



Battery Backup Power for Fiber Customers Notice

This is an annual notice to our customers that Hamilton County Telephone Co-op fiber services require backup battery power to continue functioning during a power outage. To avoid a disruption of voice (telephone) services during an outage - and to maintain the ability to call 911 emergency services, HCTC provides a backup battery system during the installation of all telephone services on our fiber network.

This battery backup allows you to continue to use your telephone services for up to eight hours during a power outage. Without this battery backup or other alternate power source like a generator, fiber landline customers would be unable to make phone calls, including 911 calls, during a power outage. Our battery backup does not provide power to any other services except telephone services. It does not power cordless telephones. Home security systems, medical monitoring devices, electronic phones, or other equipment will not run on our backup battery.

This battery backup is provided to you at no charge during your installation. It will last up to eight hours, and will recharge automatically once power has been restored. HCTC will replace the battery backup at no cost if/when needed. If you have any questions, please call our office at 618-736-2211.

This battery backup is only necessary for customers on fiber. Landline customers still connected over our copper plant do not need this battery backup for their phone service to work during a power outage.

Pay your bill by phone: 1-855-386-9912

College Scholarships Now Available:

College scholarship applications for the Hamilton County Telephone Foundation are available on our website: www.hamiltoncom.net, under About Us. You can also request a copy from your high school guidance counselor. Deadline to submit application is March 15, 2024. Please see application for requirements and eligibility. This is another benefit of being a Co-op Member.



Apply Today!

<https://www.hamiltoncom.net/scholarship>

Calendar of Events:

- Mar 10 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day 
- Mar 19 - Spring Begins
- Mar 29 - Good Friday
Office CLOSED
- Mar 30 - Easter Sunday
- Apr 5 - HCTC Annual Meeting

HCTC Annual Meeting

Friday, April 5, 2024

Dinner: 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Provided by Jim McPeak

Business Meeting: 7 p.m.

Hamilton County Sr. High
School Commons Area -
McLeansboro



Five Year Work Anniversary

Congratulations to Katie Webb on celebrating five years with the Co-op on February 22nd. Katie is on our customer service team and does a great job! Thank you, Katie, for your continued dedication to our organization.



Co-op Connection

March 2024

Board of Director Announcement:

At this time, we are already underway planning for our 2024 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on April 5 at the Hamilton County Senior High School Commons Area in McLeansboro. This year the Belle Prairie (648) and Macedonia (728) exchanges will be up for Director Elections.

Although the nominees as candidates are selected by nominating committees from each exchange, 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 10% or 15 certified members, 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 15th to file your certified petition with the Co-op for your name to be placed on the ballot at the annual meeting. The deadline has passed to have your name printed in the Annual Meeting booklet.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in 2024!



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 the 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.



Call before you dig
It's a free service

JULIE = Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators

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

WIN \$15 OFF YOUR BILL!

Complete the following questionnaire, cut out this section and mail the completed form by March 10, 2024. 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 day is our office closed in March? _____
3. What is the deadline to file a petition for a director position? _____
4. Will you be attending our annual meeting? Yes No

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Congratulations to February's winners: Robert Holsey and Frank & Catherine Ferrari.
They each received \$15 off their bill.

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