

Communicator

A Biannual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



The 400-500 people in attendance at the 2013 Hardy Annual Meeting saw a replay of a local high school football game on OneNet and enjoyed a pork barbecue meal.

New Hardy Youth Board Learns About Fiber-Optics

It's about the size of a human hair, yet it can deliver high-definition television, broadband Internet and telephone service throughout your home. That's the power of fiber-optics, as a new Hardy Telecommunications Youth Advisory Board learned at its first meeting October 1.

The six students met at Hardy's Lost River headquarters. Hardy Marketing and Human Resource Director Derek Barr showed the group the copper cables used to deliver DSL Internet and telephone, then compared it to the much smaller size of a fiber-optic cable, which provides much faster Internet speeds as well as high-definition digital television.

"You can't even really describe the difference between what is possible with fiber versus other telecommunications technology," Derek said. "At a standard copper speed, it might take two to three hours to download a typical movie from the web. With the standard speeds possible with Hardy OneNet fiber, that same download will take 10-15 minutes. With copper, your Internet speed is limited by distance. Fiber doesn't have that problem."

Moorefield High Freshman Brock Dolly said he never realized all that is possible with fiber-optics.

"The thing that most interested me was how all of that information is sent through something that's so small," he said.



Hardy's 2013-14 Youth Advisory Board members are: (Front row, left to right) Kaitlin Kerr (East Hardy High freshman), Rachel Wilson (East Hardy High sophomore); (Back row, left to right) Mitchell Martin (Moorefield High sophomore), Brock Dolly (Moorefield High freshman), Ben Shirk (Moorefield High junior), Corey Whetzel (East Hardy High junior).

Derek also explained that a fiber network like Hardy's helps all of the area's mobile phones to operate, including recent upgrades of local Sprint and U.S. Cellular towers to improved 4G capability. Hardy Telecommunications connects the local cell towers to fiber, then carries that tower's voice and data traffic through its landline network, a process called backhaul.

What's Inside

- OneNet Customers Praise Local Content, Quality
- Hardy Welcomes 2013-14 Youth Advisory Board
- Hardy Accepting 2014 FRS Youth Tour Applications
- Hardy Sponsoring 2014 FRS College Scholarship

Calendar

- Nov. 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed
- Dec. 24-25 Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed
- Jan. 1, 2014 New Year's Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- Feb. 14, 2014 Deadline for FRS Youth Tour and Scholarship Applications

Two Directors Re-Elected, Local Football Game Aired At Meeting

Two directors were elected to new terms, and about 500 people who attended Hardy's 2013 Annual Meeting saw a TV replay of a local high school football game as an example of the exclusive local content available on Hardy OneNet's WELD TV channel.



Gerald Smith



Greg Zirk

The two directors were unopposed in their bids for re-election. Serving new three-year terms will be Gerald Smith of Baker, for Lost River serving area 1; and Greg Zirk of Moorefield, for Moorefield serving area 2.

Televisions set up in the East Hardy High cafeteria showed a replay of a high school football game between Moorefield and Frankfort. The game was filmed earlier

this year by WELD and replayed on OneNet WELD Channel 914. Since the annual meeting, WELD also has filmed the Hardy Bowl, featuring Moorefield and East Hardy high schools. That game also has been replayed on OneNet.

WELD plans to film more local sports as well as government meetings and community events.

You can read more about the release of OneNet in this newsletter.

We at Hardy sincerely appreciate the hard work of the East Hardy High Band Boosters and FFA, who prepared and served the meal. We also thank all of the faculty and staff at East Hardy High for accommodating our meeting during the new construction.

OneNet Customers Praise Exclusive Local Content, Quality of Service

As Hardy OneNet opens in more areas of Hardy County, the company also is working to expand the amount of exclusive local content that it broadcasts, such as high school football.

In a partnership with WELD radio that is still in the early stages, Hardy and WELD have begun showing local high school football with Hardy County teams on OneNet WELD TV Channel 914. WELD also has aired a live stream and repeat showings of WELD radio personality Steve Davis and his talk show, featuring Davis' comments on local and national events and interviews with local personalities.

WELD films and edits the local content, which is then aired on OneNet's WELD TV channel. To date, WELD has recorded and then later broadcast high-school football games featuring Moorefield vs. Frankfort, East Hardy vs. Tucker County and Moorefield vs. East Hardy.

"WELD has invested in equipment and personnel to film the content, and we are giving them a channel to air that content," said Hardy Marketing and Human Resource Director Derek Barr. "It's still just getting off the ground, but we both have hopes of showing other local content like government meetings and area events."

Other exclusive OneNet channels are the Helmick Rock weather cam, the Emergency Scanner 911 channel, and HD1Net, showing programs from the West Virginia Library Commission. More such channels are planned.



N&S Diner owner Nick Barb displays a television showing OneNet in his Mathias restaurant.

Construction continues on OneNet throughout Hardy County. OneNet is Hardy's network that provides a fiber-optic cable connection directly to residents' homes, offering high-definition digital television, the fastest standard Internet speeds in the area and digital voice. At press time, OneNet was available in Moorefield, Lost River, and Mathias, with many other areas under construction.

Customers who have signed up for OneNet said the difference has been extremely positive.

"I am thrilled to death with it," said Norma Arnold of Moorefield. "There's the

clarity of the picture, so much crisper, the speed of the Internet, and I get that plus the phone, all three, on one bill. ... You don't have any idea how blah (other providers' service) is until you see the TV with that fiber-optic cable."

Ms. Arnold kept her existing telephone number when she switched to OneNet, an option available for everyone.

"That just made it easier for me, because so many people are used to reaching me at that number," she said.

In Mathias, Nick Barb proudly displays a television showing OneNet in his N&S diner.

"I really like it because the picture is clear," he said. "You don't get that 'acquiring satellite signal' all the time like I did before."

Mary Ellen "Cookie" Bensenhaver signed up for OneNet as soon as it became available at her Moorefield home. She and her husband enjoy having WHSV-TV3 and the Helmick Rock cam.

Being able to contact someone local for any help is another plus, Mrs. Bensenhaver said.

"When I run into a problem, I call the office and they take care of it. Your service is top-notch," she said.

Hardy Selecting Students For D.C. Trip

Hardy Telecommunications will send two local students on a four-day trip to our nation's capital, giving them the chance to see our country's historic sites and meet students from all over the United States.

One student each from Moorefield and East Hardy high schools will be selected to attend the 2014 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., May 31-June 4. The trip includes sightseeing to D.C.'s famous landmarks as well as educational sessions to teach today's youth about the telecommunications industry. Hardy will pay all basic expenses, including travel.

The Youth Tour provides students from rural areas with a first-hand look at the telecommunications industry and educates students about the legislative and governmental processes. Students will visit the U.S. Capitol Building and hear presentations from representatives of Capitol Hill and the Federal Communications Commission.



Students and chaperones pose outside the U.S. Capitol during the 2013 FRS Youth Tour. Hardy sponsored East Hardy High Senior Paula Smith and Moorefield High Senior Jacy Barr on the trip.

Applications for the tour may be picked up in late December from the guidance counselors at both East Hardy and Moorefield high schools or by contacting Derek Barr at Hardy's offices. To be eligible for the trip, students must be either 16 or 17 years old at the time of the tour and receive telephone, Internet or television service from Hardy Telecommunications.

The FRS will not accept any student age 18 or older. No exceptions will be made. Preference also will be given to students from the 2015 graduating class.

The deadline to return applications is February 14, 2014. Applications may be returned to either the high school guidance counselors or to Derek at Hardy's offices.

Hardy Offering College Scholarship

Hardy Telecommunications is sponsoring the national Foundation for Rural Service 2014 College Scholarship Program to graduating seniors at Moorefield and East Hardy high schools.

The scholarship, open to applicants who receive local telecommunications service (telephone, Internet or television) from Hardy, is worth \$2,000, and Hardy Telecommunications will contribute an additional \$500 to the amount, bringing the total one-time scholarship award to \$2,500. Interested students can contact their

guidance counselors at the two schools in late December or download the application at the FRS website at www.frs.org. Students also can contact Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr at 304-897-9911 for an application.

Students are asked to return their applications no later than February 14, 2014. Applications should be returned to the guidance counselors at Moorefield and East Hardy high schools or to Derek at one of Hardy's offices in Moorefield, Lost River, and Warden'sville.

The FRS will award scholarships nationwide. A qualified selection committee of current educators determined by FRS will select the winners; Hardy Telecommunications itself has no input in the process.

Each applicant must be a U.S. citizen; accepted by an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school; have at least a C grade point average; express an interest in returning to a rural community following graduation; and be sponsored by an NTCA member.

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