



# Inside Towers

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## [Springfield, IL Residents Warm to Tower Relocation Plan](#)



A proposal to relocate and erect a 175-foot tower, 75-feet higher than a nearby tower that it could replace near Iles Park, got a cool reception from Springfield, IL residents on Monday. But once they learned Crown Castle could pay the town \$14,500 annually and the proceeds could be used to improve the park, they warmed to the plan. Derek Harms, executive director of the park district, said the proposed location for the cell tower would cause minimal, if any, impact on how people currently use the park or any future development plans, the *Springfield Journal-Review* reported.

Residents asked numerous questions about the height of the tower and what could be done to make it blend into the park, the *Journal-Review* said. Crown Castle's area program manager Paul Peckens told the Monday meeting the tower's foundation would be 45-by-45 feet, the company is willing to install landscaping, and would be open to making the tower better blend in if the park district desires. Resident Jamie Adair, a longtime member of the Bunn Park Neighborhood Association, said his main hope was for the tower to be as aesthetically pleasing as possible. Adair said he has concerns but didn't oppose the project if it could fund park improvements. The earliest the board could vote is February 23.

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## Deep-Pocketed Carriers Prepare for FCC Auction



There are just 48 days before the FCC's long-awaited 600MHz incentive auction for TV broadcasters begins on March 29. Then, sometime after that, three of the big four carriers are poised to bid on available spectrum. *RCRWireless* figures Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile will "bid between \$23 billion and \$25 billion combined" but also notes that other non-traditional companies such as Comcast and Google are also possible bidders. And of course, there is Chamath Palihapitiya's hopeful capital venture firm Social Capital that has filed with the FCC, according to *Re/code*, and could invest between \$4 billion-to-\$10 billion to grab enough spectrum to launch Rama which Palihapitiya hopes to be the next big wireless carrier. Financially

troubled Sprint has said it has enough spectrum and will sit out this auction.

## 80-Foot Tall Cell Tower Approved by Camp Verde, AZ, Planning and Zoning

**verizon** ✓ Verizon customers between Camp Verde and Cottonwood, AZ, soon will be getting better cell service, thanks to the Camp Verde Planning and Zoning board. The panel unanimously approved an 80-foot tall cell tower at its February 4, meeting.

The tower was first proposed in 2011, and cleared review from required local and federal agencies, according to Michael Jenkins, community development director for the Town of Camp Verde. Jenkins also said no residents in the vicinity had filed complaints, according to the *Verde Independent*. The nearest home to the planned site is downhill 7,000 feet away, and the tower will be set back 1,500 feet from State Road 260. It will have no lights, and after a discussion at the meeting, it will be painted a non-reflective flat gray.

The tower comes with a 10-year renewal provision, and the “requested building site is a 10-acre industrial parcel adjoining undeveloped industrial property to the north, undeveloped state land to the east and national forest land to the south,” reported the *Verde Independent*. It was one of three areas considered, and the tower and storage building will be surrounded with a chain link fence with three strands of barbed wire.

Next up is the Camp Verde Town Council’s decision, which is planned for February 24.

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## SBA Communications Wins Approval for Tower at Omaha Elementary School



The Omaha, NE City Council unanimously approved a proposal for a Verizon cell tower to be built on the property of Concordia Christian School by SBA Communications Corp. on Tuesday. The tower was originally proposed for Stone Creek Golf Course last year, but fierce opposition forced SBA to find another location.

Parents of students at the school still want SBA to keep looking for another site. They are concerned about possible negative health effects. *KVNO News* reports one parent, Lori Terkelsen, said, “There’s no dire need for this. I know there have been some studies that say there’s no (health) risk, but I think we all know that no one can say that for sure. We don’t know what the long term affects will be 30 years from now.”

Councilwoman Aimee Melton believes the tower will bring much needed funds for the school, and mentioned many Omaha public schools have towers located on their property.

## Possible Cell Tower Sparks Animal Habitat Conversation



Verizon Wireless would like to build a cell tower near the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor on the North Hill Forest Block in Vermont, but the bustling animal environment in the area has the locals concerned.

Allan Thompson, a forester, wildlife biologist, and head of the Waterbury Conservation Commission, told the *Waterbury Record* that the Worcester Mountain Range is one core habitat and Mount Mansfield is the other. [Continue Reading](#)

## Smartphone App For NATE UNITE 2016

NATE has unveiled a Smartphone Application that will give attendees of NATE UNITE 2016 access to the schedule of events; educational session information; educational session handouts; and maps of the exhibit hall and Morial Convention Center, the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, the Courtyard New Orleans, and the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Event surveys will also be available on the App for attendees to complete.

“As an organization involved in the wireless industry, it was time to take a new direction by adding a smartphone app. I had heard from some of the members who had utilized apps at other shows and liked the convenience of having the show information on their phones,” said NATE Event Coordinator Shari Wirkus. “The Trade Show Committee members thought the time was right for us to give a smart phone app a try.”

The NATE UNITE 2016 runs February 22-25, in New Orleans, and the Phone App can be accessed and downloaded [here](#).

## IoT Platform Planned in New York



New York utility Consolidated Edison is connecting more than 4 million of its gas and electricity customers to a smart grid deployed by Silver Spring Networks. The plan for releasing the grid is in the works and is awaiting approval from the New York Public Service Commission, reports *RCRwireless.com*. The IoT platform will connect smart objects to the Internet, enabling an exchange of data never available in the past. It will also bring consumers information in a more secure fashion. The city plans to use IoT to connect street lights, parking meters, and other signs. The smart grid is connected to specific endpoints that monitor power use and network connectivity to distribute power relayed from the endpoints. The New York IoT will offer speeds of 2.4 megabits per second and will also support dual-band mesh communications on 900MHz and 2.4GHz frequencies.

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**Tower Ticker**

SYMBOL	TIME & PRICE	CHG & % CHG	DAY'S LOW & HIGH	VOLUME
★ <b>AMT</b>	04:00pm EST <b>85.84</b>	↑0.27 ↑0.32%	85.36 87.13	1,595,451
★ <b>CCI</b>	04:01pm EST <b>81.83</b>	↓0.37 ↓0.45%	81.67 83.23	1,472,941
★ <b>SBAC</b>	03:59pm EST <b>86.34</b>	↑0.60 ↑0.70%	84.90 87.66	1,950,422
★ <b>S</b>	04:00pm EST <b>2.72</b>	↑0.07 ↑2.64%	2.62 2.80	14,529,733
★ <b>T</b>	04:00pm EST <b>36.43</b>	↓0.22 ↓0.60%	36.26 36.74	26,870,303
★ <b>TMUS</b>	04:00pm EST <b>34.57</b>	↑0.68 ↑2.01%	33.72 35.19	3,456,046
★ <b>VZ</b>	04:04pm EST <b>49.98</b>	↓0.17 ↓0.34%	49.62 50.32	18,623,083

## Analyst: Sprint Parent Company 'Retains Confidence' in Carrier



Just in case top management at Sprint's Overland Park, KS headquarters are worrying about what the tier above them is thinking, there's good news. In an investment note yesterday, Barclays analyst Amir Rozwadowski reviewed Softbank's quarterly results and determined the Tokyo-based Sprint-owner met analyst's expectations and looked favorably on its American carrier.

"Building upon statements that emerged from Chairman Masayoshi Son over the last two quarters, commentary from SoftBank's F3Q earnings results once again underscored the company's support for Sprint's turnaround strategy," Rozwadowski wrote. "The carrier's parent company remains comfortable with its subscriber trajectory, execution on its cost reduction initiatives, its network strategy and the ability to utilize current financing plans (i.e. its handset and network leasing company) to support its operational turnaround. Moreover, SoftBank does believe that current market sentiment towards Sprint under appreciates its incremental progress to date, equating it to a similar pattern experienced in the early days of its turnaround of Vodafone Japan."

### Zoning & Moaning

## Aurora, IL Elementary School Debates Proposed Cell Tower

LCC Telecom Services would like to enter into an agreement with the East Aurora School District 131, but several parents had questions at Tuesday night's school board meeting.

The Illinois district was approached in November about a possible 199-foot tower that would be for the Communication Tower Group and other carriers, and it would ideally sit on a 50-foot by 50-foot section of the grounds of the Dieterich Elementary School, according to the Chicago Tribune. The proposal is for a 40-year lease with a five-year renewal option that would pay \$500 per month to the school district. This would be the first tower to sit on district grounds.

The Tribune reports that "only a handful of residents" came to voice their concerns, which ranged from harmful radiation to privacy issues near a playground, at the meeting. One parent said that she was for the tower because it would generate well-needed money for the district. If approved by the Board of Education, the tower would take about nine months to complete.

## Illinois Town to Get Tower One Way Or Another




Geneseo, IL aldermen have decided to let a third party evaluate the proposed site of a 165-foot Verizon cell tower that would co-locate up to four carriers. Their decision on Monday was made after comparing a presentation from Verizon representative Tom Ferry, with the city's long term "Vision 2020" goals.

Many residents in attendance expressed concern over the possible negative effects of building the tower in the neighborhood, including poor aesthetics, decreasing property values and potential fall zones.

*Quad-Cities Online* reports the land parcel is already a mixture of residential and industrial zoning. Alderman Michael Smith believes the decision over the tower will be based on the upcoming needs of the city. He said, "It's about the future more than it is about the present."

Even if the proposal for the cell tower is rejected, the city plans to build a tower for its meter-reading equipment which allows the city to wirelessly read meters in the area.

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### International

## Telefonica Forms Infrastructure Company



Telefonica, one of the world's largest telephone and mobile network providers and based in Madrid, Spain, yesterday established a new company tasked with managing and monetizing its global infrastructure, reported *Totaltel.com*. The new company, called Telxius, will take control of approximately 15,000 of the Spanish incumbent's cell towers and its international network of 19,263 miles of submarine fiber cables. Over the coming months, Telefonica expects to establish a number of companies incorporating its various network assets and integrate them into Telxius.

"Telxius will enable the management of the Telefonica group's infrastructure on a global scale with a more specialized and focused approach, with the aim of increasing the services provided to other operators, improving the return on capital invested and allowing Telxius to participate more actively in the growth opportunities that exist in the industry, including the possibility of incorporating third party assets," according to a company statement.

Telefonica, which is also Mexico's second-largest carrier, named Alberto Horcajo named CEO of Telxius. He currently serves as CFO of Telefonica Brazil. Before that, he was director of Telefonica Global Services.

## Bombay Court Okays Taxing Landowners Where Towers Stand

In an attempt to gain revenue lost from illegal tower operators, the Bombay High Court in India ruled that jurisdiction known as Pune Municipal Corporation can begin taxing landowners where the illegal towers have been placed.

According to the Pune Mirror, only 152 of the 2,354 towers in the boundaries of PMC are legal. The court's opinion, sent in a letter earlier this week by legal advisor Abhijit Kulkarni, said the ultimate responsibility of the tower rests with the owner of the land or a building. Also, the PMC has the right to serve the recovery notice to these owners.

PMC Deputy Mayor Aba Bagul told the news outlet, "As per the Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporations Act of 1949's Section 139 (A), the prime responsibility of the property tax stays with the landowners. Considering this, those who have leased or rented the land to mobile companies have to bear the definitive responsibility of paying taxes."

A PMC official said, "Once the tax is imposed on landowners, they will ask telecom companies to either remove the tower from the plot or legalize the structure, eventually solving the issue."

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## Tower Calendar

### PETZL February Classes

Still time to sign up for training!

TES, Inc. and Impact Access have openings in Rope Access and Tower Climber training classes for February.

These dates don't work for you? Call for the March calendar or we can bring a class to you.

(800) 327-4036 or email: [training@towergear.com](mailto:training@towergear.com)

### SPRAT Rope Access Level I

February 15 - 19, 2016 in Knoxville, TN

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4 days of training, 1 day evaluation

SPRAT Certification Requirements | All equipment provided | Lunches provided daily

### Tower Climber and Rescue

February 29 - March 4, 2016 in Knoxville, TN

- Competent Climber-Rescuer (3 Days)
- Authorized Climber-Rescuer (3 Days)
- Certified Trainer (4 days)

NATE CTS, TIA/ANSI, OSHA | DOL recognized training program | Lunches provided daily

### CTIA Super Mobility 2016

September 7-9, 2016 at Sands Expo, Las Vegas, NV

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## Company Profile

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## Tower Shot



Megan Reed took these at the top of Crowders Mountain near Gastonia, NC. They are commercial radio towers and also relay signals for wireless phone companies, railroads and local emergency services.

The tallest tower is 268' and is owned by CBS Communications.  
We love the view from the top and the bottom! [Email](#) your tower shots.

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