

Turner boosts Web portal for agencies, services

Area residents invited to go to beehivedayton.org; agencies to make computers, Internet hookups available.

By Ben Sutherly
November 18, 2007

DAYTON — — U.S. Rep. Mike Turner on Saturday sought to build the buzz surrounding the year-old "Dayton beehive," a one-stop Web portal through which area residents can access free local services and agencies.

The Web portal, beehivedayton.org, has two new partners, the United Way of Greater Dayton and H&R Block, Turner said Saturday.

The United Way recently added to the Web portal a link to its 2-1-1 HelpLink Directory. H&R Block, meanwhile, has added tax preparation and e-filing software that will be free for more than 100,000 Dayton residents earning less than \$54,000 in annual adjusted gross income.

"This is a great project," Turner, R-Centerville, said. "We haven't had a single spot people can go to find all those agencies.

While it may not be a local buzzword yet, Turner said the Web portal had nearly 2,000 visits last month and appears to be gaining traction.

Turner also said 250 computers and high-speed in-home Internet hookups will be made available to low-income households through local nonprofits such as the Dayton Urban League, St. Mary Development Corp., East End Community Services Corp. and Improved Solutions for Urban Systems.

In a press release, Turner called the Web portal and computer distribution "an important step in bridging the digital divide in the Dayton community."