

iMAN gaining attention beyond region

By Mike Marturello | Posted: Saturday, August 24, 2013 12:00 am

mmarturello@kpcmedia.com

ANGOLA — Steuben County's non-profit fiber optics network has gained a lot of attention in the region.

Now the word is getting out in the Midwest and beyond as the Indiana Metropolitan Area Network expands to many reaches of the Steuben County community.

On Tuesday, iMAN representatives will be presenting a project update on the fiber optics network that is under the umbrella of the Steuben County Community Foundation. The iMAN system operates a fiber optics network throughout Steuben County, mainly in the incorporated areas. Fees collected from iMAN are returned to the community in the form of grants.

Officials from Wapello County, Iowa, will be in Steuben County Monday and Tuesday to learn more about the fiber system.

“We’re just going to kind of come and get an idea of what you’re doing and maybe do it here,” said Megan Framke, initiative director with the Ottumwa Economic Development Corp.

Officials with the OEDC, a local foundation, the city and the local community college will be making the trip to Steuben County next week, Framke said.

Wapello County is similar in size to Steuben County and officials there believe the iMAN model might work well for them, Framke said. The \$6,000 trip to Angola is being funded by local and private sources in Wapello County, the Ottumwa Courier reported.

During the event, information on iMAN's plans for future business growth and greater bandwidth availability in Steuben County will be presented.

At the luncheon, Rob Dobson, senior account manager at Logicalis, will provide an update on the state of fiber optic technology, the Union Station Technology Center in South Bend, and the positive impact each subject will have on iMAN's progression. Logicalis is an international information technology solutions and managed services provider that has an office in South Bend.

Craig Settles, a nationally recognized authority on broadband, will review how organizations use fiber technology to improve their missions. He will also explain how organizations use fiber technology to increase operating efficiency as well as bolster local economic development.

The event is being held at Witmer Clubhouse, Zollner Golf Course, Trine University.