



## **Marcus Public Computer Center Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

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An \$834,881 USDA Community Connect Broadband Grant was awarded to EcliptixNet Broadband in October of 2007 to bring high-speed Internet to the small, rural community of Marcus, WA. This grant enabled EcliptixNet to construct the infrastructure, including multiple communications towers, required to provide access to a critically needed, high-speed broadband service. This crucial funding also enabled EcliptixNet and the Town of Marcus to provide a community center for all residents in the area to access the service free of charge.

The Marcus Public Computer Center (MPCC) was to be constructed using the existing foundation from their old, historic school. The school had burned down some years ago and as a tribute to where the town has come from and where they are going, this Community Center location was ideal. However, the cost of constructing the center at this location was substantially greater than the funding allowed by the USDA, so the Town of Marcus began seeking county, state, and other federal funding to provide the excess capital needed. Unfortunately, after several months of unsuccessful funding attempts, we could not let anymore time pass before construction commenced.

Ultimately, we ended up renovating the existing Marcus Town Hall/Fire Station to accommodate a large computer lab and conference room. The resulting building was fantastic and we commend our builders DL Home Construction out of Medical Lake for their dedicated and very knowledgeable managers. There were many times during the construction phase when EcliptixNet would be working in the computer lab late at night, and the owner of DL would be there as well. The MPCC consists of a very large computer lab housing brand new Dell computers, a laser multi-function machine, and a digital screen projector system. Included in the Marcus Community Center is a very large meeting/conference room for use by any member or organization wishing to use such a room.

The MPCC has been a tremendously important project that has taken two years to complete. The vision has now become a reality for the small community of Marcus. Community members of all ages now have a free-use facility where they can come and take full advantage of the digital technology enjoyed by larger communities. The Computer Center is a safe, fully monitored facility where community members can grow and market their online or home-based businesses, attend online classes at hundreds of available universities, or simply play a fun game against someone from anywhere in the world. This is an exciting event for the Town of Marcus and we welcome all to come out and enjoy.

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## **Event Agenda:**

Saturday, February 27th, 2010  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Marcus Public Computer Center  
1101 Highway 25 North  
Marcus, WA

### **Remarks/Introduction**

Fran Bolt, Mayor  
Town of Marcus

### **About EcliptixNet and Project**

Jeff Tamietti, Owner  
EcliptixNet Broadband, Inc.

**Congressional Perspective**  
(Speaker to be announced)

**USDA Rural Development**  
Mario Villanueva  
State Director, Washington

**Ribbon Cutting**  
Congressional  
USDA Rural Development  
Town of Marcus  
EcliptixNet

**Refreshments**