



Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

March 2021

WINTER WEATHER

Winter weather has wreaked havoc on many areas of our lives the last few weeks. Fortunately, it has not generated a lot of troubles for the Co-op. However, depending on how fast all the snow melts, our area could experience a lot of water. Sometimes water can affect copper plant. If you experience static on your telephone line or no service at all, please call us 736-2211.

What's slowing your Wi-Fi down?

Wi-Fi makes internet service available to a wide range of devices without each of them physically connected to your router. This includes a wide array of devices like laptops, tablets, cell phones, tvs, gaming systems, security cameras, appliances and so much more. It's important to remember that your Wi-Fi service is NOT your internet service.

The strength and quality of your Wi-Fi signal can be influenced by several factors:

- ▶ **The distance between your router and the device you are using.**
- A device in the same room as the router will have a stronger signal than a device located on the opposite side of the house, or even on another floor.
- ▶ **The age of your device and its capabilities.**
- Some older devices are not designed for or capable of utilizing today's high speeds.
- ▶ **The number of devices sharing your Wi-Fi connection**
- Every connected device is sharing your internet service bandwidth. If many devices are connected, or if some devices are streaming tv or gaming, other devices might notice slower performance due to limited bandwidth available.
- ▶ **Other electronic (non-Wi-Fi connected) devices in your home.**
- Even though other electronics in your house are not Wi-Fi capable, they can cause interference with your wireless signal. Some of these include microwave ovens, cordless phones, Bluetooth speakers, baby monitors and even fluorescent lights.
- ▶ **Barriers or construction materials between the router and your device.**
- Some construction materials can cause interference by reflecting and scattering Wi-Fi signals, such as metal framing, ductwork, electrical panels and metal roofs/siding.

College Scholarships

College scholarship applications for Hamilton County Telephone Foundation are available online at: www.hamiltoncom.net/foundation.php or you can request a copy from your high school guidance counselor. Deadline to submit application is April 1, 2021. Please see application for requirements and eligibility. This is another benefit of being a Co-op Member.



COLLEGE Scholarships

Calendar of Events:

- Mar 14 - Daylight Savings Time Begins 
- Mar 16 - Freedom of Information Day
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20 - Spring Begins



Spring Preparedness Tips

Believe it or not, Spring is right around the corner. Below are some tips to make sure your family and your home are ready for a happy, clean spring season.

1. clean gutters
2. wash walls and baseboards
3. replace filters - water, range hood, and air vent filters
4. clean faucets and showerheads
5. thoroughly clean dryer vent
6. wash exterior windows
7. check pipes for leaks
8. check foundation vents
9. clean your outdoor grill & furniture
10. test smoke alarms



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Board of Director Announcement:

This year the Belle Prairie (648) and Macedonia (728) exchanges will be up for Director Elections.

Although the nominees have been selected by the nominating committees, the by-laws also allow for any other certified member of these exchanges the same right in running and serving a three year term as Director for their exchange. If you are interested, you can pick up a petition (required to be signed by 15 certified members or 10%, whichever is less, of your exchange) at the co-op from the General Manager, along with the specific details and requirements of serving as a Director.

You will have until **MARCH 15** to file your certified petition with the Co-op for your name to be placed on the ballot at the annual meeting. As vaccines become more widely available, we hope that means restrictions will loosen and we will be able to schedule our Annual Meeting.

Kevin Pyle
Executive Vice President &
General Manager

Board of Directors:

647 Exchange
Steven Douglass

648 Exchange
Alan Monroe, Secretary

728 Exchange
Chris Sink, President

736 Exchange
Lemuel Gage, Vice-President

756 Exchange
Rob Kiefer, Treasurer

757 Exchange
Justin Woodrow

773 Exchange
Robert Abbott

JULIE stands for Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators.



E-Request is also available on their website: www.illinois1call.com.

As Spring time rapidly approaches, you may be planning to do some digging in your landscaping, yard or around your property. Please remember that it is now the law in Illinois to call J.U.L.I.E. a minimum of two days before you dig. Here is a list of information you will need to provide:

- Your name, address, and a phone number at which you can be reached. An email, phone number and a fax number, if available.
- The location where the excavation will take place, including county, city or unincorporated township, section and quarter section numbers if available, address, cross street (within 1/4 mile), subdivision name, etc.
- State date and time of planned excavation.
- Type and extent of excavation involved.
- Whether the dig area has been outlined with white paint, flags or stakes.

Pay your bill by phone:

1-855-386-9912

Pay your bill online:

<https://hcc.smarthub.coop>

WIN \$15 OFF YOUR BILL!

Complete the following questionnaire, cut out this section and mail the completed form by March 10, 2021. Your name will be placed in a drawing for \$15 off your telephone bill with HCTC. There will be two winners in March.

1. What number do you call before digging? _____
2. What number can you call to pay your bill over the phone? _____
3. What is the deadline to file a petition for a director position? _____
4. What is one thing that could be causing your Wi-Fi to slow down? _____

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Congratulations to February's winners: Bill & Sherri Miller and Clyde Rollinson.

They each received \$15 off their bill.

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