

High speed Internet service is coming to Haycock

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High-speed Internet service will be coming soon to Haycock after residents got their neighbors and friends in the township to commit to buying it.

Six of eight areas in the township that were circulating petitions to get digital subscriber lines (DSL), a type of high-speed Internet service, have been successful in getting the required number of commitments, according to Christopher Bauer, the Haycock Township employee who initiated the effort. The first area is expected to have DSL by the end of January, with the others to follow. The final two areas are still

seeking commitments.

"We were very successful with it," Bauer said of the petitioning effort.

The effort was made possible by a law passed in late 2004 aimed at getting high-speed Internet service, also known as broadband, throughout Pennsylvania.

The act provided that Internet providers had to make high-speed Internet service available to their customers by various dates. In the case of Haycock, Verizon was required to provide it to the township by 2015, Bauer said.

However, Verizon also had to provide a scenario in which the service would be available

sooner. The option required that if 50 residences or 25 percent of the active telephone lines in a "community," as defined by Verizon, committed to buying high-speed Internet service for 12 months, then Verizon had to make it available within one year, Bauer said. Verizon delineated eight communities within Haycock.

"We've reached a commitment in six of those eight areas," Bauer said.

A resident, called an aggregator, from each of the eight areas circulated petitions seeking commitments. The commitments require the signers to buy the service for 12 months after it is available although they do

not have to buy it from Verizon. Prices were not specified on the signed commitments but Bauer said they start at less than \$20 per month.

DSL sends the Internet over telephone lines. It requires a modem for a connection. It does not require users to "dial up."

"As soon as you turn your computer on, you're on the Internet," Bauer explained.

Filters are installed so DSL subscribers can talk on the telephone and use the Internet on one line at the same time. That is not possible with dial-up connections.

Right now in Haycock, Internet users either have dial-up connections or one-way

cable. With one-way cable, users can download things from the Internet via their cable connection but if they wish to upload information, they must use a dial-up connection. This is the type of service in use at the Haycock Township building.

"It's OK when I'm downloading but when I'm uploading, like when I'm doing the township newsletter, it drives me insane," Bauer said.

"DSL has been out for so long," Bauer said, and the township is not that far away from other areas, such as Richland, East Rockhill and Nockamixon, where it's available. "We thought it was time to have a viable solution."