

Community Engagement and Public Information Department



**IMPORTANT EMERGENCY
INFORMATION – PSA #11, April 7, 2020**

**County Working to Expand Broadband
Opportunities for Residents**

FOR IMMEDIATE

RELEASE DATE: 4/7/2020

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Quinton Sheppard, Public Information and Marketing

Coordinator Phone: 804-693-5730

Email: qsheppard@gloucesterva.info

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, members of Gloucester County staff have been working diligently to increase opportunities for residents in underserved areas of the County to access Wi-fi. The County is offering free, limited Wi-fi access from the parking lots of the Gloucester Main Library and the Point branch as well as on Main Street around the court circle. The County encourages private businesses and organizations to assist in this effort.

“We understand there are many out there who would like to be able to complete homework assignments, check their e-mails or connect virtually with family members,” said Carol Steele, Gloucester’s Assistant County Administrator. “We are trying to identify as many ways as possible to provide them with these opportunities.”

The County is specifically seeking the information of those businesses and organizations with strong enough Wi-fi signals that are willing to let members of the community access their connections by sitting in vehicles in their parking lots. Members of the public will be discouraged from contacting business owners about Wi-fi accessibility issues.

According to Steele, about 15 percent of Gloucester residents are still without reliable broadband access. “Now is a time that it’s more important than ever to try to ensure these residents have access to broadband,” she added. “Any assistance you could provide would be invaluable.”

If your business or organization is willing to share broadband access with the public, please send your business or organization’s name and address to Gloucester’s Community Engagement and Public Information department by e-mailing Quinton Sheppard, Public Information and Marketing Coordinator at qsheppard@gloucesterva.info or by calling 804-693-5730.

#End of Announcement

