

20A | EDITORIAL

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# Better than cell towers

On Wednesday, June 25, at the James City-Williamsburg Community Center, a group of open-minded residents from James City County listened attentively, quietly and courteously to a technical presentation, which the presenter, a gentleman from Atlanta, had adapted for this audience.

He spoke about a Distributed Antenna System that has been installed in communities similar to Kingsmill with great success. Communities such as Hilton Head Plantation on Hilton Head Island, S.C., towns like Aquinnah, Chilmark, Menemsha, Andover, Malden and Hull in Massachusetts, along with towns in many other states from Texas to Washington have opted for this system instead of towers.

His company has installed 27 Distributed Antenna Systems. Since it relies upon a more expensive fiber optic infrastructure, the system can be costly, but once installed, it can handle the demands of the ever-changing telecom environment. And it's adjustable, since it uses small transceivers called "nodes," which can be widely dispersed to enhance reception in areas where topography is a challenge.

To fine tune the system, the small node can be moved, unlike a 120-foot tower. This system is not obtrusive.

The wireless carriers (one fiber cable can handle six carriers) locate their equipment in a "hub," not dissimilar to the Dominion Virginia Power transformers we see hidden in our bushes now. Signals are delivered over fiber to small control boxes that can fit on our light poles, or elsewhere, with an antenna.

Why did the proponents of the twin towers not come to this meeting? They were invited to attend at the June 18 Development Review Committee meeting. One can only suppose that their leader's mind was made up, and he didn't wish to be confused by facts. Too bad!

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**LETTERS**