



Harbor Area Broadband Team Joins New Technology Enhancement Program

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HARBOR Inc. teams up with Connect Michigan in a plan for building a technology-ready community

Harbor Springs, MI – HARBOR Inc.'s Broadband Team has joined forces with Connect Michigan by enrolling in the Connected community certification program, an initiative that offers a comprehensive way to bridge the digital divide impacting many communities including the Harbor Springs area by building community partnerships to assess broadband access, adoption, and use issues in the area. HARBOR Inc.'s high-speed Internet committee, at work since 2007, is now a Broadband Team working to provide connectivity to area homes and businesses.

"Broadband access is a crucial component of economic development," said HARBOR Inc. Executive Director Rachel Smolinski. "The Connected community certification program will facilitate the building of a comprehensive action plan for developing a technology-ready community by reviewing the technology landscape, developing regional partnerships, working with our Broadband Team, and conducting community assessments."

Connect Michigan is the designated entity for broadband mapping and planning in the state and is a public-private partnership between the Michigan Public Service Commission and Connected Nation to help provide high-speed Internet to underserved areas like Harbor Springs.

"We look forward to working with HARBOR Inc. on these efforts," said Jan Kellogg, economic specialist, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance. "Northern Michigan has to have fast, reliable, and affordable broadband in order to stay competitive."

The HARBOR Inc. Broadband Team is working to discuss options and plans to include additional area partners to work together on providing Internet to the underserved areas. HARBOR Inc. also will participate in the Connect Michigan Community engagement program, which guides communities through an assessment of their overall broadband and technology progression.

“Northern Michigan is a beautiful place to live, work, and raise a family,” said Eric Frederick, program manager for Connect Michigan. “Quaint towns, abundant natural resources, and friendly neighbors attract residents to northern Michigan and broadband enables them to stay by supporting entrepreneurs, creating jobs, and connecting with resources across the globe.”

“We have a great deal of work to do and by partnering with Connect Michigan, we believe we can find solutions that will provide broadband to our area,” said Smolinski.

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About Connect Michigan: As the designated entity for broadband mapping and planning in the state of Michigan, Connect Michigan is a public-private partnership between the Michigan Public Service Commission and Connected Nation to unite local governments, businesses, and citizens in the goal of increasing broadband service in the state’s underserved areas. For more information about what Connect Michigan is doing to accelerate technology in Michigan’s communities, visit www.connectmi.org.

About HARBOR, Inc.: HARBOR, Inc. brings together the Greater Harbor Springs Community by providing a platform for cooperation and communication; by encouraging participation through education and discussion; by facilitating the understanding and implementation of multiple plans and proposals; and by promoting, protecting, and maintaining the common vision for the Greater Harbor Springs Community. <http://www.harborinc.org/>

About Connected Nation: Connected Nation is a leading technology organization committed to bringing affordable high-speed Internet and broadband-enabled resources to all Americans. Connected Nation effectively raises the awareness of the value of broadband and related technologies by developing coalitions of influencers and enablers for improving technology access, adoption, and use. Connected Nation works with consumers, community leaders, states, technology providers and foundations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to develop and implement technology expansion programs with core competencies centered on a mission to improve digital inclusion for people and places previously underserved or overlooked. www.connectednation.org.

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