

Communicator

A Semi-Annual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



Members attend the 2023 Annual Meeting at EHHS. The EHHS Band and Band Boosters, FFA, ProStart, Bob Thompson, and EHHS cooks, staff and faculty prepared and served the meal.

2024 Annual Meeting Scheduled For Oct. 4 At East Hardy High

Hardy Telecommunications, Inc., would like to invite all of our members to attend the Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, October 4, 2024, at the East Hardy High School gymnasium. The agenda includes the announcement of election results of three members to fill seats on the Board of Directors.



Ervin Wilkins Jr.



Phyllis Cook



Harold Michael

Three seats on the Board of Directors have expiring terms. Present directors may be nominated and elected to succeed themselves. The positions expiring this year are Lost River serving area 2, currently held by Ervin O. Wilkins Jr. of Baker; South Fork serving area 2, currently held by Phyllis B. Cook of Moorefield; and Moorefield serving area 1, currently held by Harold K. Michael of Moorefield.

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 6, 2024. 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 4:30 p.m. October 4 with dinner to follow immediately upon registration. The meeting will begin at 6 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.

Hardy Telecommunications members will receive a mailing that includes a 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 26, 2024.

If a member wishes to assign a 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

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Faster Broadband Speeds Can Affect Wifi Coverage

With the recent broadband speed increases to our Hardy OneNet packages, some households might experience a change in wireless Internet coverage (wifi). In general, the faster the speed, the less distance a wireless signal will reach. A wireless router set-up that previously covered your entire house – even the far back corners of distant rooms – at one speed might not cover that same house as effectively with a much faster speed. A wired connection to a device usually delivers a more stable Internet experience, but we understand that's not always possible, and wifi offers more freedom of movement when utilizing your broadband connection.

We realize that many homes these days have numerous devices that connect wirelessly to our broadband, so it's helpful to understand how bandwidth and wifi coverage work. Many factors affect wifi speed on various devices.

Bandwidth is the amount of information that your Internet connection can handle at any given time. When you connect to the Internet with multiple devices – be it to browse the internet, stream movies or shows, or play games – each device takes up some of your Internet connection, leaving less bandwidth for other devices. If you connect too many devices without sufficient bandwidth, your Internet speed will appear slower, resulting in a poor user experience. It's similar to the water pressure in your home. As you turn on more showers and faucets, the water pressure in your home gets lower and lower. As you add more

devices to your Internet connection, your overall bandwidth can be quickly consumed.

Other factors also come into play: The location of the wireless router and the signal strength to your devices, the capacity of the devices themselves, and how much bandwidth is required for applications. Many older devices aren't equipped to handle Internet speeds above a certain limit. Also, as mentioned earlier, the faster the speed, the less distance a wireless signal will reach.

Your Internet experience also depends on the network capacity of the sites you visit. As HardyNet and other Internet providers offer faster and faster speeds, Internet sites themselves have to take into account how much traffic they can handle at one time. This is why you hear of some sites crashing when they experience an unusual amount of traffic at one time.

We're also seeing more and more devices connected in households as residents buy more smart-capable devices like Smart TVs – these days everything from refrigerators to light bulbs can access the Internet. All these things affect wifi performance. We suggest using a wired connection when doing an Internet speed test. If you are using a wireless connection, please keep these coverage factors in mind, especially if your wifi coverage seems different after a speed increase. If you have any questions about your OneNet broadband speeds and wifi coverage, please contact our offices.

What's Inside

- Student Thanks Hardy For Youth Tour Experience
- Hardy Boosts OneNet Broadband Speeds
- Faster Broadband Speeds Can Affect Wifi Coverage

Calendar

- Aug. 6 Deadline: Resumes To Nominating Committee
- Sept. 2 Labor Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- Sept. 20 Deadline: Proxies For Annual Mtg.
- Oct. 4 Annual Meeting Of Members At East Hardy High School

MHS Student Thanks Hardy For Experience, Friends Made During Tour

Moorefield High Rising Junior Sara Baldwin said the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour not only was a learning experience, but it also was a lot of fun and introduced her to aspects of Washington, D.C., that she hadn't seen before.

"My trip to Washington, D.C., for the youth tour was amazing. It was very educational with a lot of sightseeing, and although I have been to (D.C.) many times, I'm still surprised how big the nation's capital is and how much there is to learn and do," she said.

Sara, sponsored by Hardy Telecommunications, spent June 3-7 in D.C. She was one of about 100 students from all over the country in attendance at the tour. The trip involves visiting many of the city's historic sites as well as learning about telecommunications and the challenges faced by service providers in rural areas.

The students also hear about governmental processes and federal agencies that oversee the telecommunications industry. The group visited the Federal Communications Commission, where they heard from Commissioners Brendan Carr and Anna Gomez. In recent years, they've also visited the office of one or more of their respective state's congressional delegation. Sara visited with staff from the office of Congressman Alex Mooney. Mooney is one of West Virginia's two members of the House of Representatives.

"I listened to FCC Commissioners and attorneys tell us how they help rural communities get better connected when they are far



Moorefield High School Rising Junior Sara Baldwin poses in front of the U.S. Capitol during the 2024 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour.

apart," Sara said. "I gained new insight on rural connections and appreciate how much Hardy Telecommunications does for our community."

The Youth Tour also takes the students to many of the famous historical landmarks in D.C. The group toured the U.S. Capitol and visited the Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, and Vietnam War Memorial during a night walking tour. During a visit to the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall, Sara visited the Air and Space Museum and the Natural History Museum, then her group walked to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Another highlight was seeing the Changing of the Guard ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Sara said.

The students also saw the play "Shear Madness" at the Kennedy Center, an experience made possible by the Tim Owens Memorial Fund.

Sara also made new friends with whom she'll stay in touch thanks to Hardy Telecommunications.

"My favorite part of the trip was gaining new friends. Thank you for sponsoring me

on this trip to D.C. I really appreciate the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... I wouldn't be able to contact the friends that I have from Washington state and South Dakota if it weren't for Hardy Telecommunications connecting us to other people," Sara said.

Hardy typically sponsors one student from Moorefield and East Hardy high schools for the tour, but no EHHS student applied this year.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) was established in 1994 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) by NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association.

Hardy Boosts OneNet Broadband Speeds, Introduces New Tiers

Hardy rolled out much faster OneNet speeds for all its service tiers effective June 1. All OneNet customers in standard tiers saw their speeds more than double. Despite the vastly increased speeds, standard package pricing only went up for each speed tier by \$1 a month.

Hardy also debuted a special 1,000 Mbps (1 Gigabit) speed tier for the first time. Availability for the 1 Gbps package will vary depending on equipment supplies.

New standard speed tiers effective June 1 are:

- 250 Mbps download/125 Mbps upload – Increased from 100 Mbps download/50 Mbps upload
- 500 Mbps down/250 Mbps up – Increased from 150 Mbps down/75 Mbps up
- 750 Mbps down/375 Mbps up – Increased from 300 Mbps down/150 Mbps up

Pricing and details for all packages are available on our website.

"We've been investing heavily in upgrading our network for a while now, both in equipment in our offices and facilities and customer-



premise equipment, in anticipation of rolling out these faster broadband speeds," said Hardy Assistant General Manager Derek Barr. "We're happy to be able to launch these new packages at the same time as we've continued to extend the reach of our OneNet fiber-to-the-home network."

The company also released new advertised "all-in" pricing that includes taxes, fees and surcharges to the best of Hardy's ability. For packages that include

OneNet television, the current TV programming surcharge will be included in the advertised price along with estimated taxes and fees. **Exact totals will vary and fluctuate based on changing federal, state, and local requirements, so the advertised price won't be absolute.** Please note the surcharge, taxes and fees already have been part of our customer bills—we simply are advertising an all-inclusive price to give customers a better understanding of their OneNet total bill price.

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both your signature and the signature of a witness to be accepted. Only proxies that are received by Friday, September 20, 2024, will be accepted. No proxies will be accepted at the meeting.

If an election by mail-in voting is necessary, your mailing will include a ballot. (NOTE: Ballots by proxy for election of directors must be voted at Hardy's Lost River or Moorefield office at a designated date and time to be communicated to each proxy.)

If you would like to read more information about our election process, please see our bylaws, which begin on page 28 of the 2024 directory. Our bylaws also can be viewed by visiting our website at www.hardynet.com.

How To Reach Us

Lost River Office
2255 Kimseys Run Road
Lost River, WV 26810

Phone:
304-897-9911

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Moorefield Office
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Moorefield, WV 26836

Phone:
304-530-5000

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wardensville Office
345 East Main St., Suite A
Wardensville, WV 26851

Phone:
304-897-2355

Hours:
Tues., Thurs. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Capon Bridge Office
199 Capon School St.
Capon Bridge, WV 26711

Phone:
304-897-9911

Hours:
Mon., Wed., Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Toll-Free
800-838-2497

Visit Us On The Web
www.hardynet.com

Emergency After Hours
Lost River:
304-897-9913

Moorefield:
304-530-HELP (4357)

24-Hour Internet Technical Support
800-884-0778

Hardy Telecommunications is an equal opportunity provider and employer.