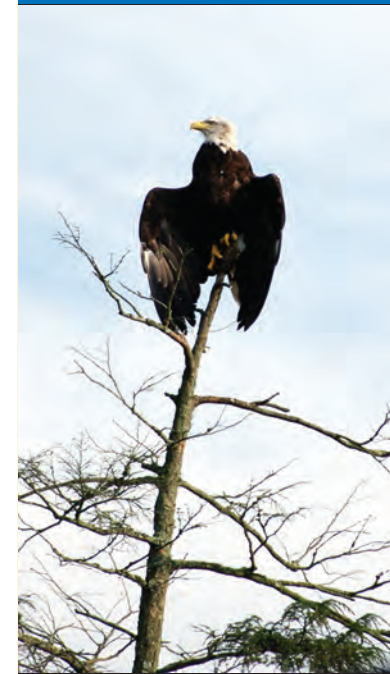


Communicator

A Biannual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



Hardy's annual meeting will return to the East Hardy High gym this October after East Hardy Early Middle accommodated us in 2014 due to the construction project at the high school.

Annual Meeting Scheduled For October 2 In EHHS Gym

Hardy Telecommunications, Inc., invites our members to attend the Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, October 2, 2015, at the East Hardy High School gymnasium. The meeting returns to the high school after one year at the Early Middle School. The agenda includes the election of three members to fill seats on the Board of Directors.



Ervin Wilkins Jr.



Phyllis B. Cook



Harold Michael

Any member interested in serving on the Board of Directors may submit a resume that defines the member's interest and qualifications for the position. The deadline for resumes is August 18, 2015. The resumes should be delivered to the Nominations Committee, Hardy Telecommunications, Inc., 2255 Kimseys Run Road, Lost River, WV 26810.

Doors will open for registration at 5 p.m.

October 2 with dinner to follow immediately upon registration. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Meals are free for each member and one guest (up to two free meals per member), with additional meals costing \$10 each. Drawings for door prizes will be held throughout the evening.

Hardy Telecommunications members will receive a mailing that includes a

Story continued inside

Hardy Helps Fund iPad Purchases For School

Moorefield Elementary School students will learn new skills from being able to use iPads in the school's library, thanks to a donation from Hardy Telecommunications.

Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources, presented a check to MES Library Media Specialist Marcia Fisher. The money was designated to help with the purchase of iPads or iPad-related equipment for use by the school's students.

Mrs. Fisher said she has been able to purchase four mini iPads and device protectors for them.

"With these new additions, I will start my second graders on problem solving tasks each time they have their library specials time. I've been attending technology conferences and have some exciting ideas to incorporate with these new tools. ... I hope to introduce the iPads to my first graders and kindergarten classes as well," she said.

Derek said Hardy appreciated the opportunity to help students.

"To succeed in today's society, students have to keep up with new technology," he said. "We're happy to assist Moorefield Elementary School in giving young children a head start."

Mrs. Fisher said many students can't purchase iPads for themselves.



(Left to right): Moorefield Elementary School Library Media Specialist Marcia Fisher accepts a donation for iPad technology from Hardy's Derek Barr.

"Very few of our student population are able to own their own personal devices. Now they have a chance to learn new skills because your donation helped us to get tools to enhance their education," she said. "Thank you again for caring about our students at Moorefield Elementary."

What's Inside

- Hardy Completes Federal Portion of OneNet Project
- Students Thank Hardy For FRS Youth Tour
- Hardy Helps Moorefield Elementary Buy iPads

Calendar

- Aug. 18 Deadline: Resumes To Nominating Committee
- Sept. 7 Labor Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- Sept. 29 Deadline: Proxies For Annual Meeting
- Oct. 2 Annual Meeting Of Members At East Hardy High School

Youth Tour 'Unforgettable,' Students Say

Two local rising high school seniors thanked Hardy Telecommunications for sending them on a five-day trip to our nation's capital, calling the tour a "learning" and "unforgettable" experience.

East Hardy High Senior Sardana Coyle and Moorefield High Senior Mallory Sisler spent May 30-June 3 in Washington, D.C., as part of the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour. They joined more than 100 other students from around the country. Sardana and Mallory were sponsored by Hardy Telecommunications, which paid all basic expenses.

"Experiencing an urban setting instead of a rural one was interesting, but not as interesting as visiting the various monuments and memorials the tour has to offer, and making new friends with people with similar interests and backgrounds," Sardana said.

Mallory said the tour kept students busy, and she also enjoyed meeting youths from other states.

"The Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour was an amazing experience," she said. "It was remarkable how much we packed into only a few days. I feel that I was able to experience Washington, D.C., as a whole new city. Every day I learned something new about rural development. The information I learned and the



(Left to right): Moorefield High Senior Mallory Sisler and East Hardy High Senior Sardana Coyle visit the Federal Communications Commission during the 2015 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

friends I made will stay with me forever.

"Meeting with other smart teenagers from rural backgrounds opened up my eyes and made me realize that there are other people like me out there. Issues in our school are similar to issues in schools in, say, Wisconsin or Minnesota. However, I've learned through speaking with the friends I've made on the Youth Tour that our school is special. East Hardy cares for its staff and students. A lot of other schools don't. For that, I'm proud to be an East Hardy cougar," she said.

Sardana visited the office of W.Va. Republican Senator Shelley Moore Capito and met with McKenzie Clark, a Moorefield native who works as a legislative aide in Capito's office. Through Capito's staff, Sardana was able to visit the U.S. Senate and watch senators debate and vote on the USA Freedom Act.

"Some more unforgettable experiences I had ... were asking (FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai) about rural telecommunications, meeting a legislative aide from Moorefield, and sitting in on a senate vote, seeing famous

faces in person like Senators Shelley Moore Capito, Joe Manchin (D-WV), and John McCain (R-AZ). I really appreciate the opportunity to meet important officials because it can be essential networking, especially in the political field. You never know if an acquaintance can blossom into a partnership or a friendship," she said.

In addition to visiting the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Capitol, the group also toured Mount Vernon, the WWII, Vietnam, Korean and Lincoln Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Smithsonian Museums.

Both students thanked Hardy Telecommunications for the trip and urged others to apply for the tour in the future.

"I would like to thank Hardy Telecommunications for granting me such a wonderful experience," Mallory said. "I also hope that every rising junior in our area would apply for this learning experience!"

"I deeply appreciate the efforts of FRS and Hardy Telecommunications to educate students about social studies and telecommunications, and I am honored to have been selected as a Youth Tour participant. I recommend any bright, ambitious junior to sign up for this trip, especially if you are interested in the telecommunications business," Sardana said.

Federal Portion Of Fiber Project Ends Company Celebrates 1,000-Customer Mark For OneNet

As Hardy nears the end of the federal portion of its effort to bring fiber-to-the-home broadband internet to county residents, the company recently celebrated its 1,000th OneNet customer.

"It's been a tremendous amount of work, but everyone should be proud of what we've done so far," said Becky Kimble, Hardy fiber-to-the-home coordinator. "A few years ago no residential homes in Hardy County had

access to fiber-to-the-home technology, and OneNet will reach about 4,800 by the end of the federal project."

The federal agency overseeing Hardy's broadband stimulus funds ended its part in the project as of June 30. Hardy has plans to continue building OneNet and installing service in people's homes completely on its own dime as its budget and schedule allow.

"We will still be installing service after June 30, but we won't be able to seek federal reimbursement," said Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources. "It's possible that we might have to start charging an installation fee, but we don't know yet."

In May, Hardy hooked up its 1,000th customer to fiber. The company closed offices for a special lunch celebration.

2015 Annual Meeting Set

Continued from front page

reservation card and proxy for the annual meeting. If you plan to attend, please return the completed reservation card in the provided postage-paid envelope by Thursday, September 24, 2015.

If a member wishes to vote by proxy, please keep in mind that only the official proxy included in your mailing will be accepted. This proxy will include the member's name, address and account number. Your proxy must contain both your signature and the signature of a witness in order to be accepted.

Only proxies that are received by Tuesday, September 29, 2015, will be accepted. No proxies will be accepted at the meeting.

If you would like more information about our election process, please see our bylaws, which begin on page 28 of the 2015 Hardy directory.

Our bylaws also are posted on the HardyNet website at www.hardynet.com.



Retiring East Hardy High teacher David Rudy (second from left) talks with EHHS graduating seniors and alumni at Hardy's After-Graduation Party.

Hardy Thanks Supporters Of EHHS Graduation Party

Hardy Telecommunications thanks everyone who donated items or otherwise supported the EHHS After-Graduation Party, held May 29 at South Branch Potomac Lanes. The party was a great success. We appreciate your support in giving East Hardy students a place to celebrate their accomplishments in a safe, alcohol-free environment. The party would not be successful if not for the tremendous generosity of the businesses, organizations, and individuals who contribute.

"We've sponsored the After-Graduation Party for many years," said Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer sales and service, marketing and human resources. "The community has always donated graciously to help us make a fun, safe party for the students."

Besides enjoying bowling, billiards and video games at Potomac Lanes, the students also spent time in the Sprint money machine and won numerous door prizes, including a new television.

Hardy Recognized At EHHS School Of Excellence Event

Hardy Telecommunications was part of a group recognized by East Hardy High School at a recent event celebrating EHHS being named a 2015 West Virginia School of Excellence.

EHHS Principal Brad Simmons thanked Hardy for its contributions to the school. Hardy has been a Partner in Education with East Hardy High since the program was first founded there.

"I don't know of a time when I have asked Hardy for something that they haven't responded," he said.

Heather Robbins, Hardy's public relations/business

development/website hosting representative and a graduate of EHHS, attended the celebration. Heather also serves on East Hardy's Local School Improvement Council as a business partner.

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