



Celebrating the City of Vinita's step into the future with wireless broadband infrastructure, Cherokee Connex president Ron Gates, Mayor Joe Johnson, Cherokee Nation Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation Councilor Chuck

Hoskin, and Vinita City Administrator Charlie Enyart officially 'cut the wire' in a ceremony this morning at City Hall, demonstrating the move to more modern technology for the city and community.

City of Vinita enters broadband era

By ANGELA MARTIN
Journal Reporter

Moving the City of Vinita into the 'broadband evolution,' as coined by Cherokee Connex president Ron Gates this morning, city officials met with members of the Cherokee Nation, Cherokee Connex, and business leaders to commemorate the installation of new infrastructure in the city.

The City of Vinita is the beneficiary of the Community Communications Authority (CCA), designed to upgrade infrastructure for city and residential use, using wireless broadband equipment installed by Cherokee Connex.

Cherokee Nation Chief Chad Smith and Cherokee Nation Councilor Chuck Hoskin, of Vinita, were present at the event this morning.

Mayor Joe Johnson and City

Administrator Charlie Enyart spoke about the need for Vinita to move ahead and the benefits that the new wireless technology will bring, not only to the city, but to schools, businesses, and residents.

Chief Smith talked about the Cherokee Nation's endeavors to help rural communities upgrade their infrastructure, which aids them in keeping up with the rest of the world technologically.

Gates performed some demonstrations of what will be possible with realtime video and computer equipment using the wireless broadband equipment.

With camera equipment posted at different areas in the city, it will be possible to monitor traffic and other activity.

There is currently a program which will automatically alert police if the camera picks up a tag number that has been entered into the system as

stolen, without someone having to sit and monitor the cameras at all times.

Gates said the program is in use in the UK presently, and in the first year of use, stolen vehicle reports dropped by 25 percent.

He also demonstrated equipment which is being installed in Vinita for automatic water meter reading.

Enyart projects that the city will see cost savings from the amount of water leaks detected by the wireless equipment, and more accurate billing to customers.

Police and firefighters will also be able to use the wireless technology in recording incidents and making determinations in emergency situations.

The wireless services will be offered to the public through Cherokee Connex at a target date of December.

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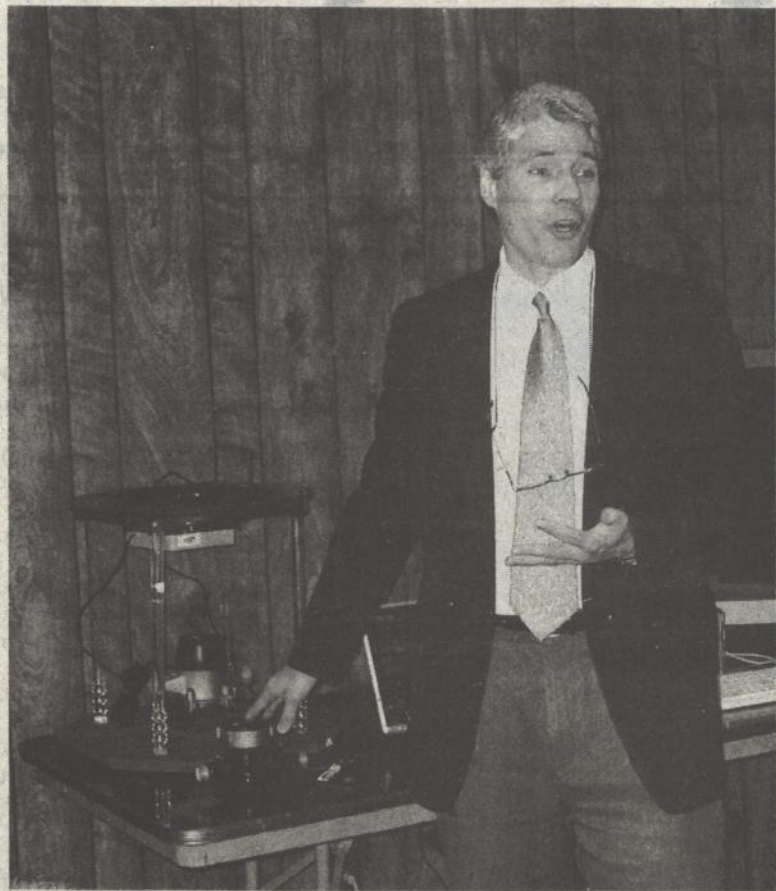
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Cherokee Connex president Ron Gates demonstrates how an automated water meter reader system will work with the wireless broadband technology the city will have in the near future, during a wire-cutting ceremony held at Vinita City Hall this morning.