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**Smart Rural Community Provider Designation Granted to Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc  
Along with Announcement of New Partnership with FiberHomes.com**

Willcox, AZ/ Safford, AZ/ Thatcher, AZ/ Sunsites, AZ (10/14/2022) –

**Smart Rural Communities**

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc (Valley) was recently named a Smart Rural Community (SRC) provider by NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association. SRC is a national network of communities powered by innovative rural broadband providers that are building a brighter future for small-town America. The program promotes rural broadband and its role in supporting innovative economic development, effective education, efficient energy distribution and use, state-of-the-art health care and other important issues for rural America.

In order to receive recognition as a SRC provider, Valley was required to affirm that it offers 100 Mbps broadband to at least 50% of its service area; that it has broadband subscription rates of at least 50%; and that it is committed to program principles of collaboration and innovation. As a result of Valley's national recognition, Willcox, Safford, Thatcher, and Sunsites will now be celebrated as a Smart Rural Communities in program materials and online at [www.smartruralcommunity.com](http://www.smartruralcommunity.com), joining a national network of similarly innovative communities.

NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield also recognized Valley for this achievement, noting, "We are so excited to welcome another Smart Rural Community provider into this growing network of innovative broadband providers delivering the Internet's fastest speeds in some of the most remote and rural communities of our country. I applaud Valley and the communities of Willcox, Safford, Thatcher and Sunsites for their commitment to enabling cutting-edge technologies that drive innovation and promote economic development in their region and nationwide."

**Fiber Homes** – Local fiber internet provider, Valley Telecom, has partnered with [Fiber Homes](http://FiberHomes.com), the nation's first fiber internet search service, to give people looking to buy or rent a home in their service areas a convenient way to determine the quality of internet available at any given address.

Valley has certified over 5,000 fiber serviceable addresses with Fiber Homes locally. They join over 100 other fiber providers from around the country in Fiber Homes' database of over 1.8 million certified fiber addresses. The database is updated in real time, ensuring that when new homes are connected to a fiber network, consumers consulting [FiberHomes.com](http://FiberHomes.com) are the first to know.

"Reliable broadband internet is no longer optional for homebuyers, it's become a basic requirement for anyone wanting to fully participate in the modern economy. Our goal with Fiber

Homes is to make sure that anyone looking to buy or rent a home has access to this crucial information,” said Robert Gilbert, CEO of Fiber Homes.

In today’s world, people are working from home, getting work assignments, medical care, taking college courses and of course getting entertainment through HD online streaming services. As a result, fiber broadband internet services that provide for these capabilities have become as critical to consumers as connections to gas, electricity, and water supplies.

### **A boon for real estate agents**

Fiber Homes offers real estate agents services through [Fiber Homes Pro](#) that deliver a competitive edge. If they are a listing agent, they get access to materials for marketing the home as a connected “fiber home,” and if they are a buyer’s agent, they get access to products and pricing from the provider for that house. Additionally, Fiber Homes is actively working with MLSs around the country to add this crucial information to the property listings.

Currently, nearly 2 million addresses in a total of 22 states are in the database - thousands of new addresses are being added each day. Over 100 providers around the country are currently contributing to the database and more will follow soon.

### **Join the Conversation**

Valley will be hosting two luncheons, one in Willcox and one in Thatcher to provide an overview of Smart Rural Communities and Fiber Homes to start conversations on how these programs can be leveraged for the benefit of the community. The Willcox Luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and the Thatcher Luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Heather Floyd, Public Relations Specialist at [heather.floyd@teamvtg.net](mailto:heather.floyd@teamvtg.net) or 520.384.8912 for more information or to register.

### **About Valley TeleCom Group**

Valley TeleCom Group is a local telecommunications company that provides high-speed Internet, phone and business solutions to southeast Arizona and southwest New Mexico. Valley has offices in Clifton, AZ; Safford, AZ; and Willcox, AZ and have been providing services since 1962. [www.vtc.net](http://www.vtc.net)

### **About NTCA**

The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 850 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA members are leading the technological evolution for rural consumers, delivering robust and high-quality services over future-proof networks that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business.

### **About Fiber Homes**

[Fiber Homes](#), the nation’s first fiber internet search service for rural and suburban home buyers and realtors, provides home buyers and realtors the ability to check any home address for fiber high-speed internet connectivity. To make sure your next house is a fiber home, please visit [www.fiberhomes.com](http://www.fiberhomes.com).

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