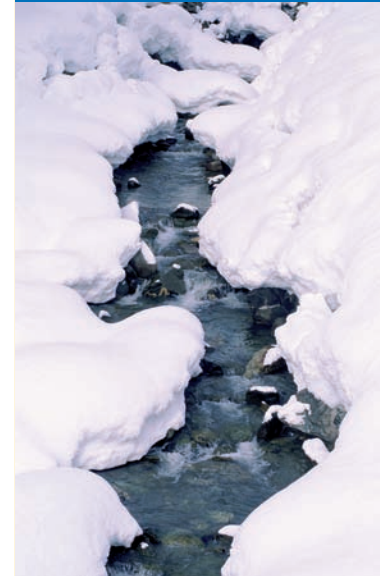## HARDY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Communicator
A Quarterly Newsletter for Cooperative Customers

Front row: Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman, left, accepts a congratulatory plaque from Bobby Lewis, West Virginia Director of United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development programs. Second row (left to right): Hardy board of directors members Gerald Smith, Arlie Funk, Phyllis Cook, Loring Barr, and Harold Michael. Third row (left to right): Hardy board of directors member Greg Zirk; Chris Strovel, Eastern Panhandle field representative for Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV); and Hardy County Commission President Stanley Moyer.

What's Inside

Calendar

Nov. 25-26   Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed

Dec. 23-24   Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed

Dec. 31   New Year's Day Holiday - Offices Closed

Hardy Awarded Federal Funding For Fiber-To-The-Home Project

Hardy OneNet To Offer High-Def TV, Faster Internet

Hardy Telecommunications Inc. has been awarded $31.6 million in federal funding to build a fiber-to-the-home network in Hardy County, providing the latest in affordable, reliable high-speed Internet access and video services.

Bobby Lewis, director of United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development programs in West Virginia, presented Hardy Telecommunications General Manager Scott Sherman with a plaque on July 8 congratulating the company for receiving the award. Hardy Telecommunications was the first company in West Virginia to receive federal funding by the USDA Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Telecommunications programs. The combination of a $9.49 million loan and $22.15 million grant is part of the federal government's broadband stimulus funding package.

West Virginia Democratic Senator John D. Rockefeller IV and Representative Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) also sent their congratulations to Hardy.

Hardy's project, dubbed Hardy OneNet Fiber-to-the-Home, will provide fiber-optic connections directly to consumers in Hardy County. Fiber-optic technology is the most modern technology in the telecommunications field, capable of providing high-definition digital television, ultra-high-speed Internet access, and digital telephone service through a single connection.

"It goes without saying that broadband - high-speed Internet - is changing the way Americans live their lives," Mr. Lewis said. "Simply put, building a broadband infrastructure is critical to creating jobs and economic opportunity in rural America."

Chamber Welcomes Hardy To Wardensville

Hardy Telecommunications was officially welcomed to Wardensville with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 23.

Town officials and the Hardy County Chamber of Commerce held the ceremony at Hardy's new Wardensville office at 345 East Main Street, Suite A. Hardy County Chamber of Commerce Vice President Sheldon Arbaugh recognized the importance of Hardy Telecommunications expanding into new areas of the county. He also mentioned the cooperative's recent funding award from the federal government that will be used to build a fiber-optic network to residents' homes.

"Big things are happening at Hardy Telecommunications," Mr. Arbaugh said.

Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman and Mr. Arbaugh did the official cutting of the ribbon while Wardensville officials and other Hardy employees stood nearby. Scott said Hardy Telecommunications was looking forward to serving the town's citizens.

"We're very pleased to start serving the community of Wardensville. We hope to establish a long, successful relationship with the town and its residents as we introduce more services in the next several months," he said.

Hardy County Chamber of Commerce Vice President Sheldon Arbaugh (left) and Hardy Telecommunications General Manager Scott Sherman cut a ribbon to officially welcome the company to its new Wardensville office.

Hardy had been selling computers out of the Wardensville office but is expanding its offerings to include telephone and broadband Internet services. The same office also houses a Sprint store featuring wireless service plans and a variety of mobile phones and accessories.

Hardy OneNet Bringing TV, Faster Internet To County

With broadband access in rural communities, farmer and ranchers have up-to-the-minute commodity and weather information to make the best decisions for their operations; schools can expand limited course offerings through distance learning; first responders have information needed to keep their communities safer; and rural health care improves as medical specialists are able to use telemedicine to provide advanced diagnoses for patients or to consult with colleagues at other hospitals, Mr. Lewis said.

"We want every parent and grandparent in rural America to be able to look their child or grandchild in the eye and tell them that their hometown has the economic opportunities necessary to offer them a bright future," he said.

In a letter, Senator Rockefeller said the funding award would be greatly beneficial to Hardy Telecommunications' members.

"I want to wholeheartedly congratulate Hardy Telecommunications for receiving this $31 million award for broadband Internet access for its customers."

Chris Strovel, Eastern Panhandle field representative for Representative Capito, read a letter from the congresswoman to Hardy Telecommunications.

"Having worked with Hardy Telecommunications on project funding in the past, I know you have aggressively sought to increase broadband availability to county residents," Representative Capito wrote. "Your success in expanding service to your clients serves as a model to rural non-profit co-ops. The Hardy OneNet Fiber-to-the-Home Project will provide affordable and reliable high-speed Internet access, voice over Internet protocol availability, and video services to currently underserved areas. These services are critical for Hardy County businesses, workers, and students to compete in 2010 and beyond."

Connecting homes directly to fiber-optic cables enables homes and businesses to receive a wider range of products and services. These enhanced services will include digital telephone service, faster broadband Internet access, and high-definition digital television.

A high-definition television service also will be able to provide an expanded selection of local content, with stations such as WHSV-TV3 in Harrisonburg and a local Hardy access channel.

Hardy OneNet At a Glance

• **WHAT?** Hardy OneNet will provide fiber-optic connections directly to consumers throughout the county. Fiber-optic technology is the most modern technology in the telecommunications field, capable of providing high-definition digital television, ultra-high-speed Internet access, and digital telephone service through a single connection.

• **COST?** Hardy members will bear no extra cost for the construction of the fiber-to-the-home network. Hardy Telecommunications was awarded a combination of a $9.49 million loan and $22.15 million grant from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development program to fund Hardy OneNet. Customers will pay only for the fiber-related services they choose to receive.

• **NEW SERVICES?** Hardy's enhanced services will include digital telephone service, faster broadband Internet access, and high-definition digital television.

A high-definition television service also will be able to provide an expanded selection of local content, with stations such as WHSV-TV3 in Harrisonburg and a local Hardy access channel.

• **WHEN?** The project should be substantially completed in about two years, with the goal of being finished in three years.

• **WHY FIBER?** Fiber-optic technology is unique because it can carry massive amounts of information, called bandwidth, over long distances without degradation. This information is transmitted by electronically-created pulses of light. The capabilities of fiber far exceed those of copper, which has traditionally been used for telecommunications. Other currently available technologies, such as wireless, simply do not have the capabilities to offer the quality and range of services that fiber offers.

Data on a fiber-optic cable can travel many miles in a split-second, allowing a more cost-effective method to transmit large amounts of data to everyone's homes. Plus, once fiber is installed, it is usually upgraded by changing the electronics that create the light pulses, not by replacing the cable itself. That's why fiber networks are often said to be "future-proof".

Reindeer Rampage Comes To HardyNet PC Sales

HardyNet is participating in the Hardy County Chamber of Commerce's "Reindeer Rampage" through December 4. Customers who spend more than $15 toward the purchase of a personal computer or related accessories at HardyNet's Moorefield or Wardensville

offices before December 4 will receive a set number of tickets depending upon how much money they spend. The tickets will then be entered into a drawing for HardyNet computer accessories and the Chamber's drawing for the grand prize: a three-day,

two-night trip donated by WELD radio station. The grand prize winner will choose from several destinations.

Visit our Moorefield or Wardensville locations or call 304-530-PC4U for more information!

About 500 people attended Hardy's Annual Meeting of Members on October 1 at East Hardy High.

Three Directors Re-Elected At Annual Meeting

Three directors were re-elected to new three-year terms at Hardy Telecommunications' Annual Meeting of Members on October 1.

Those directors re-elected were Gerald W. Smith of Baker, representing Lost River serving area 1; Arlie W. Funk of Rio, representing Lost River serving area 2; and Greg M. Zirk of Moorefield, representing Moorefield serving area 2. All three were unopposed in their bids for re-election.

About 500 people attended the meeting, held in the East Hardy High School

Gerald Smith

Arlie Funk

Greg Zirk

gymnasium. The meal was prepared and served by the East Hardy High Band Boosters and FFA.

Hardy Telecommunications sincerely thanks everyone

who attended and helped to make the meeting a success. We send a special thank-you to all of the EHHS band and FFA students and parents who did such a wonderful job with the meal.

Youth Advisory Board Kicks Off New Year

Hardy Telecommunications' Youth Advisory Board began its fourth year on October 7 with an expanded group of eight students.

For the first time, the board has eight members instead of six. Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr said the board is expanded this year due to last winter, when several meetings had to be cancelled because of snow. Last year's board members were invited to return, and two freshmen were added.

"I thought it was a good opportunity to learn more about Hardy Telecommunications and how they serve our county,"

Hardy's 2010-11 Youth Advisory Board members are (front row, left to right): JoBeth Delawder, Tori Burdette, Mary Mumford, Tressa Parker; (back row, left to right): Tyler Bradfield, Stephen Hott, Garrett Keller; (not pictured) Ashley Dove.

said MHS Freshman JoBeth Delawder.

The purpose of the Youth Board is to educate the

students about Hardy and its operations as well as to get information from the students as to what uses of technology are most important to them.