



Post Office Box 150
12007 Courthouse Circle
New Kent, Virginia 23124-0150
Tel: (804) 966-9683
Fax: (804) 966-9370

News Release

Media Contact: Krista Eutsey
Phone: (804) 557-3200
E-mail: kmeutsey@newkent-va.us

FOR RELEASE AT WILL
4:30 P.M. EDT
March 14, 2023

Supervisor Lockwood to host April 13 Town Hall Meeting on broadband expansion

NEW KENT VIRGINIA, March 14, 2023: Residents are invited to come out Thursday, April 13 at 6 p.m. for a District 5 Town Hall Meeting at Liberty Baptist Church (15810 Liberty Church Road, Lanexa). Supervisor John N. Lockwood is hosting this update on broadband expansion in the County with a presentation from Cox Communications representatives. All County residents are invited to participate.

In September 2022, County officials and Cox Communications announced their partnership in a \$34 million expansion to include county-wide access to fiber-optic network for every home and business in New Kent County.

"As the fastest growing locality in Virginia, expanding broadband access is a top priority for the leaders of New Kent County," said then-Chair Thomas W. Evelyn, New Kent County Board of Supervisors. "This is a major step forward and the partnership with Cox will help to ensure that our community thrives well into the future."

The first phase of the public-private partnership between the County and Cox will enable the buildout of services to approximately 3,000 residents that currently do not have broadband access. The project began that month and aims to ensure all county residents can experience the opportunities presented by an increasingly connected world, including access to education, healthcare services, and employment opportunities. Anticipated completion for this phase is 2024 but residents will have access to Cox services as soon as the buildout in their neighborhood is complete.

The second phase of the partnership will enable the buildout of a fiber-optic network to the remaining residents and businesses to ensure everyone in the County has access to the new network. This project will create a pathway to providing multi-gigabit symmetrical speeds to the home that will power the next generation of internet users. Together the two phases represent a combined \$34 million investment, with \$16.1 million from the County and an additional \$17.8 million from Cox, to build out a total of 566.7 fiber miles across the County.

Cox is working through engineering and design necessary as well as the permitting process for this fiber network in addition to working with property owners to obtain necessary access approvals. If they haven't already, residents in New Kent will soon see work commencing in their community and those living in phase one areas can visit <https://www.cox.com/getfiber> to express interest in Cox services and speed up the installation process. In addition to powerful high-speed internet, residents will have access to voice, TV, and home automation services, as well as a growing suite of business offerings.

Cox will make every effort to minimize the construction impact where and when possible and will communicate the expansion and progress of their work with residents through local media, and direct communications from Cox.

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