



News

Internet services expand in county

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Broadband high speed internet in wireless format is coming to Pickaway County to provide high speed Internet services to thousands of homes in the county that currently have no broadband service available.

Intelliwave LLC, an Athens based broadband provider, will team with the Earnhart Hill Water and Sewer District to lease the District's water tanks as deployment sites for the first phase of the construction.

"This is a great thing for both people and businesses in the rural parts of the county," said Nate Green, director of Pickaway Progress Partnership.

"In these days it is very realistic to say fiber optics and broadband are as essential as having water and sewer service," he said.

Use of the water towers at points throughout the county will enable Intelliwave to effectively reach rural customers across hundreds of square miles.

Students doing homework, people conducting business from home instead of their businesses, doing banking, shopping, and interacting with medical personnel are many internet activities that city people do almost daily.

"We are very excited to bring this needed service to Pickaway County," said Chris Cooper, Intelliwave President.

"I have spent many hours driving through Pickaway County and it is a beautiful area," he said. "Using the (Earnhart Hill) tanks allows us to provide the service with a minimum of visual impact."

Intelliwave has been working on network construction in Pickaway County for a month and estimates phase one will be completed in two weeks.

When complete, the first phase of the network will serve residents in Saltcreek, Pickaway, Washington, Walnut, Madison and Harrison Townships. Phase two will continue to build the network over additional parts of the County.

Earlier this year the company constructed broadband networks in Amanda and Clearcreek Townships in Fairfield County.

The high cost of providing broadband access in less-populated areas has created a "digital divide," undermining economic development and online educational opportunities in rural communities.

A 2006 study by MIT found that communities with wide access to broadband experienced faster job growth and new business development. A later report by the Brookings Institution found that for every one percent of increased broadband access, a state could expect 0.2-0.3 percent growth in employment.

The median revenue among broadband-connected businesses in Ohio grew twice as fast as those that

do not use broadband, according to a study by ConnectOhio.

“So many times these days when businesses and factories come and look at a specific area, besides school and infrastructure (water and sewage) they ask about the area’s internet coverage,” said Green.

“With this broadband network in place, we will be able to say ours is first rate.”

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