

Date: April 20, 2020 **Contact:** Renee Chapline, 804-834-2424 (<u>rchapline@pgec.coop</u>)

RURALBAND Deploys 8 Wireless Hotspots across the Prince George, Surry and Sussex Counties to Assist Students During Pandemic

Prince George Electric Cooperative and RURALBAND recognizes that many students in the community do not have access to high-speed Internet at home, and with Virginia schools now closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, many students need online access to complete coursework. To help all local students, RURALBAND has deployed free wireless hotspots throughout Prince George, Surry and Sussex Counties to help provide this access to students in these unprecedented times.

Last week, RURALBAND opened up wireless hotspots at eight different locations.

Waverly Headquarters parking lot, open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Address: 7103 General Mahone Highway, Waverly, Virginia 23803

Rocky Hock Church parking lot, open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Address: 2745 White Marsh Road, Wakefield, Virginia 23888

Moores Swamp Church parking lot, open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Address: 2300 Runnymede Road, Elberon, Virginia 23846

South Elementary School parking lot, open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Address: 13400 Prince George Drive, Prince George, Virginia 23842

J E J Moore Middle School parking lot, open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Address: 11455 Prince George Drive Prince George, Virginia 23842

N B Clements Junior High School parking lot, open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Address: 7800 Laurel Springs Road Prince George, Virginia 23875 (located in the parking lot beside the football field)

Newville Baptist Church parking lot, open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Address: 7710 Beef Steak Road, Waverly, Virginia 23890

Prince George Central Wellness Center parking lot, details to follow. Address: 11023 Prince George Drive, Disputanta, Virginia 23842 RURALBAND's commitment is to offer Internet access at convenient points across the county. Students and parents can practice social distancing by accessing the Internet in the safety of their own vehicle in the parking lot of any of these schools.

"We have made accessing the wireless service simple. When a user first connects their device, the user will see a splash screen with our logo and the name "Ruralband_HotSpot". Once the user accepts the terms and conditions of service, it is ready to go," said Casey Logan, PGEC, President and CEO. "There is no password necessary."

PGEC's team, in coordination with the community's leaders worked together in identifying locations for access points. All partners expect users of this public WIFI to adhere to state guidelines and practice social distancing and not congregate.

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Prince George Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Waverly with a branch office in Prince George, is a not-for-profit member-owned energy provider that serves more than 12,000 homes, farms and businesses in the counties of Dinwiddie, Isle of Wight, Prince George, Southampton, Surry and Sussex, and the town of Waverly. For more information, go to <u>www.pgec.coop</u>.