

NEWSBLAST

Community Economic Development Association of Pollock Pines

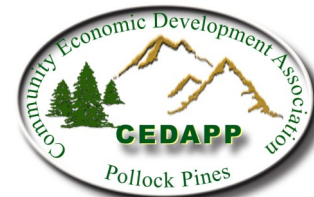
Thought of the Day

The Internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow --.

Bill Gates

"[The Internet generation is] not fighting that battle about who gets to speak; they all get to speak." — *Jennifer Pahlka*

[Jennifer Pahlka: Coding a better government](#)



GOT BROADBAND?

Got *any* internet at all?
Maybe you need this.



From **SEDCorp (Sierra Economic Development Corporation)**
via the El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office

mapping out demand by rural homeowners, neighborhoods and business owners and conducting community meetings bringing various Internet Service Providers (ISP) to these meetings. The GCBC needs the assistance of rural residents and businesses by taking a speed test and sending the results to russ@sedcorp.biz, with a physical street address, to be included in the mapping process.

Community Meetings to Improve Broadband Service

Does your business or home have inadequate Internet service? Maybe you don't have Internet service at all. The Gold Country Broadband Consortium (GCBC) is one of 14 regional consortia in the State funded by the California Advanced Services Fund Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia grant program to leverage regional, state and national resources as an investment in improving and expanding broadband access.

The goal of the Consortium is to provide choices for affordable Internet service. In order to do that, the GCBC is in the process of

To conduct the speed test, visit the FCC site <http://www.broadband.gov/qualitytest> or <http://www.speedtest.net>. Speed test instruction can be found on the GCBC web site here: <http://goldcountryconsortium.wordpress.com/instructions>. The goal is to get service to those who don't have it and to upgrade service that doesn't meet the State standard of 6 mbps down and 1.5 mbps up.

The GCBC is also looking for neighborhood advocates to notify their neighbors of upcoming community meetings. Please send an e-mail to russ@sedcorp.biz if you would like to serve your community as a neighborhood advocate.

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BROADBAND (Con't from page 1)

The next Broadband Community Meeting is scheduled for 23 May 2013 from 10:00am-3:00pm at the Sportsman's Hall, 5620 Pony Express Trail, Camino. This will be our first meeting in El Dorado County, and there are lots of reasons to be there regardless of where you live in the GCBC service area of Sierra County, Nevada County, Placer County, El Dorado County and eastern Alpine County. The meeting's theme is "From the Pony Express to the Internet" in honor of the fact that we'll be meeting in the last surviving station on the Pony Express Trail; our meeting room is the former stables, and the feeling of history is palpable. Speakers include Jimmy Swigart, a member of the National Pony Express Association, USDA Rural Development's Robert Tse who will be talking about the use of broadband in today's agriculture and Steve Grove of McCrometer Connect who will talk about the state of the art use of wireless telemetry for monitoring soil and crop conditions and controlling irrigation and pest control activities. Lunch will be served free of charge on the Sportsman's patio. RSVP's are required. All of this will be free to the attendees, but attendance is limited to only about 110. Therefore, do not hesitate, call 530.823.4703 or email sandy@sedcorp.biz NOW to reserve a seat. When you submit your reservation request, be prepared to say which meal choice you would like - Chicken Marsala or Pasta Primavera - so that we can have the right number of each. Reservations will close when capacity is reached or no later than Monday, May 19.

BUT, WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

The Pollock Pines/Camino community is going all out to welcome the Consortium with two special offers.

First, for you wine lovers, Wofford Acres Vineyard will be hosting a special wine tasting at their winery in Camino immediately following the GCBC meeting. Only 10 miles downhill from the Sportsman's (easy to follow strip maps will be provided at the meeting), the Woffords will be waiving the normal wine tasting fee (including for a possible barrel tasting AND will be giving a 15% discount on any wine purchases both the day of the meeting and for one later visit!

The following morning, those who love the beautiful foothills outdoors, hiking and photography, will be welcome to join Emily Valdez of MLE Photography on her Nature's Wonderland Photography Tour. The 4-hour package includes transportation to 4 scenic areas around Pollock Pines including Bridal Veil Falls, a packed lunch and a money saving coupon to shop for souvenirs. You should contact Emily directly at emily@mlephotography.com for more information and to make a reservation.

BROADBAND (Con't from page 2)

The Sierra Economic Development Corporation (SEDCorp) is the facilitator of a California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) grant to launch a public-private partnership aimed at increasing digital access and use in Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Sierra and eastern Alpine counties. Additional information and announcements will be posted on the Gold Country Broadband Consortium Blog: <http://goldcountryconsortium.wordpress.com/> Please book marks this blog as the go-to-place for the latest GCBC updates and maps. For more information on SEDCorp or the Gold Country Broadband Consortium, contact Brent Smith, CEO, 530.823.4703, brent@sedcorp.biz or visit www.sedcorp.biz.

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