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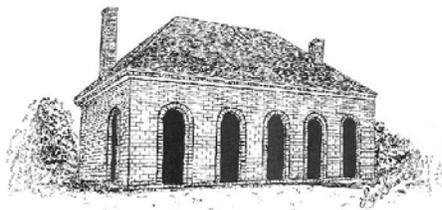
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HANOVER COUNTY

ESTABLISHED IN 1720

On Wednesday July 28, Hanover County Administrator John A. Budesky and the Board of Supervisors announced the “Connect Hanover” initiative to make broadband services available to residents living in areas without broadband. All Points Broadband was selected after a competitive process as Hanover’s broadband deployment partner. All Points will identify those areas of the county that currently lack access to a broadband connection of at least 25 Mbps / 3 Mbps, and to assist the County in developing and implementing a strategy to deliver broadband access with minimum speeds of 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps to all remaining unserved areas.

The Board of Supervisors appropriated \$17 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds toward broadband. The County intends to leverage these funds and private internet service provider funds to apply for a State VATI broadband grant in September 2021. The grant will be to provide broadband internet service to all unserved areas of the County.

Hanover continues to encourage other wired and wireless service providers to locate in the County, including having multiple discussions with Verizon to bring their advanced internet technology into the County. Verizon sent the County a [correspondence](#) in 2014 that “Verizon has no current plans to deploy FiOS TV or FiOS Internet services in Hanover County”.

For several years the County has tried to bring wireless internet service [providers](#) into the County. The Emergency Communications Department sent letters out to a number of wireless internet service providers and telephone companies to take advantage of the County’s extensive emergency communication tower network consisting of 18 towers. A number of cellular providers have entered into tower lease agreements to co-locate on County towers with the plan to provide 4G LTE service (and potentially 5G service).

Hanover staff have also pursued wireless internet service provider partners. On July 13, 2015, County entered into a tower lease agreement with Last Mile Wireless to provide service in the Poor Farm area. Last Mile Wireless successfully brought its site online however less than a year later due to lack of subscribers in the area and other financial difficulties Last Mile defaulted on the terms of the agreement and discontinued service. In May of 2016, the County had discussions with All Points Broadband, a WISP. Ultimately, All Points made the decision not to enter into the Hanover market.

The next effort involved SCS Broadband, a WISP, and a comprehensive plan to serve most of the unserved and underserved areas of the County was developed. This plan involved the use of wireless internet technology installed on five existing Hanover communications towers (Phase 1) in far eastern and far western Hanover. Additional towers as mutually agreed upon would be added as part of Phase 2. On April 12, 2017, the Hanover Board of Supervisors approved the initial two lease agreements with SCS Broadband for access the eastern Hanover Communications towers at a greatly discounted rate, with the plan to lease an additional three towers. SCS Broadband never met any of its obligations.

Additional activities the County has been pursuing related to broadband initiatives include:

- Permitting processes have been streamlined to promote tower expansion and additional tower capacity;

- All known Internet Service providers have been contacted by the County to encourage expansion within Hanover County – most providers have expressed concern over their lack of opportunity to see a Return on Investment for the needed capital to provide service within less densely populated areas of the county;
- Engaged Secretary of Technology's office for assistance on identifying solutions to meet the needs of Hanover County Residents;
- Created list of providers and numbers to call that has been placed on the County website.

Hanover: People, Tradition and Spirit