

"High Speed Internet Access is Expanded in Lancaster County"

The Lancaster County Broadband Authority (LCBA), in conjunction with Internet service provider, Broadband Telecom Services (BTS), has deployed a Citizen Band Radio System (CBRS) high speed broadband network via the telecommunications tower behind the Lancaster County Courthouse.



"Workers from FCI Towers in Virginia Beach hoist the radios in place on the tower to support the county-owned CBRS"

This is the first phase of a County-wide broadband build-out to provide unserved and underserved members of the community with high speed broadband services. Last year's CARES Act funding made possible the recent network deployment and will permit BTS to provide the first 300 qualified subscribers within 5 miles of the courthouse with installation and in-home equipment necessary to receive access to the network. Unserved and underserved subscribers, or those who currently do not



have access to 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds through other internet service providers (ISP) within the 5-mile radius of the courthouse, will be eligible to sign up for BTS broadband services. The BTS units required to receive service will be distributed to the first 300 customers on a first come first served basis. Unserved/underserved homes in excess of the initial 300 will have the ability to sign up for retail services in the near future. Subscriber eligibility will be verified by BTS against the list of unserved homes maintained by the County.

"We are excited to be able to offer our residents in the central area of the county with affordable, reliable broadband services to support all their internet needs including distance learning, tele-health, and work from home options using this county-owned network" said Supervisor Earnest Palin, Jr. (District 2). County Administrator Don Gill added that "as additional funds become available we will expand this network to support all our unserved residents with consistent, reliable broadband to support their day-to-day activities".

BTS, located in the former Whay's TV location in Kilmarnock, welcomes members of the community to check out the equipment and test the network for download and upload speeds to help determine if it meets interested consumer's particular needs. Anyone interested in subscribing can call 804-800-7220 to schedule installation or logon to the BTS website at www.broadband-telecom.com and click on the Lancaster CARES link to sign up for service. This sign-up link is also available on the Lancaster County Broadband Authority website at www.lancova.com. Services will be available after completion of the network testing and fine tuning **through the end of the month.**

BTS will bill all subscribers a monthly service charge of \$50 plus associated tax and fees for the wireless broadband service, which is expected to provide a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload depending on location, weather conditions, and geography. Additional high speed broadband tiers will be available through BTS based on customer location for an additional fee. Please visit the BTS website or contact us at 804-800-7220 for information about additional tiers and pricing.