

Communicator

A Semi-Annual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



Members attend the 2025 Annual Meeting at EHHS. The EHHS Band and Band Boosters, FFA, ProStart, and EHHS cooks, staff and faculty prepared and served the meal.

2026 Annual Meeting Scheduled For Oct. 2 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 2, 2026, at the East Hardy High School gymnasium. The agenda includes the announcement of election results of two members to fill seats on the Board of Directors.



Ward A. Malcolm II



Laura E. Kessel

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 2 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 24, 2026, so we can plan accordingly.

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

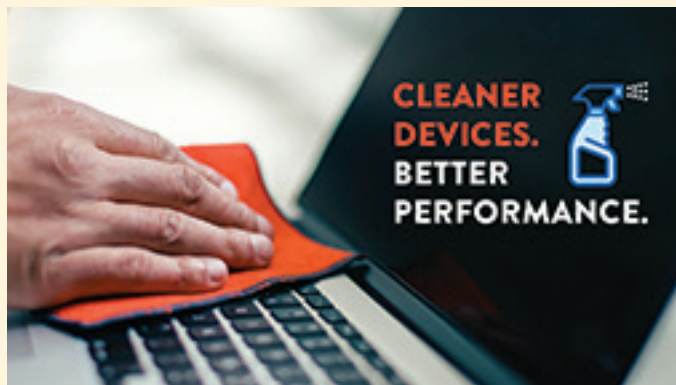
Story continues inside

Keep Your Devices Clean and Updated

When that mood strikes – Scrub the grout! Muck out the gutters! Purge last year's fashions from the closet! – put that energy to good use and clean all your devices. It's the perfect time of year to make sure your phone, laptop, and tablet are squeaky clean, inside and out.

Start here:

- Really clean them. Use microfiber cloths or screen-safe wipes (not paper towels which can scratch) to remove dust and build-up from screens and keys. Try compressed air to blow dust out of your desktop's innards.
- Declutter your files. Delete old or duplicate files and reorganize folders.
- Back up everything else. Ensure important files are backed up in the cloud or in an external drive (and delete local files to free up space).
- Freshen up your inbox. Delete anything you don't need and unsubscribe from newsletters you never read.
- Update everything. Ensure apps, antivirus software, and operating systems all have the latest updates. (And delete any apps you don't use.)



And, because you already update your passwords regularly and have turned on multi-factor authentication (right?), you shouldn't have to worry about MFA being activated. But just in case, make that security check the last step in your cleaning bonanza!

You can read other tech advice on our Tech Tips webpage at <https://hardynet.net/about/tech-tips/>. From videos telling you how to spot phishing emails to descriptions of various tech professional positions to a cybersecurity series focused on educating senior citizens about how to protect themselves online, our Tech Tips page is packed with helpful information.

What's Inside

- Three Longtime Hardy Employees Retire
- Hardy Lowers OneNet Internet Price, Raises Speeds
- Keep Your Devices Clean And Updated

Calendar

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|----------|---|
| Aug. 4 | Deadline: Resumes To Nominating Committee |
| Sept. 7 | Labor Day Holiday - Offices Closed |
| Sept. 18 | Deadline: Proxies For Annual Mtg. |
| Oct. 2 | Annual Meeting Of Members At East Hardy High School |

Three Longtime Hardy Employees Announce Retirements

In the span of a few weeks, Hardy Telecommunications wished a fond farewell to three longtime employees, as Don Whetzel, Wendell Everett, and Jeff Sites announced their retirements. With combined experience totaling about 85 years, they were instrumental in the cooperative's transformation from offering DSL Internet to a fiber-optic provider featuring super-fast broadband and digital television.

Each was recognized for their contributions to the company, which covered all aspects from finance to outside plant to network and operations.

Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman spoke about each, thanking them for their years of service and wishing them well in the next phase of their lives.

Don started his career with Hardy in 1996, shortly after Hardy Telephone had changed its name to Hardy Telecommunications and formed a subsidiary, HardyNet LLC, to offer Internet.

Don served as Controller for the company. During his tenure of almost 30 years, he guided the finances of the cooperative through the federal projects that saw the construction of Hardy's fiber-optic OneNet network.

At a party in his honor, he reflected back on the many changes that have taken place in Hardy's history but noted that it always has maintained a commitment to serving its members and giving back to the community. He said keeping a focus on those values will ensure the company's continued success.



(Clockwise from above): Don Whetzel, Wendell Everett, Jeff Sites

Wendell began at Hardy in early 1997. He worked in Outside Plant, which involves everything from repairing lines to working on troubles in customer homes. For the first stage of his career, Wendell dealt with a copper network that delivered telephone and DSL Internet. Internet speeds are limited on copper by distance and other factors.

With the advent of fiber-optics and Hardy's participation in the USDA Broadband Initiatives Program and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, the duties of outside plant personnel changed dramatically. Fiber-Optic Technicians now must deal with a completely different technology and different equipment in customer homes.

Wendell thanked other Hardy employees and expressed his appreciation for the camaraderie during his career.

Jeff came to Hardy Telecommunications in 2000. He was a proverbial jack of all trades in his more than 25 years of service, ending his career as Director of Network and Operations. In that role, he oversaw Hardy's infrastructure, engineering and technical areas.

He noted all the changes that Hardy has gone through in the past 25 years and praised his



coworkers for their commitment to the customer through good times and bad.

While the exit of so many years of experience obviously is an adjustment for Hardy Telecommunications, Don, Wendell and Jeff all have done an excellent job training others in their duties and preparing the company for their retirements. We thank them for everything they've done for our cooperative and wish them good luck!



Hardy Lowers OneNet Internet Prices, Raises Broadband Speeds

In February Hardy Telecommunications lowered its OneNet Internet prices while at the same time raising the broadband speeds for all its standard packages.

"It's certainly a combination you don't see much of lately, delivering more while charging less, but we recognize that the current economic situation is tough for many people," said Hardy Assistant General Manager Derek Barr. "We've seen increased operating costs as well, but in the spirit of a cooperative, we want to help our members any way that we can while maintaining our level of customer service."

Hardy simplified its OneNet Internet packages as part of the announcement, now offering three broadband speed tiers. Every OneNet Internet customer saw their price go down while their Internet speed increased.

OneNet also doubled its fastest standard available broadband download and upload speeds.

"A fiber-optic network can deliver faster broadband speeds than other technology like satellite or fixed wireless. With satellite, you often see much slower upload speeds than download speeds. Our OneNet network gives our

members both the download **and** upload speeds that urban customers can receive, all with low latency," Derek said. "Simply put, we give you the bandwidth you need to video chat, upload photos and files, and participate in online gaming."

Derek also referenced the Bandwidth Estimator, which can be found via link on Hardy's website or directly at <https://bandwidthestimatornow.com/hardy-be/>. This tool allows you to enter details about how you use the Internet, and it will suggest the best Hardy Internet speed tier for your needs.

2026 Annual Meeting Scheduled For October 2 At EHHS

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both your signature and the signature of a witness to be accepted. Only proxies that are received by Friday, September 18, 2026, 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. Our current bylaws can be viewed by visiting our website at www.hardynet.com. Our website is the best way to ensure that you are seeing the latest version of our bylaws.

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
121 South Main Street
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.