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OneNet Construction To Consist Of Three Phases

Hardy Helps East Hardy With Student Planners

Hardy Telecommunications has stepped forward to help East Hardy High School with the costs of providing planners to students and faculty.

Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr presented EHHS Principal Brad Simmons with a \$500 check on February 10 to help with the costs of purchasing student planners for the 2012-13 school year. Hardy has contributed to the cost of the planners for eight consecutive years.

“Hardy Telecommunications has long been a business partner with East Hardy High, and we recognize the importance of the planners not only to students but also to faculty, staff, and parents. We’re proud to help provide them,” Derek said.

EHHS students receive a free planner at the beginning of the school year. The planners contain information about school standards of conduct and graduation requirements and also serve as the students’ handbooks.

Mr. Simmons said the entire community benefits from the distribution of the planners.

“The planner is a vital part of our mission here in teaching responsibility to our students,” he said.



Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr (right) presents East Hardy High Principal Brad Simmons with a \$500 check for the purchase of student planners.

Rising production costs for the planners prompted the school to ask for financial assistance from its business partners several years ago. Hardy has donated funds for the planners ever since.

“We rely heavily on our partners and the community to help make our programs successful,” Mr. Simmons said. “(Hardy Telecommunications) has and will continue to be a very vital part of the services we can offer our students.”

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- May 28 Memorial Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- May 31 East Hardy High After-Graduation Party
- July 4 Independence Day Holiday - Offices Closed

The construction of Hardy Telecommunications’ OneNet network, which will bring fiber-optic cable connections directly to county residents’ homes for the first time, will consist of three phases, with bids being accepted and contractors selected for each phase, Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman said.

That bid process is already well under way. By the time this edition of Chatter is printed and mailed, it’s likely that contractors for the first phase will have been selected and publicized.

Because OneNet is being partially funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service, contractor selection must be approved by the federal government, which lengthens the process.

Nevertheless, the project has been moving forward

steadily, and more information, including TV channel lineup information and initial construction schedules, should be available in the next couple of months.

The first phase of OneNet construction will be laying out the fiber-optic cables in sections around the county, Scott said. Most of OneNet’s cabling will be aerial, with a smaller percentage being buried cable.

The second phase will be the splicing together of the different sections. Splicing fiber-optics is a delicate process. Fiber-optic cables are made of glass and are approximately the same size as a human hair. Data is transmitted through electronic pulses of light through the fiber-optics. For maximum efficiency, the light pulses need to travel a path that is as straight and unbroken as possible.

The final phase will be the actual connection and installation of OneNet in individual homes.

OneNet will allow Hardy to offer high-definition digital television, much faster Internet speeds and digital voice services, all available on one bill. Hardy Marketing and Human Resource Director Derek Barr said final pricing and construction schedules haven’t been released yet, but residents will be contacted shortly before OneNet is available in their neighborhood. At that time residents can sign up for installation. Hardy will release more information as it becomes available.

To sign up for the OneNet information list, go to iwantonenet.com and fill out the online form. Hardy will send out project updates and let you know when OneNet is coming to your area, Derek said.

Youth Board Urged To Use Smartphone Security

Internet security isn't just for computers anymore; it's also vital for your smartphone and tablet, Hardy Telecommunications Youth Advisory Board was told during a meeting February 21.

As smartphones and tablets like the iPad become more popular and are used to conduct business and access private information on the Internet, security for those devices becomes just as important as security for personal computers, Hardy Telecommunications Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr told the students.

"Unfortunately, there are many folks out there who still don't protect their computers, so installing a security program on their mobile phones isn't even on their radar," Derek said. "But phones and tablets are the next big target for cyber-criminals. If they can access your information and get your passwords, especially if you use your mobile phone for banking or buying things, then your identity is compromised."

There are many free security programs available for mobile



(Left to right) Hardy Telecommunications Marketing and Human Resource Director Derek Barr takes Hardy's Youth Advisory Board on a tour of the company's Moorefield office. This year's board members are Moorefield High Freshman Rebecca Merrill, MHS Sophomore Jared Beard, MHS Junior Brooke Shockey, East Hardy High Sophomore Miranda Cook, EHHS Junior Parker Baranowski, and EHHS Sophomore Brandon Benjamin.

phones. Derek demonstrated the capabilities of Lookout Mobile Security, one such program. Lookout will scan any applications that are downloaded to your phone to block malicious software. Lookout also helps you locate your phone if it's lost. Derek showed the students how he can access his phone through Lookout's Internet website and trace its GPS coordinates to within meters. If you believe your phone has been misplaced nearby, Lookout even sounds an alarm on your phone so you can find it.

A paid version of Lookout gives users the capability to lock down and prevent anyone else from using a mobile phone if it's lost or stolen, or to wipe all data from a mobile phone.

Derek also advised students to install spam and virus protection programs on their personal computers if they haven't already done so. Microsoft Security Essentials is free and not only scans your computer for viruses, but it also provides protection to prevent the initial download of malicious content.

To show how quickly a computer virus can spread, Derek traced the path that an Internet connection takes in displaying a website on a computer. He then showed that path on Google Maps, illustrating that an Internet connection can travel back and forth across the United States or even the ocean in just milliseconds.

"It's just too dangerous nowadays to be active on the Internet without protecting your computer or smartphone," Derek said.

Local Students Selected For D.C. Trip

Two local high school juniors will enjoy a four-day expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., this summer, courtesy of Hardy Telecommunications.

Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr said East Hardy High School's Parker Baranowski and Moorefield High School's Brooke Shockey have been selected as this year's participants in the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour June 2-6 in Washington, D.C.

The FRS Youth Tour is a four-day trip during which students from rural areas all over the United States have

Brooke Shockey



Parker Baranowski



the opportunity to tour our nation's capital and learn more about the telecommunications industry. More than 100 students typically take part.

Hardy sponsors two students for the tour and pays all basic expenses, including hotel, meals, and transportation.

Parker and Brooke represent their respective high schools on Hardy's current Youth Advisory Board. In their applications for the tour, they cited an interest in learning more about the industry.

"Brooke and Parker are both well-rounded students and valuable members of our Youth Board, and we're happy to give them this opportunity," said Derek, who also attends the Youth Tour as a chaperone.

New Online Billing Options Coming Soon To Hardy

Hardy Telecommunications recently switched billing companies, which will result in new online billing options for customers.

Hardy bills are now being handled by Communications Data Group (CDG), an Illinois-based company. Besides giving Hardy bills a new look, CDG also offers many new payment and billing capabilities.

In the next couple of months, Hardy will roll out E-Care, CDG's online bill management service. With E-Care, customers can see their bills, make payments, and set up regular credit card or bank account withdrawals, all online.

E-Care also allows customers to help the environment by signing up to receive their bill online rather than getting a hard copy through the mail. E-Care sends an email when a customer's bill is ready and provides a link for customers to see and pay the bill.

Google Apps Now Included Free With HardyNet

The Google Apps suite is now available FREE to HardyNet subscribers!

Google Apps is an online, Web-based package of Internet, messaging and word processing tools that include powerful email, calendar, instant messaging (IM/Chat), document management, and personal website services. The Google Apps set of software applications are hosted remotely and accessed using a Web browser, so there is nothing to download, update or maintain on your computer.

Plus, you can continue to use your current email program like Microsoft Outlook or Firefox Thunderbird with new HardyNet Gmail. See the Google Apps page on our website at hardynet.com for details on how to set up your email program to work with Gmail.

HardyNet's versions of Google Apps offer increased



privacy protection over Google's regular free versions. Although free for our customers, HardyNet's versions of Google Apps are considered premium versions and are handled differently.

In free Gmail, Google analyzes the content of mail to place targeted advertising within the webmail interface. This is disabled in the premium versions provided by HardyNet, so personal data is NOT used for targeted advertising within the email. The Gmail system scans HardyNet email for spam and virus filtering purposes only, not for any data collection and marketing use.

We now also offer Google Postini™ Message Filtering, a spam and virus protection service, and each customer's email storage capacity has been increased to 7 gigabytes.

Hardy Sponsoring East Hardy Graduation Party

As East Hardy High School seniors prepare for their upcoming graduation, Hardy Telecommunications is once again planning to celebrate their achievements by sponsoring an after-graduation party on Thursday, May 31.

The purpose of the after-graduation party is to provide EHHS graduating seniors with a place to celebrate in a safe, alcohol-free environment. Past parties have been successful thanks to the generosity of businesses, organizations and



East Hardy High students celebrate at the 2011 After-Graduation Party sponsored by Hardy.

individuals throughout the county who donated to the event. Students can receive door prizes and must be

present in order to claim their awards. The students can enjoy cosmic bowling, billiards, food and other fun.

Hardy Telecommunications is a business partner of EHHS and has sponsored the party at South Branch Potomac Lanes for several years.

"We want students both to be safe and have a good time," said Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr.

If you would like to donate to this year's party, please contact Hardy Public Relations/Business Development Representative Heather Robbins at 304-897-9911.

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