

eCommunity STRATEGIES

September 2009



CONNECTED
Tennessee
THE TRAIL TO INNOVATION



Welcome to Connected Tennessee's eCommunity Strategies Newsletter

Welcome to the September edition of our eCommunity Strategies newsletter. Temperatures are starting to drop but the need for broadband continues to heat up – especially in Tennessee's rural communities. Connected Tennessee recently produced an in-depth look at the community of Stanton in West Tennessee, a town with little to no broadband access that is working hard to make technology accessible to its residents. We would like to invite you to view the video about the town of Stanton and the work they are doing by visiting the homepage of the Connected Tennessee website at www.connectedtn.org. In addition, if you have a similar story, please let us know by sending an email to broadbandstories@connectedtn.org.

In this month's eCS newsletter, we'll take you to the city of Gallatin to show you how local residents have banded together to connect their downtown area to the rest of the world. The second round of technology grants from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Com-

munity Development were recently awarded and we will reveal which Tennessee communities were the lucky recipients. We will also bring you the story of an East Tennessee hospital that is turning to technology to help save lives. Plus, learn how parents in Bradley County have a new way to connect with teachers to keep up with their child's progress in school – thanks to broadband technology!

If broadband technology is impacting your life and you would like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, if you would like broadband but it is not available where you live or if you'd simply like to test your Internet connection speed, we want to hear from you! Visit our website and look for the gray buttons on the left side of the page to contact us.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Connected Tennessee's eCommunity Strategies newsletter.

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Emergency Care at East Tennessee Hospital Goes High Tech



Paramedics from Grandview Emergency Medical Services show off their new Panasonic Toughbook laptops

Jasper, TN – Keeping up with a paper trail while working to save lives in Marion County is a thing of the past. Grandview Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Jasper is now assessing patient care and recording medical information digitally to be able to serve patients in dire situations faster and more accurately.

Grandview EMS, which serves as the ambulance service for Marion

County, recently received six Panasonic Toughbook laptops to document and assist with emergency care. The laptops are rugged and reliable enough to be used in the sometimes challenging situations that can occur while conducting emergency medical care on site. The laptops will greatly reduce or even eliminate the use of paper forms and the limitations that go with them, according to EMS Di-

rector, Jeff Roberts.

“This is a major streamlining of our operations,” says Roberts. “This state-of-the-art technology will enable us to accurately document patient care at the site of the call. However, our emergency medical personnel will remain our most valued asset in caring for the residents of Marion County. This is just another valuable tool in the process.”

So how does it work? Once EMS arrives at the scene of a call, paramedics or EMT personnel will be able to electronically document the injury or illness in real time. The system has the ability to instantly provide technicians with medical protocols, clinical operating guidelines and medication usage, improving communication and saving time, which can be a deciding factor in emergency medical treatment. Roberts says the machines are military-grade, made of a titanium alloy and use level 4 security measures, the highest level of civilian Internet security.

“Patient confidentiality and privacy are assured using these systems,” Roberts notes.

Grandview CEO Bruce Baldwin says the digital equipment for EMS is the beginning of an overall assessment of technology at Grandview Medical Center.

“We’re excited to be able to change and adapt to more efficient methods of patient care, whether it be in the field on an EMS call or here within the hospital,” Baldwin says.

For more information, visit www.grandviewmedicalcenter.com.

Spotlight On: BRADLEY COUNTY

The Bradley County eCommunity Leadership Team recently held its Kickoff Meeting in Cleveland, where East Tennessee Project Manager Corey Johns introduced the goals of Connected Tennessee to more than a dozen local leaders. The team is now in the process of evaluating the current state of technology in the county, determining what improvements are needed and devising a plan for achieving those goals.

Bradley County Mayor D. Gary Davis, in attendance at the meeting, is excited to see the opportunities for technological progress in Bradley County. “Technology opens the door to the future,” he said. “From healthcare to education, agriculture to business – everything we do now, we can do better, faster and more efficiently. Making broadband technology a reality for the citizens of this county places a world of opportunities at their fingertips.”

Corey will continue to work with local volunteers as they began to devise their Strategic Technology Plan. The next meeting of the Bradley County eCS Team will be held on October 6th at 9 a.m. at the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce, located on 225 Keith Street Southwest in Cleveland. For more information, contact Corey Johns at cjohns@connectedtn.org.

Round 2 of Rural Technology Grants Announced: \$1.3 Million Awarded Across Tennessee

Nashville, TN - Governor Phil Bredesen and Commissioner Matt Kisber, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, recently announced the recipients of the New Initiatives Grant Category of the Rural Technology Assistance Grants. Eight Tennessee communities will receive more than \$1,300,000 in grant money for the development of regional technology research programs.

The New Initiatives Grant Category allocates \$1,500,000 to competitive grants that address expansion of broadband connectivity in rural counties, decrease K-12 student-to-computer ratios in rural counties, or expand rural distance learning opportunities.

"Successful economic development begins with solid community development. These grants supporting broadband and other technology initiatives will be instrumental in laying the groundwork for future growth and job creation in rural areas of our state," Governor Phil Bredesen says.

The Rural Technology Assistance Grants are for programs and services that increase technology usage and/or availability in rural counties. The grants were allocated in two categories addressing existing initiatives and new initiatives separately. Recipients of the Existing Initiatives Grant Class were announced last month.

Recipients of the New Initiatives Grant Category are:

- Cannon County School District: \$225,276 for eLearning Horizons
- DeKalb County Board of Education: \$247,364.25 for the Upper Cumberland Distance Learning Initiative (UCDLI)
- Athens City Schools: \$250,000 for Preparing Rural Learners with New Millennium Technology
- Lake County: \$16,459 for the Lake County Rural Computer Technology Initiative
- Weakley County Schools: \$250,000 for Tools for Learning: Skills for Earning
- North Central Telephone Corporation: \$250,000 for Metro-Ethernet and WFI Service Provision in Sumner and Macon counties
- Lexington City Schools: \$89,775 for 21st Century Technology Learning
- Lauderdale County Department of Education: \$170,228 for the Distance Learning Project



Students in Lauderdale County - one of the recipients of the New Initiative Grant

Did You Know?

Bradley County School System is providing a new service to the parents/guardians of students to help keep parents informed of their child's progress in school. "Parent Portal" is an Internet-based program that allows parents to access their child's grades and attendance online. The site can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The site is updated frequently with students' grades and attendance. Parents can go to www.bradleyschools.org to begin the log-in process for Parent Portal.

Memphians can now navigate their healthcare by looking at other patients' experiences with local doctors online. A compiled survey rating more than 430 area doctors can be found on www.healthymemphis.org. The survey is limited to internal medicine, cardiovascular, geriatric and obstetrician/gynecologist doctors.

The Davidson County Criminal Court Clerk's office has enhanced its website to allow the public to get detailed criminal histories of people in Nashville - and the information is free. Now with just a few clicks of a mouse, people can type in a name and get a summary of someone's entire criminal history in Nashville. The site also tells whether someone was convicted of a crime and gives details about the punishment. Visit <http://ccc.nashville.gov> to see records dating back to 1980.

City of Gallatin Connects Residents and Visitors to the World

Gallatin, TN – At this year’s Main Street Festival in downtown Gallatin, residents and visitors alike will be celebrating more than just the city itself – they will be lauding the restoration of the Main Street area to a hub of connectivity and activity for its citizens. And it’s all thanks to broadband technology.

Last year, a group of Gallatin residents joined forces to create “Connect Gallatin,” a group organized specifically to enhance the downtown area. The group quickly realized that one of the most vital assets to the town square would be providing citizens with a way to access the Internet.

“Having Internet access is a convenience that anyone in our city can appreciate,” says committee member Tom Givens. “It sets our city apart and it will help promote Gallatin and its abundance of opportunities.”

The team set out to install a system that provides computer users a broad range access point in the heart of Gallatin, making the entire downtown a wireless hotspot for anyone to log on from anywhere in the area.

“Imagine a company asking to see where the hot spots are in four communities and Gallatin having its entire downtown on that list – that is a difference maker,” says Gallatin Economic Development Agency Director Clay Walker.



“Hot Zones” are designated by door stickers in the downtown area. Users simply select “Connect Gallatin” as the wireless service they wish to use. While users are directed to a portal site, there is not a charge for the use of the service.

Since the installation of the downtown hotspots, WiFi service has also been established at the civic center as well as the local park.

“This service is an important recruitment tool to encourage people to

start shopping downtown again,” explains Gallatin Chamber of Commerce Director, Paige Strong. “Just like in the old days, we want downtown Gallatin to be the central hub of activity, and this is helping us accomplish that goal.”

This wireless project is just the first installation of several planned for the City of Gallatin. Walker says Connect Gallatin’s project is a significant initiative.

“We hope computer users will take advantage of this available access and spread the word about its availability,” says Chuck Barnett of Connect Gallatin. “It can be a real asset to Gallatin and a huge convenience for those of us in need of access when we’re not at home or work.”

The Annual Gallatin Main Street Festival will be held this Saturday, October 3rd from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the event or about Connect Gallatin, please visit www.connectgallatin.com

Upcoming eCommunity Strategies Meetings

October 1 - 15				
1 Cocke County Draft Report Meeting	6 Cannon County Full Report Meeting	7 Montgomery County Benchmark Review I	13 White County Full Report Meeting	14 Dickson County Full Report Meeting
	Bradley County Benchmark Workshop	8 Fayette County Full Report Meeting	DeKalb County Full Report Meeting	15 Grundy County Draft Report Meeting
	McMinn County Draft Report Meeting	Polk County Draft Report Meeting		



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