

Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

October 2021

Co-ops Put People First

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.

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. We appreciate each and every one of you!

Calendar of Events:

- Oct 10 - Holy Name Shooting Match @ Noon - Piopolis,
- Oct 10 - Columbus Day
Our office is *OPEN*.
- Oct 15 - Bosses Day
- Oct 23 - Make A Difference Day
- Oct 31 - Halloween



10 Digit Dialing in Effect this Month

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline starting on July 16, 2022. **Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-TALK to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022.**

Beginning July 16, 2022, dialing "988" will route your call to National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.

As of October 24, 2021, you must dial 10-digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls within our exchanges. Any local calls attempted by dialing only 7-digits may not be completed, and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. You must hang up and dial again using the area code + the 7-digit number.

In addition to changing the way you dial local calls, all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed to complete calls to 7-digit local numbers will need to be reprogrammed to complete calls to 10-digit numbers. Some examples are life safety systems or medical monitoring devices, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, fire or burglar alarms and security systems or gates, speed dialers, mobile or other wireless phone contact lists, call forwarding settings, voicemail services and other similar functions. Be sure to check your website, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business checks, contact information, your personal or pet ID tags, and other such items to ensure the area code is included.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the dialing change.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
- You will continue to dial 1+ area code + telephone number for all long distance calls.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services).
- Any 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, or 811 services available in your community can still be reached by dialing their three-digit codes.
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can still be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Who may you contact with questions?

You can contact our office or you can also visit the FCC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline>.

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

 Hamilton County
Telephone Co-op

618-736-2211
Fax: 618-736-2616
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.

The Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation (UTAC) also provides information about financial assistance at LinkUpIllinois.org. UTAC is a not-for-profit corporation of which all Illinois local telephone companies are members. The principal purpose of UTAC is to oversee the Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program (UTSAP) in Illinois, which provides the Link-Up and Lifeline programs.

15 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Josh Karcher and Kevin Pyle who both celebrate 15 years with the Co-op in October, and Sandy Reyling who celebrated 15 years on September 18. Josh serves as a Technician serving our members and customers with installation and repairs. Kevin serves as our General Manager and Executive Vice-President. Sandy processes our CABS/Billing for the Co-op and subsidiaries. We are very lucky to have all three of these employees on our team!



Oct 1 Statement Changes:

As of October 1st, the IUSF Surcharge is changing. This percentage is increasing to 2.0507% and only affects Single Line accounts. This percentage fluctuates quarterly.

How does this affect you?

Single Line Residential will see \$.06 increase.

Single Line Business will see \$.06 increase.

Multi Line Business will see \$.04 decrease.

Multi Line Business w/hunt group will see a \$.04 decrease.

These charges are federally regulated and mandated by the federal government.

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

- 50 cents \$2
- \$1 \$5

BUSINESS CUSTOMER MONTHLY DONATION

- \$1 \$10
- \$5 \$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.

Congratulations to September's Newsletter Winners: Kevin & Mary Jo Vaughn, Belle Rive Baptist Church, and Robert Heck.

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