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Atlantic Broadband started offering three new internet packages in Grasonville and Perryville in Maryland and in Middletown, Delaware and surrounding communities. The packages are also available in Grasonville and Perryville's surrounding communities such as Chestertown, Centreville, Queenstown, Rock Hall, Church Hill, St. Michaels and Chesapeake City and Middletown's surrounding communities Delaware City, New Castle, Odessa, Port Penn, St. Georges, Townsend and Clayton. With this latest speed enhancement, Atlantic Broadband's fastest internet speed in these markets has more than doubled, with download speeds up to 250 Mbps. Customers can choose between Essential Plus, Advanced and Premier packages offering speeds between 50/6 Mbps and 250/20 Mbps. — *Telecompaper*

When Verizon Communications Inc. proposed dozens of [small wireless cells along streets in Doylestown Borough](#), the reaction was a defiant no. Residents thought the boxy equipment that sprouted five-foot antennas on traffic lights or telephone poles would mar the borough's Norman Rockwell charm, along with the artsy aura of its Victorian homes. Others feared for their health with intensive 5G wireless services zapping them.

Doylestown officials spent \$150,000, held 10 public hearings and fought the small cell proposal in state and federal courts over more than a year, defending their right to say where the small cells would go — a David-vs.-Goliath tale of a small Pennsylvania town taking on a big corporation. "We didn't feel they had the right to come and do what they want," council president Jack O'Brien said Monday.

When Doylestown finally settled the case last month, the town won the right to reduce the number of poles as well as camouflage and relocate some of them. It also surprisingly won a share in the revenues from each cell. But the borough's victory may be hard for other towns to replicate, as telecom companies are canvassing Pennsylvania towns to locate thousands of new wireless cells for the new 5G high-speed mobile networks.

State lawmakers are considering a bill that would largely strip municipalities of zoning oversight when telecom companies seek permits for small cells on utility poles and traffic lights. If enacted, the measure would also set small fees — from \$25 to \$100 — for small cell permitting. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Frank Farry, R-Langhorne, and

**Nev., Ariz., Fla. Draw
Big Election Dollars**

the wireless industry say this new capacity will lead to innovation such as driver-less cars, and many new jobs in Pennsylvania and nationwide. Twenty other states, including Ohio and Delaware, have passed similar legislation, backers say. But this effort will also entail installing 300,000 new small cells — all about the size of laptop computers or briefcases — in cities and towns across the U.S. over the next three to four years.

And in Pennsylvania, lines are being drawn between state lawmakers and wireless industry officials who want to make it easy to roll out 5G, and municipal officials who bemoan the loss of local control and dislike the telecoms' encroachment on their turf.

Rep. Robert W. Godshall, R-Hatfield, the chair of the consumer affairs committee, told municipal officials opposed to the measure that they had to get in line with the new technology during a hearing on Aug. 9. Wireless carriers can't easily add small cells in a state with more than 2,500 municipalities, each with its own zoning rules and procedures, Godshall said. There had to be legislation to make it easier for the carriers. And, he added, towns and boroughs shouldn't consider the new small wireless cells as new revenue sources for municipal budgets.

Godshall said he didn't think most towns even cared about the issue. "Local governments have not been involved in this. You guys are leading them along," Godshall told the heads of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs at the same hearing. "I have four boroughs in my district and I haven't heard a word from them. So I mean what's happening?" But municipalities — **Lancaster**, Abington and Haverford, among them — have pushed back on small cells and forced some changes.

In Doylestown, wireless infrastructure firm Crown Castle approached borough officials in 2014. Crown Castle, with major operations in western Pennsylvania, installs and manages the small cells for wireless carriers. Doylestown officials say they were told that Verizon would use the new small cells and that Crown Castle also might lease the wireless capacity to other carriers.

Crown Castle submitted the first dozen or so applications in October 2016. Karyn Hyland, the borough's zoning officer, said the initial application for 44 small cells overwhelmed her small department with "boxes and boxes" of documents. Facing persistent opposition, Crown Castle filed lawsuits in Bucks County and Philadelphia, challenging Doylestown's ordinances and denials.

Last month, the two sides settled the lawsuits. Under the terms, Crown Castle can put just 34 small cells in the town and has entered into a revenue-sharing agreement so that Doylestown can earn some money off the equipment to recoup its \$150,000 in costs over several years. After that, the borough can earn some revenue from the small cells, making Crown Castle pay for the use of the right of way.

The cells won't go up for several months as they go through a permitting process. When they do, borough manager John Davis said that Crown Castle agreed to relocate small cells in front of the historic Fountain House and Mercer Museum as part of the settlement. It will also use decorative poles in places to camouflage the cells. "We put a

lot of effort into it and we felt like we got something out of it," Davis said. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*

As wildfires raged in California this summer, one fire department's response was impeded by an unexpected problem: data throttling.

In [documents filed this week](#) as part of [a legal challenge](#) to the FCC's net neutrality repeal, Santa Clara County Fire Marshal Anthony Bowden explains how Verizon slowed device speeds during the crisis, hindering firefighters' response. In the documents, [flagged by Ars Technica](#), Bowden writes that the fire department had purchased an unlimited data plan from Verizon for a support unit's connection, but the company started throttling speeds "to 1/200, or less" after the unit hit 25GB of use.

Bowden writes that the resulting throttling from Verizon "had a significant impact on our ability to provide emergency services," as responders were unable to properly track and route firefighting resources. The company continued to slow data speeds even after being informed it was "actively impeding" responders' ability to fight the blazes, Bowden writes. Ultimately, the fire department had to sign up for a new, more expensive plan before speeds were restored.

The throttling took place after the repeal of net neutrality rules went into effect, although Verizon, like other major carriers, throttled unlimited plans at certain use thresholds long before that. The 22 state attorneys general who filed the documents did not argue that the company's actions would have violated the previous net neutrality rules. Verizon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The filing includes an increasingly frantic email exchange between Verizon representatives and the fire department. A fire official expressed confusion over "why our public safety data usage is getting throttled down" when they were under the impression that would never happen. "Please work with us," a fire official wrote to Verizon at one point. "All we need is a plan that does not offer throttling or caps of any kind." – *The Verge*

Comcast Spectacor has signed a long-term agreement with Exelon's Constellation unit to supply Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center with 100 percent renewable energy from an Illinois wind farm. The company [announced Tuesday](#) that it will buy power from Constellation, supplied from a 9 megawatt share of the Enel Green Power HillTopper wind project near Springfield, Ill. The 185-MW wind farm, expected to be completed this year, is also [supplying General Motors and Bloomberg LP](#) under power-purchase agreements. Comcast said the agreement reflects its commitment to building a more resource-efficient company and reducing its environmental impact. The South Philadelphia sports arena uses about 31,140 megawatt hours of power a year. – *philly.com*



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