



Co-op Connection

December 2021

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

Shop Safe and Secure

We want to remind everyone that the safest way to shop is to shop with people or stores that you know and are familiar with. Shopping local is not only the fastest way to shop, but also the most safe and secure option available.

However, we know there will be a lot of online shopping done this season, and as your internet provider, we want to share some tips for secure online shopping.

Some top threats to be aware of are:

- ~ Be cautious of malicious websites or bogus email messages.
- ~ Vendors or stores who do not properly secure their online system may allow an attacker to intercept your information.
- ~ Make sure your digital device is updated and protected before entering your information through it.

How to protect yourself:

- ~ Make sure you are interacting with a reputable and well known vendor.
- ~ Make sure the address bar begins with "https:" and that it has a padlock icon. These are indicators that you are interacting with a secure website/vendor.
- ~ Do not provide any account information and payment information through email.
- ~ Try to use a credit card instead of a debit card for purchases, limiting your liability for fraudulent charges.
- ~ Always compare your purchases to your bank or credit card statements.
- ~ Before providing your personal or financial information, check the website's privacy policy to understand the storage and use of your information.

We hope you all have a merry and safe Christmas season!



Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce Shop Local Program - Christmas Countdown

This year the Hamilton County Telephone Co-op is participating in the Shop Local Christmas Countdown Program. When you come into our office before December 15th to pay your bill or make a purchase, we will give you a receipt to turn in. The chamber will be giving away five \$100 gift cards/certificates to five lucky winners. We currently have over 80 chamber businesses! A qualified receipt is any purchase at a chamber member business. You must legibly write your name and phone number on the back of the receipt. Receipts must be original and turned in by December 16th! Don't miss your chance to win \$\$\$!!



Shop Local

P.O. Box 40 • Dahlgren, IL 62828
www.hamiltoncom.net
support1@hamiltoncom.net

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

Calendar of Events:

- Dec 4 - McLeansboro Christmas Parade - 5:30 pm
- Dec 4 - Vendor Fair 9 am - 2 pm
Old High School Gym
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve -
CLOSED
- Dec 31 - New Year's Eve
CLOSED



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



618-736-2211
Fax: 618-736-2616
Mon - Fri / 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Capital Credit Update

As you may remember from information we have provided at the Annual Meeting in recent years, as well as past newsletters, a lot of changes are happening in the funding mechanisms for our co-op. When considering to authorize capital credits, you need to be aware just how critical it is that the board exercise its full fiduciary responsibility in reviewing the co-op's capability based on expected funding shortfalls.

Right now, the Co-op is investing every dollar back into our plant to expand our fiber construction within the Co-op. Although this is great for securing the future of our Co-op, it does mean that there will not be any Capital Credit checks again this year. Thank you for your understanding.



We want to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season! It is always an honor to serve our great community and we sincerely thank you for your continued patronage!

Italian Christmas Cookies (The Pioneer Woman)



Ingredients

FOR THE COOKIES:

- 2/3 c. granulated sugar
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3/4 tsp. almond extract
- 3 large eggs
- 2 1/2 c. all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 3/4 tsp. salt

FOR THE GLAZE:

- 2 c. powdered sugar
- 3 tbsp. milk
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- Red and green Jimmy sprinkles, for decorating

**Baked cookies can be frozen for up to one month. Thaw and let come to room temperature before glazing.*

Directions

For the cookies: In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the sugar, butter, vanilla extract and almond extract on medium until smooth and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add the eggs and beat until combined. (The batter will look separated.)

With the mixer on low, gradually add the flour, baking powder and salt. Beat until all of the dry ingredients are incorporated. Wrap the dough tightly in plastic wrap and chill for at least 1 hour or up to 4 hours.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Shape the dough into about 36, 1-inch balls (lightly dusting hands with flour, as needed) and place on 2 parchment-lined baking sheets, spacing each at least 1-inch apart. Or, if desired, roll each dough ball between your hands (lightly dusting in flour if needed) into a 4-inch long log and coil each piece into a mound.

Bake the cookies until set and very lightly browned on the bottom, 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely, about 30 minutes.

For the glaze: In a medium bowl, whisk together the powdered sugar, milk and vanilla extract. Dip the top of each cookie in the glaze, allowing the excess to drip off and then sprinkle with the Jimmy sprinkles. Let the cookies stand until the glaze hardens, about 30 minutes.

Win \$10 Off Your HCTC Bill!

Complete the following questionnaire and mail or email the completed form by December 10, 2021. Your name will be placed in a drawing for \$10 off your telephone bill with HCTC. There will be three winners in December.

1. What day is the last day you can make a purchase for the Chamber's Christmas Countdown? _____
2. Who is the President of Board of Directors at this time? _____
3. What time is this year's McLeansboro Christmas parade? _____
4. What dates will our office be closed in December? _____

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Congratulations to last month's winners Joseph & Beverly Stewart, Elmer & Angela Butler, and Alfred & Bonnie Rubenacker.

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

