

## **August 8, 2011 - The "Loop"**

Providing a state of the art infrastructure that can build and enhance our rural communities small business's in order to compete with the outside world is vital. Fiber Optic High Speed Broadband service is a superhighway of a different type, but it's just as important as safe bridges and roads. With the growing number of business's based in homes and in today's competitive market, high speed internet is their super highway. Visiting the new North Central Network Facility in Lafayette last week allowed this idea to hit home with point blank accuracy. Not only will this new construction house the fiber optic cable from each home in town, but it will also store and protect data from businesses. Just in case something happens to your office computer. The construction alone can withstand EF-5 Tornado force winds (318 mph) providing protection to vital phone and internet communications during a disaster. All your hardware and software information will be safe and accessible from this facility. This "Data Hosting" is yet another important ingredient for revenue growth in rural Tennessee.

In a meeting with the Rural Health Network last week, the importance of Telemedicine was a top issue. This real time doctor-sees-patient-while-watching-images via the internet is just another way that technology can save a life; especially stroke patients. Telemedicine in rural Tennessee allows doctors to "visit" small towns and will allow growth in the medical community. Not only will it allow growth, it will give the critical access to hospitals, which these areas need so desperately. It was also interesting to note how the DUI Interlock Bill, which passed last year, has already benefited the community; granting critical access to hospitals for those in rural Tennessee. This legislation takes the money that is collected through fines as well as the purchase of the interlock devices and gives it to the very hospitals that treat those involved in DUI accidents.

The 2011 County Fairs for the 40th District are over. I do not know if the crowds were down or not but one thing I do know is my grandsons enjoyed the rides this year!

Blessings!