



Inside Towers

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[Tower Industry Plans, Prepares for Mid-Atlantic Snowstorm](#)



WASHINGTON, DC -- By midday yesterday, an estimated 80 million Americans along the mid-Atlantic coast from Virginia to New York were scrambling to prepare for National Weather Service-forecasted storm expected to last 36 hours over Friday and Saturday. It could dump two feet or more of snow and bring single-digit temperatures and howling winds. DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, who was already rattled by the Wednesday evening snow “dusting” that covered city streets with an inch of ice causing hundreds of accidents, may have gotten ahead of herself by noon when she told NPR the coming snow was already “an historic storm” as her planners prepared the city. Even local electric company PEPCO robo-called customers to warn them to “prepare for the storm, report outages and stay clear of downed wires and stay clear of working repair crews.”

But down in Boca Raton, FL. where it was 71 degrees and partly cloudy on Thursday afternoon, Bernard Borghei was calm and collected. As head of operations for Vertical Bridge, the fast growing owner/manager of more than 42,000 tower sites, he'd already addressed the snowstorm and any other upcoming natural disasters that haven't made it to the radar screen yet. “We have a procedure plan in place and the first thing is ‘safety first,’” Borghei told Inside Towers. He then clicked off the plan's points with the precision of a U.S. Marine Corps Drill Instructor, each step of the logistical plan considered. “We tell our people not to go into the site if there is any possibility of danger. If equipment has fallen down, we first contact local authorities – police and fire – and send out our maintenance vendors who will then tell us when the area can be accessed. We also contact the landlord” when there is one. Vertical Bridge also has contracts with snow removal vendors who clear the road to the site whenever a few inches fall so maintenance and repair teams have safe passage to towers, transmitters and generators. And, added Borghei, all tower sites are prepped at the beginning of the season – storm, rain, hurricane, etc. – so generators will work when needed. [Continue Reading](#)

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Storm Spawns Chatter for Better Emergency Communications

Not all the storm chatter was confined to Washington. In fact, chatterers from Washington traveled to New Jersey Wednesday to pump up pending legislation aimed at improving emergency communications. *NJ.com* found U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th Dist.) in



U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone

Woodbridge, NJ where he put a spotlight on his recently introduced legislation to improve emergency communications, the Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act. It's designed to help ensure that cellular, television and 9-1-1 services continue to operate even when unexpected storms or disasters hit.

He was joined by FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and first responders at the Woodbridge Community Center, which is a federally designated regional emergency evacuation and medical center *NJ.com* reported. [Continue Reading](#)

Lake Oswego School Board Votes No On Cell Tower

Another school district has decided that a cell tower on their grounds just isn't for them. Lakeridge Junior High's repair issues make it a case of bad timing. The Lake Oswego School District based in Oregon is no stranger to the cell tower business, as it already has nine towers on school properties. However, with a school needing repairs, a bond measure "likely to go before voters in November" will take precedence.

Lakeridge Junior High was listed in near-critical condition in last year's district report, according to *PamplinMedia.com*, with "nearly \$15.12 million in estimated seismic upgrades and needed repairs. Cracks are visible on exterior and interior walls of the building, which sits atop soil that has a tendency to expand and contract depending on moisture levels. It would cost \$33 million to replace the facility."

Board member Sarah Howell said at the meeting that since long-term facilities planning is now under way, "the idea of signing a new lease for use of school property made her a little nervous." Other board members agreed. The Verizon tower was proposed with a five-year lease, with a five-year extension option for up to 30 years. This tower would have paid the school district about \$2,300 per month, according to *PamplinMedia.com*. The other nine towers generate about \$231,000 annually for the district.

An advertisement for "ONLINE RF SAFETY TRAINING". On the left, there is a yellow "CAUTION" sign with a radio frequency symbol. The main text "ONLINE RF SAFETY TRAINING" is in large white letters on a blue background. Below it, smaller text says "Anytime • Economical • Certificate • Student Tracking". To the right, a yellow circle says "1000's TRAINED". Further right is the "LBAUNIVERSITY" logo, which includes a globe and the text "A LBA Group Company". At the bottom right, a blue button says "CLICK HERE for Info".

Idaho County Board Approves Cell Tower Unanimously

Clearwater County's cell service is about to get a lot clearer. The new Inland Cellular tower, which is meant to improve cell service along Highway 12 and benefit 911 calls, will be erected by WEIS Towers, LLC in the Low Density Rural District, in Clearwater County, ID.

The Board of County Commissioners heard the application and findings of the planning and zoning commission at its January 11 meeting. The *Clearwater Tribune* reports that all requirements were met for the conditional use procedure, along with statutory hearing requirements. Upon review of the P&Z's December 20 meeting, the board unanimously approved the conditional use application.

Milestone Wins One Next County Over



The week before planning and zoning boards was not a total loss for Milestone this week. Over in neighboring Stafford County, VA, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a 190-foot telecommunications tower at its meeting on Tuesday. The panel heard arguments for and against issuing a conditional-use permit for Milestone Communications installation on property jointly owned by Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg at the Rappahannock Regional Landfill. Fredericksburg, historically known for Civil War battles, is now home to several commercial centers, including Central Park – the second largest mall on the East Coast.

Inside Nova reports the tower will carry Verizon antennas, and was specifically targeted to benefit commuters of a nearby rail line, in addition to local residents.

Tower Ticker

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE	CHG & % CHG	DAY'S LOW & HIGH	VOLUME
★ AMT	04:00pm EST 90.02	↑1.02 ↑1.15%	88.21 91.16	2,925,120
★ CCI	04:03pm EST 79.13	↑0.91 ↑1.16%	78.03 80.06	2,420,383
★ SBAC	04:00pm EST 87.49	↓1.07 ↓1.21%	85.77 90.32	2,415,590
★ S	04:00pm EST 2.50	↑0.05 ↑2.04%	2.34 2.58	23,119,783
★ T	04:00pm EST 34.54	↑0.64 ↑1.89%	33.79 34.88	40,306,304
★ TMUS	04:00pm EST 37.10	↓0.26 ↓0.70%	36.77 37.96	3,400,407
★ VZ	04:06pm EST 45.87	↑1.45 ↑3.26%	44.43 46.33	30,770,472

Verizon Beats Street By A Penny, Gains 1.5M in 4th Quarter

verizon ✓ Shares of Verizon (NYSE: VZ) soared yesterday 3.26 percent or up \$1.45 a share to end the trading day at \$45.87 after the carrier reported it had added 1.5 million wireless retail postpaid or monthly subscriptions in fourth quarter. That's about 500,000 fewer subscribers than during the same period last year but ahead of analysts' forecasts. The carrier also had better-than-expected net income of \$5.39 billion, or \$1.32 per share, compared with a year-earlier loss of \$2.23 billion, or 54 cents per share. Excluding special items such as pension adjustments, Verizon earned 89 cents per share, above the analysts' average forecast of 88 cents, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. Operating revenue rose 3.2 percent to \$34.25 billion. Analysts had expected \$34.10 billion.

A variety of promotions aimed at keeping customers and luring new ones lowered the average income from each subscriber but they also played a role in keeping customers. Customer defections, or churn, in Verizon's postpaid

business fell to 0.96 percent from 1.14 percent a year earlier.

FreedomPop to Go Global With New Cash Infusion

Los Angeles-based freemium mobile company FreedomPop has added another \$50 million to its coffers. That's just months after closing \$30 million in funding. It's used the new funding to add a European hotspot and SIM and plans to go global by the end of the year.

Launched in 2012, *Bizjournals.com* says FreedomPop offers free voice, text and data bundles in limited quantities, making money by up selling additional services. The company has grown to 1 million subscribers in the United States and United Kingdom.



The advertisement banner for Tower Tracker features a logo on the left showing a tower with signal waves. The central text reads "Integrate CRM and Asset Data In One Unified Application" in red and white. On the right, it says "Keep it Together - Eliminate the Chaos" and "Contact Tower Tracker Now" in red.

Zoning & Moaning

Neighbors Wave Off Tower Lease To Verizon, \$750K

After an hour-long barrage of complaints from citizens concerned about property values and golf course aesthetics, the Lafayette City Council near Boulder, CO. unanimously rejected a proposal to lease space to Verizon for a 40-foot tower at the Indian Peaks public golf course on Tuesday.

The Daily Camera reports that city staff had recommended the council approve the lease — which would have brought in a minimum of \$750,000 — but, prior to the vote, several speakers suggested that a nod in favor of the cell tower would be a betrayal of the citizenry. Some reportedly were concerned the tower would be an unattractive contrast to the greenery of the golf course.

When it came time to vote, the consensus among council members was better cell service should be prioritized, but that the plan at Indian Peaks was ill conceived and did not justify upsetting so many neighbors, the paper said.

Railroad Proposal For Tower in Revitalized Area Ruffles Sylacauga, AL



Norfolk Southern Railroad published notice of its intent to construct a communications tower in downtown Sylacauga, AL on January 7. Residents have 30 days to issue a response to their plan, and it is likely the response will be negative.

Sylacauga residents are worried about the aesthetic affect a 170-foot tower will have on the downtown area, which town planners have desperately been working to revitalize. Recently awarded federal grants will help them improve the area's streetscapes.

According to *WBRC News*, Mayor Doug Murphree said, "My first thoughts were it's going to detract from the look of the area. We worked hard to make this area look good." City Council President Rocky Lucas is hopeful another

location can be found for the tower without legal action.

The management team at Norfolk Southern Railroad is aware of the concerns of Sylacauga's leaders. On January 20, they reached out to officials to see how and what alternatives can be found.

Amherst County, VA Supervisors Crush Tower Plan

Elon Elementary School in Amherst, VA, will not be getting a 120-foot tower after the County Board of Supervisors overruled the planning commission's OK in a 3-2 vote. While *NewsAdvance.com* reports the planning commission said the "project is in substantial accord with the county's comprehensive plan," after a public comment period at the January 19 meeting, the board of supervisors thought differently about saying yes to a tower on school grounds.

Fairfax, VA.'s Milestone Communications, which proposed the tower, had a representative at the meeting. He told the board a draft lease had been negotiated and "the approved site application and commission voting twice to say the tower was in accord with the comprehensive plan." He said that Milestone has spent upwards of \$100,00 on the project and at this point to deny the tower would be "unfair."

Most who opposed said that they were uncomfortable about the tower's proposed aesthetics, child safety and student resources. Director of Planning and Zoning Jeremy Bryant said that now that the permit will not be approved, "the project is dead."

Small Cells

Ericsson's Strategic Product Manager of Radio Makes 5G, LTE Predictions

Ericsson's David Hammarwall predicts that 5G will surpass the LTE global network in a few years. He said that 4G will "reach its limits as a technology as connectivity demands change," paving the way for 5G. Additionally, he said that there are built-in inefficiencies in 4G technology, such as always broadcasting signals, which limits energy saving and reduces performance. He said while 5G is a way off, the flaws in 4G can help predict the improvements that 5G may have. He told *Computer Business Review* he thinks 5G will have better energy efficiency, a lean design in signal transmission, a reduction in power consumption, a solution to a current spectrum crunch, a new range of frequencies, an unlicensed spectrum and faster connectivity, which will improve the consumer experience.

Hammarwall said that the 5G will set a new standard and built out of two key elements: the evolution of LTE and a new radio access, he told CBR. He predicts that by 2021 more than 70 percent of Internet content will be video-driven. [Continue Reading](#)

Tower Calendar

TIA Spring Policy Summit

March 8-9, 2016, Washington, DC

Help shape the regulatory landscape focused on issues that affect your company and register [here](#) for TIA's Annual Spring Policy Summit at the Hotel Monaco, March 8-9. Hear current perspectives from Congressional staff, senior Administration and FCC officials, and top industry players from TIA Member companies on the public policies impacting the information and communications technology industry. This is an opportunity to participate in comprehensive discussions on the future of broadband regulations, policies for spectrum allocation including the

upcoming broadcast TV incentive auction, the global digital economy, cyber security, next-gen communications for public safety and the Internet of Things. To view the agenda and sponsorship opportunities, visit TIA's [website](#).

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