you from paying for screens you'll never use.

CHAPTER 19

Devices That Work

All three services have apps for the popular streaming devices and smart TVs. If your TV is more than a few years old, a streaming stick is usually the easiest fix.

The common choices

- **Roku** sticks and Roku TVs.
- **Amazon Fire TV** sticks and Fire TV smart TVs.
- **Apple TV** boxes, plus iPhone and iPad.
- **Google TV** devices and many Android TVs, plus Android phones and tablets.
- Many recent **Samsung**, **LG** and **Vizio** smart TVs.
- A web browser on a computer.

Each service keeps an up-to-date device list on its help site. Check it for your exact model before you buy anything new, because older models drop off over time.

If the app won't install or keeps freezing

1. Turn the TV or streaming device off, unplug it for a full minute, and plug it back in.
2. Check for an update to the device itself in its Settings menu.
3. Delete the service's app and install it again from the app store.
4. Check that other apps play smoothly. If they don't, the problem is the internet, not the service.
5. Still stuck? A new streaming stick is often cheaper than a service call. Or call Bill.

TIP

One remote is simpler

If a parent struggles with two remotes, a streaming stick whose remote also turns the TV on and off and changes the volume makes daily use much easier.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A supported, up-to-date device means fewer freezes and sign-in problems, and the same app works the same way on every TV in the house.

PART 6

Free Trials, Bills & Canceling

How to try a service without paying for one you don't want, how to cancel each one, what to do when the price goes up, and the scams that target streaming customers.

CHAPTER 20

Free Trials Without Surprises

A free trial is the best way to find out whether a service suits you. The trick is remembering that it turns into a paid subscription on its own unless you cancel.

What each one offers, as of November 2026

Service	Trial
Philo	A 7-day free trial on the Essential plan, for new customers. Bundle+ has no trial.
Fubo	Usually a short free trial for new customers. The length has varied, often about five days, and can depend on the plan and your ZIP code. The sign-up page shows it.
Sling TV	No regular free trial. Sling sometimes offers a discounted first month instead.

A safe way to take a trial

1. Before you start, look on the sign-up page for the trial's end date and the price after.
2. As soon as you sign up, put a reminder on your calendar or phone for **two days before** the end.
3. Use the service every day of the trial: your news, your shows, a game if you watch sports.
4. On the reminder day, decide. Keep it and do nothing, or cancel using Chapter 21.

HEADS UP

Canceling a trial can end it right away

Sling says a free trial canceled early stops at once, and some reports say the same of Fubo. So don't cancel on day one "just to be safe" unless you're finished watching.

TIP

Watch for "first month" prices

A $25-off first month is not a free trial. You're paying, and the full price starts next month.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A reminder two days early turns a free trial into exactly what it should be: a free look, with no unexpected charge.

CHAPTER 21

Canceling Sling, Fubo or Philo

All three are month to month, with no cancellation fee. The one thing to know first: **cancel in the same place you pay.** If you signed up on the service's website, cancel there. If you subscribed through a Roku, an Apple device or Amazon, cancel there instead.

Sling TV (billed by Sling)

1. On a computer or phone, go to **sling.com** and sign in.
2. Open **My Account**.
3. Scroll down and choose **Cancel Subscription**, then follow the prompts.
4. You keep watching until the end of the billing period you've paid for.

Fubo (billed by Fubo)

1. On a computer or phone browser, go to **fubo.tv** and sign in.
2. Open your profile menu and choose **My Account**.
3. Find the subscription or billing section and choose **Cancel**. Follow the prompts, which may offer a discount to stay.
4. Look for a confirmation message or email.

Philo (billed by Philo)

1. Sign in at **philo.com**.
2. Click your profile picture and choose **Account**.
3. Click **Cancel my subscription**.
4. You can keep watching for the rest of the billing period.

If you pay through Apple, Roku or Amazon

- **iPhone or iPad:** open **Settings**, tap your name, then **Subscriptions**.
- **Roku:** sign in at my.roku.com and look for **Manage your subscriptions**.
- **Amazon:** on amazon.com, look under **Memberships & Subscriptions**.

TIP

Check your card statement

A month after canceling, look at your card statement. If the service still charged you, call the card company's number on the back of the card.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Canceling in the right place the first time means the charge really stops, and you aren't paying for a service you thought you'd left.

CHAPTER 22

Price Increases, Pausing & Switching

Live-TV prices have gone up almost every year. The good news is that month-to-month means you can respond, without a contract or a fee.

When a price-increase email arrives

1. Read it carefully: the new price and the date it starts.
2. Compare that number with the others in Chapter 3.
3. Ask: do I still watch enough to justify it? Could a smaller plan, such as Sling Blue alone or Philo, do the job?
4. If you'd rather switch, start the new service a few days before your current billing date, then cancel the old one.

Pausing instead of canceling

Sling's help pages offer a **pause** as well as a cancel, which is useful if you travel for part of the year. Billing restarts on its own when the pause ends, so note the date. For Fubo and Philo, check the account page; if you see no pause option, simply cancel and sign up again later.

Snowbirds and second homes

Local channels follow your home location. If you spend the winter in Florida, expect the local stations to change or a message asking you to update your home area. Pausing for the season can be simpler than paying for channels you can't use.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A quick review when the price changes keeps your TV bill matched to what you really watch, rather than drifting up year after year.

CHAPTER 23

Scams & Fake Support

Streaming services are a favorite disguise for scammers, because nearly everyone has one. Here are the ones to watch for.

SCAM ALERT

"Your payment failed" emails and texts

A message says your Sling, Fubo or Philo payment failed and your account will be closed, with a link to "update your card." Don't tap it. Go to the service's website yourself, sign in, and look at your account. If there's a real billing problem, it shows there.

SCAM ALERT

Fake support phone numbers

Searching "Fubo phone number" or "cancel Sling" can turn up websites listing numbers that aren't the company's. The person who answers may ask for remote access to your computer or a gift card. Use only the help pages on sling.com, fubo.tv and philo.com.

SCAM ALERT

"Activate your TV" sites that charge a fee

When a TV shows an activation code, the real web address is printed on the TV screen itself. Type exactly that address. Look-alike activation sites may ask for money; signing in is always free.

SCAM ALERT

Too-good-to-be-true lifetime deals

Ads offering "every channel for $10 a month forever" or a "lifetime Fubo login" are pirated or fake. They take your money and can stop working any day.

If you already clicked or paid

1. Stop. Don't give any more information.
2. Change the password on your streaming account, and on your email if you used the same one.
3. Call your card company using the number on the back of the card.

4. If anyone connected to your computer, turn it off and call Bill before using it for banking.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Knowing the usual tricks lets you ignore them calmly, and keeps your card number and your computer safe.

PART 7

Choosing One & Getting Help

Putting it all together: a simple way to pick the right service for your household, an honest word about when a hand is worth it, and a one-page summary.

CHAPTER 24

Choosing the Right One

There's no single best service, only the one that fits what you watch. Answer these questions in order, and the choice usually makes itself.

Four questions

1. **Do you need sports?** If no, start with Philo. If yes, keep going.
2. **Do you want your local stations inside the same app?** If yes, Fubo is the one of these three that carries them reliably, including Channel 19. If an antenna is fine, keep Sling in the running.
3. **Which sports?** ESPN games point to Sling Orange or Fubo. Local Cavs games need DAZN or an antenna for the free games, whichever service you choose (Chapter 16).
4. **How many TVs at once?** One viewer can live with Sling Orange. Two or more points to Sling Blue, Philo or Fubo.

Common households

If you are...	Consider
Lifestyle and movie channels, no sports	Philo Essential, plus an antenna for the local news.
Cable news and general channels on a budget	Sling Blue, plus an antenna for Channel 19 and the other locals.
An ESPN fan living alone	Sling Orange, plus an antenna.
A sports household that wants one app	Fubo, or compare Fubo Sports if the big entertainment lineup isn't needed.
Already paying for Disney+	Compare Hulu + Live TV, which includes Disney+ and ESPN, with Fubo.

Not sure? Try them one after another

Because nothing locks you in, you can try Philo's trial one week and Fubo's the next, then decide. Keep cable running until you've chosen, and set a reminder for each trial's end.

GOOD TO KNOW

Other options worth a look

YouTube TV and Hulu + Live TV are the other big live-TV services, and many free services carry hundreds of channels with ads. Bill has separate guides to YouTube TV, Hulu and free streaming TV.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A clear choice based on what you actually watch saves money every month, and spares you from switching back and forth.

CHAPTER 25

When to Call Bill

Most of what's in this guide you can do yourself, at your own pace. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time and worry. Here's my straight advice, with no pressure.

Times it's well worth a call

- **Deciding whether to cut cable at all**: going over what you watch, what you pay now, and what internet alone will cost.
- **Setting up a new streaming stick** and signing in to your chosen service on every TV.
- **Putting up an antenna** so the local stations come in alongside Sling or Philo.
- **Building a simple favorites list** and recording your regular shows, so the TV is easy every day.
- **A billing message you're not sure about**, or a charge you don't recognize.
- **Helping a parent** switch services, and writing out plain instructions for the remote.

What I don't do

I don't sell TV service, and I don't earn anything from Sling, Fubo or Philo. I can't change their prices or channel lineups, and billing disputes go to the service itself. What I can do is help you choose honestly and set it up so it works.

What working with me is like

I work at your pace, explain what I'm doing in plain words, and never talk down to anyone. I'll tell you honestly when something isn't worth your money. I've been doing this kind of work for more than 30 years, and I serve Portage County, Ohio, in person, and folks farther away by remote help.

FROM BILL

How to reach me

Call **(330) 200-8042** or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. My help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. This guide is yours to keep for free; if you'd like a hand, I'm only a phone call away.

GOOD TO KNOW

You may meet Sophie first

When you call or visit billshometech.com, you might be greeted by **Sophie**, my AI receptionist. She can answer quick questions and help you book a time. A real person, me, does the actual help.

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. Choose the service that fits, keep the antenna handy, and enjoy the shows.

— Bill

CHAPTER 26

Your Sling, Fubo & Philo Cheat-Sheet

Keep just this page near the TV. The whole guide, boiled down.

The essentials, as of November 2026

Topic	Remember
Sling Orange	$45.99/mo. ESPN. 1 screen. No locals.
Sling Blue	From about $46/mo, more with locals. 3 screens. No CBS.
Sling DVR	50 hours free; Unlimited DVR $5.00/mo.
Fubo Pro	$88.99/mo. Locals, sports, 1,000 hours DVR.
Fubo Sports	$64.99/mo. ESPN channels plus locals.
Philo	Essential $25/mo (7-day trial); Bundle+ $33/mo. No sports, no locals.
FanDuel Sports Network Ohio	Gone. Guardians: CLEGuardians.TV in 2026. Cavs: DAZN plus 15 free games.
Local stations	3 NBC · 5 ABC · 8 FOX · 19 CBS. Free with an antenna.
Cancel	Where you pay: sling.com, fubo.tv, philo.com, or Apple, Roku, Amazon.
Payment-failed message	Don't tap the link. Sign in on the website yourself.

Write it down once

Keep handy	
Service and plan	_____
Account email	_____
Password hint (not the password)	_____
Billed by (service, Apple, Roku, Amazon)	_____
Monthly price and billing date	_____
Trial ends on	_____
My must-have channels	_____
Streaming device on each TV	_____

When something's wrong, in order

1. Picture frozen? Back out of the channel and try it again.
2. Still frozen? Turn the TV or streaming device off, unplug it for a minute, and plug it back in.
3. Check that other apps work. If they don't, restart your internet router.
4. "Too many screens"? Stop watching on another device (Chapter 18).
5. Channel missing? Check the lineup for your ZIP code (Chapter 15).
6. Odd charge or message? Sign in on the website yourself, never through a link (Chapter 23).
7. Still stuck? Call Bill at (330) 200-8042.