

Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

October 2023

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 8 - Piopolis Holy Name Shooting Match @ Noon
- Oct 9 - Columbus Day
Our office is *OPEN*.
- Oct 16 - Boss's Day
- Oct 28 - Make A Difference Day
- Oct 31 - Halloween



Oct 1 Statement Changes:

Universal service is the principle that all Americans should have access to communications services. Universal service is also the name of a fund and the category of FCC programs and policies to implement this principle. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Congress recognize that telephone service provides a vital link to emergency services, government services, and surrounding communities. To help promote telecommunications service nationwide, the FCC, as directed by Congress and with the help of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), administers the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF). The federal USF pays for four programs. They are: Lifeline/Link Up, High Cost, Schools and Libraries, and Rural Health Care. Companies contribute a certain percentage of the amount billed to their residential and business customers for interstate and international calls. The exact percentage that companies contribute is adjusted every quarter based on projected demand for Universal Service funding.

As of October 1st, residential customers will see the FUSC-R Fed Univ Serv Chg Res on their statements. This fee is 34.5% of your local interstate cost, which equates to 2.24. This rate will fluctuate quarterly, and we will always notify you when there is an increase. Single Line Business will be changing to \$1.04, Multi-Line Business and Multi-Line Businesses with Hunt Groups will increase to \$4.21. These charges are federally regulated and mandated by the federal government.

The State IUSF Surcharge is changing as well. This percentage is increasing to 2.5605%. This percentage fluctuates annually. Single Line Residential will see \$.06 increase, Single Line Business will see \$.06 increase, Multi Line Business will see \$.08 increase, and Multi Line Business w/hunt group will see a \$.09 increase.

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 Hamilton County
Telephone Co-op

618-736-2211
Fax: 618-736-2616
Mon - Fri / 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 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.



October 28
Make a Plan.
Make a Difference.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD



Pio Shooting Match & Raffle

SUNDAY

October 8, 2023

**@ Noon
Piopolis IL**

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
- \$1
- \$2
- \$5

BUSINESS CUSTOMER MONTHLY DONATION

- \$1
- \$5
- \$10
- \$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: Flossie Webb, Connie Deen, and David & Evelyn Fagan.

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