

Thurman town supervisor Evelyn Wood is applying to the Economic Development Council (EDC) for funding to make a new high speed Internet service available in Thurman. You may have read about this in the January 25 Post Star, or can see it now at [http://poststar.com/news/local/hoping-for-broadband-in-thurman-the-land-of-dial-up/article\\_d4d392d8-47c6-11e1-900e-0019bb2963f4.html](http://poststar.com/news/local/hoping-for-broadband-in-thurman-the-land-of-dial-up/article_d4d392d8-47c6-11e1-900e-0019bb2963f4.html) .

This grant will be used to buy equipment needed to set up the system in town. As I understand it, the monthly cost is competitive with other services, but the initial equipment installation cost would be prohibitive for many. The hope is to obtain future grants dollars to cut that fee (which may be lower due to the quantity purchased).

To win this first grant, we have to show the EDC that high speed would have a **positive economic impact** on Thurman people. You can help by writing a letter describing how high speed can improve *your own* business or any income-producing activity you engage in.

A few examples of what might be mentioned:

Contacting customers regarding your goods and services · Marketing your products · Conducting business-related research · Selling goods on eBay · Telecommuting · Using software not supported by your present service – for taking reservations, for example · Selling Avon or candles · Managing your home business while you are spending vacation time in Thurman · Managing investments.

- Write a letter (short and specific is good), preferably the old-fashioned kind, on paper with your signature. If email is your only option, then do that and send to [Thurmansupervisor@verizon.net](mailto:Thurmansupervisor@verizon.net).
- Explain how you use high speed Internet for business, how high speed will help your personal ability to earn money – and perhaps describe how lack of high speed has hurt your efforts.
- Mail or drop off that letter to arrive by FEBRUARY 10 to Thurman Supervisor Evelyn Wood, PO Box 29, Athol, NY 12810.

Please note:

- Writing the letter does not commit you to buy this service if it becomes available.
- Even if Thurman does obtain this service, it is not known at this point whether it could be extended beyond the town's actual boundary, so writing the letter does not guarantee that the service will be available to you. That is the hope, but details are still being researched.
- If you already have high speed via Verizon or satellite, you may retain that service. But you may wish to write a letter of support on behalf of those who are unable to access one of those options, explaining how high speed benefitted your business.

If you think this is worth the effort (I do), please don't delay getting your note to town hall. Only 10 days remain. My husband and I will each send a letter out in tomorrow's mail. Thank you.

Perky Granger