



Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

March 2025

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.

Let us help you with Managed Wi-Fi! We can easily diagnose and manage your Wi-Fi network, saving you time and hassle!

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 14, 2025. 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 4 - Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday
- Mar 5 - Ash Wednesday
- Mar 9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day 🍀
- Mar 20 - Spring Begins
- Apr 4 - HCTC Annual Meeting

HCTC Annual Meeting

Friday, April 4, 2025

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

New Directory Listing:

Dwight Kiefer 736-3985

Misti Bradley 728-4598

*Welcome to Hamilton County
Telephone Co-op!*

Pay your bill online:

<https://hcc.smarthub.coop>

Pay your bill by phone:

1-855-386-9912

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Board of Director Announcement:

At this time, we are already underway planning for our 2025 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on April 4 at the Hamilton County Senior High School Commons Area in McLeansboro. This year the Belle Rive (756) and Blairsville (757) 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 2025!



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, 2025. 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. When does Daylight Savings Time begin? _____
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: Joe & Carolyn Rockett and Rachel Voss.

They each received \$15 off their bill.

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