

Keep Americans Connected Pledge Extended by Antietam Broadband

Extension Protects Thousands of Residents

(Hagerstown, MD) Antietam Broadband announced today the extension of the Keep Americans Connected Pledge through July 31st. This Federal Communications Commission (FCC) pledge, originally committed to by Antietam Broadband and hundreds of other broadband providers, was made in March with an original end date of April 30th. Since that date, Antietam has elected to extend the pledge to residents of Washington County twice. The Keep Americans Connected Pledge suspends all customer broadband and phone disconnects for inability to pay during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, Antietam has waived over \$500,000 in late fees and other bad debt to allow customers to stay and get connected.

Antietam is also extending the Edu-Net Program through July 31st to support students and low-income families. Since March, Antietam has:

- Added more than 375 new customers to the Edu-Net Program.
- The program provides high speed data, a modem and router to at-need WCPS and HCC families to allow distance learning.
- All installation charges are waived.
- The first two months of service and equipment rental are free; starting the third month the customer pays a discounted \$14.00 per month.
- Information can be found at [Edu-Net HCC program registration](#) and [Edu-Net WCPS program information](#) or contact Antietam Broadband at 301-797-5000.

“We applaud the actions of Antietam to help residents of Washington County”, said Jeff Cline, President, Washington County Board of Commissioners. “When companies step up like this it showcases the strength and resiliency of our community and positions us for a strong recovery.”

During this pandemic, Antietam has been involved in several community outreach programs to bolster Washington County’s small businesses and support residents. Some of these efforts include:

- Launched Local Eats and Local Shopping resource guides to promote area businesses.
- Opened more than 250 WiFi hotspots in the County which will remain open through July.
- Provided citizens with virtual opportunities to attend local town meetings and the Washington County Commission Budget meeting.
- Produced a COVID-19 response video for Washington County.

- Antietam’s work with the MD Food Bank has surpassed the original goal of \$10,000 (\$5,000 in donations and \$5,000 match from Antietam). Antietam has increased their matching funds to \$7,500.
- Creating an economic recovery video with the Chamber of Commerce, Visitor’s Bureau, City of Hagerstown, Washington County Government and local business leaders.

As an essential service, Antietam Broadband has remained open and operating 24/7 during the pandemic, with an increased staff level to support customers. Antietam has also accelerated capital investment in its network to assure quality of service to all customers. In the initial six weeks of the pandemic, Antietam saw network demand increase equal to what is normally seen cumulatively over the course of a calendar year.

Antietam Broadband stands ready to support Washington County residents and businesses as the need arises. “Being part of the community and helping others is part of our DNA”, said Brian Lynch, President of Antietam Broadband. “We are all in this together and as a united front, we will prevail over this virus and come out stronger on the other side.”

[About Antietam Broadband:](#)

Antietam Broadband was founded in 1966 and was purchased by Schurz Communications, Inc. in 1968. It is a full-service telecommunications company offering a complete range of residential and business-class technology solutions including digital television, high-speed Internet and digital phone services in Washington County, MD. Antietam introduced Flight Gigabit Internet service in 2016 and made Hagerstown the 75th gigabit city in the USA. The company is focused on enhancing the lives of its customers by providing the latest telecommunication services and maintaining the highest standards of excellence in customer care and world class technical service.

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