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Maskell, NE Recognized as a Smart Rural Community<sup>SM</sup>

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (NNTC) recognized the Village of Maskell, NE as a Smart Rural Community<sup>SM</sup> (SRC) on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at Faith Lutheran Church in Maskell during an NNTC open house.

The designation comes from the Rural Broadband Association (NTCA) in conjunction with NNTC. This recognition is presented to those Broadband enabled communities who see an importance of Broadband Internet as a way to connect and grow through the capabilities of expanded online education, remote work, telehealth, ag technology, economic development, government services, safety and security. Maskell, NE is a Gig-Certified capable community enabling technology for all those who live and work there.

Residents stopped by during the two-hour coffee open house. GM Pat McElroy talked about the importance of being part of the cooperative.

“In the past 20 years, more than \$1.3 million has come back to our customers right here in Maskell and Obert, and that’s money that’s staying right here in your community, which is pretty incredible if you think about that for a town this size,” said McElroy.

NNTC Marketing Manager Melissa Lanzourakis recognized the village and presented a Smart Rural Community<sup>SM</sup> designation award to Maskell Chairman Tom Mathis.

At a time in Nebraska and the United States when government is investing millions to help close the “Digital Divide”, Maskell, NE is already enjoying the same great fiber enabled speeds as those in urban areas like Lincoln and Omaha.

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About NNTC:

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company is a telephone, internet and television service provider headquartered in Jackson, NE. NNTC serves 30 communities throughout 24 counties in northeast Nebraska. Founded in 1955, NNTC is one of Nebraska’s first telephone cooperatives providing fiber service to 100% of its customers.

About NTCA:

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. Visit NTCA at [www.ntca.org](http://www.ntca.org).