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Web sites available for communities

By BRAD DICKERSON

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GLASGOW — Maintaining an online presence for any community that requests it was a topic of conversation at Monday's meeting of the Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team.

Michael Ramage, project manager for ConnectKentucky's west Kentucky region, talked of a partnership between his group and the maintainors of www.ky.gov to create Web sites for any community in the state that wants one at no cost.

The lone qualification, according to Ramage, is that the community, either county or city, has to receive some state funding.

Ramage explained that a 9-page worksheet can be filled out and sent to ky.gov containing information like a welcome message, a listing of elected officials and services offered by the community.

He added that a request he hears a lot is that a community calendar be included on the Web sites.

"It's a great way to get the word out about what's going on and it's free," Ramage said.

The one warning he stressed is that the calendar must be updated on a regular basis.

"If you go to a calendar and you go through the whole month of January to see what's going on in Barren County and you see nothing, you're going to assume the county is dead," Ramage said.

Regarding maintenance, Ramage said a program called the Microsoft Content Management Server offers easy instructions for Web masters on how to update their community's Web site.

Barren County Judge-Executive Davie Greer talked after the meeting about the county Web site that is being prepared. She said that a few new items, such as pictures of all the new magistrates and short bios, have been added. John Garrett, who maintains the city Web page, is also tackling this project.

"He's [Garrett] got things ready, but it's not up and running yet," Greer said. "We're working on it."

Park City Mayor David Lyons said his community is in the process of getting its Web site updated after many of the files were lost.

“The main computer that we use primarily for record keeping crashed,” he said. “Even though we’re back up, we lost a lot of critical information.”

Talk also centered around a draft of the Barren County Community Broadband and Technology Directory, which Ramage had created and asked the group to review.

It contained contact information and Web addresses for listings like broadband, technology and community service providers, video conference facilities, public access computer facilities, wireless hot spots and community Web sites.

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