

Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

October 2020

Co-ops Put People First

It's October again and the weather is starting to let us know that the Fall season is upon us. In addition to the beautiful weather October brings, it is also a special month here because it is nationally known as Co-op Appreciation Month.

October recognizes co-ops this month and the benefits cooperatives bring to their members. Your co-op was created for one reason...to provide the rural areas communication services like you would receive in cities or urban areas. In the last 60 years we have worked hard to meet the communication needs of our community while improving the infrastructure for years to come. It is our goal to strengthen our rural community. And even though the world around us seems to be in chaos and disarray, change is still happening here every day.

Our history is always something for us to be proud of, and we are using that foundation and those experiences to guide us through the coming challenges of the years to come. We have just recently finalized the paperwork portion of the USDA grant we were awarded earlier this year in February and have started engineering some of those areas identified in that grant. Please remember that these were only areas that did not have access to 10/1 service, which was a requirement of the grant. However, the grant does cover some of the costs of building the fiber between these areas, thus providing opportunities for the co-op re-investments to stretch farther to serve more locations with fiber.

It has been challenging for us to find funding to expand fiber in the co-op since the "phantom" competitor reported several years ago that they provide service to 85% of our co-op area. Even though that was not true and we challenged that report, that still blocks us from receiving grant type funding for 85% of our area. However, we are still doing everything we can, including expanding through our subsidiaries to new areas where funding is readily available. These expansions will help provide residual revenue in the future to aid in fiber expansion within our co-op's high cost areas as well.



As you know chance favors the prepared and our employees are working hard toward that effort everyday... we hope you understand the importance of what you have in your co-op as we work toward securing its future for all of us.

Since 1930, Co-op Month has served to create awareness of cooperatives throughout the United States. To celebrate October's Co-op Appreciation Month this year, EACH day in the month of October we will be giving away FIVE - \$10 bill credits. Every co-op member will be automatically entered into a daily drawing. There will be a list of winners displayed in November's newsletter. Also, stop by our office in October for a free gift from the Co-op. We appreciate each and every one of you!

Calendar of Events:

- Oct 11 - Holy Name Shooting
Match @ Noon - Piopolis,
- Oct 12 - Columbus Day
Our office is *OPEN*.
- Oct 16 - Bosses Day
- Oct 24 - Make A Difference Day
- Oct 31 - Halloween

New Directory Listings:

Becker Farms	757-2380
Homer Mast	756-2470

*WELCOME TO HAMILTON
COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP!*



Oct 1 Statement Changes:

As of October 1st, the FUSC Surcharge is changing. This percentage is increasing to 27.1% and only affects Single and Multi-Line Business accounts.. This percentage fluctuates quarterly.

How does this affect you?

Single Line Business will see \$.01 increase
Multi Line Business will see \$.08 increase
Multi Line Business w/hunt group will see a \$.08 increase

These charges are federally regulated and mandated by federal government.

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H Hamilton County
Telephone Co-op

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Mon - Fri / 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Give back to your community.

Thousands of households in Illinois do not have local telephone service. You can help make a difference for the most vulnerable in your community.

For too many in Illinois, the cost of a telephone to connect them to family, emergency services, and employers is just too high. Families with young children, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens, are among the most vulnerable without a telephone. You can help connect them to emergency help, caretakers, schools, and employers by contributing to the Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation (UTAC).

The UTAC Lifeline and Link-Up programs are funded entirely through voluntary donations. These programs work with the federally-funded Lifeline program to help Illinois households obtain local phone service and receive a partial discount on their monthly phone bills.

It's easy to contribute. Simply fill out the form at the bottom and indicate the amount you would like to give each month - 50 cents, \$1, \$2 or as much as \$5. That amount can be paid with your monthly telephone bill. Your contribution will be supplemented by federal fund to help provide phone service for individuals and families who could not otherwise afford it. Please Help! Every contribution counts.

Please Help! Please indicate the amount you would like to donate each month to help someone obtain local telephone service in Illinois.

YES, I want to help! Please bill me monthly for contributions to the Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation in the amount shown below. I understand that I may change or discontinue my donation by giving 30 days advance notice. Note: One-time contributions are also welcome.



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER MONTHLY DONATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50 cents	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5

BUSINESS CUSTOMER MONTHLY DONATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25

Please complete the information below, sign your name and return this form with your next phone bill payment.

Name _____ Address _____
Signature _____ Telephone #: _____

Your contribution to the Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation is deductible on your income taxes to the extent allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor to determine how this applies to you.

**Check out our website at www.hamiltoncom.net
for more information about the Co-op.**