

# ANNOUNCEMENT



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Sylva, NC ) – Sylva and communities across Western North Carolina will benefit from a new Data and Colocation Center celebrating its grand opening July 31 in Sylva, say officials of BalsamWest, a provider of voice, internet, and data services.

The new facility, located at 35 Bonnie Lane, will also include the corporate offices of BalsamWest and its sister company, WestNet Wireless.

Following a ribbon cutting Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., an open house and tours will be held until 6:00 p.m., and local business people are invited to attend.

“BalsamWest was established to provide robust network infrastructure throughout the Appalachians,” according to Terri McElroy, chief executive officer. “We built the most technologically advanced fiber-based communications network available today, and this new data and colocation facility will allow us to continue to grow and expand services.

“This year we are also celebrating BalsamWest’s fifteenth anniversary,” McElroy added, “and we hope local business leaders will stop by Tuesday and join our celebration,” added McElroy.

BalsamWest was founded by Drake Enterprises and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, both of which needed fiber networks themselves and saw the opportunity to bring high grade fiber-optic service to the entire region. The two forged a partnership in 2003 and have now constructed over 400 miles of underground fiber, according to McElroy.

In 2017, BalsamWest also acquired WestNet Wireless, a wireless Internet provider serving Macon, Jackson, Graham and Cherokee Counties.

Today, BalsamWest continues to add capacity, bringing fiber-optic technology to carriers, data centers, businesses and communities across the region, explained McElroy. “We only use superior, commercial-grade equipment and software, ensuring the highest possible quality. Our local staff and support teams are highly trained, technically skilled, and available 24/7/365.”

The company was formerly located at 52 Colonial Square in Sylva.

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*Need more info? Want pics or video?*

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