



Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

March 2020

From the Manager's Desk

We recently had a visit from the USDA Illinois State Director Douglas Wilson. On February 14th, Director Wilson made the public announcement on behalf of the USDA Reconnect Program for a grant to help parts of Hamilton County that currently could not get broadband speeds of at least 10 down and 1 up. The award amount for the co-op was approximately 3.4 million.

We submitted an application for this grant through the Reconnect Grant Program from the USDA in May of 2019. This grant was made possible by Congress and the Trump Administration to help build modern infrastructure and bring high speed broadband to rural areas lacking adequate service.


This came at a great time, especially when we have been denied the funding once allocated to build a modern fiber network completely for all of our exchanges. This grant is designed for specific areas that meet the grant requirements. However, infrastructure required outside of these areas to facilitate that service will also permit locations along the path access to that higher speed of service too.

We thank the USDA for providing this great opportunity to help serve the most needed in our rural area, just like they did when the co-op first started back in the 50's. More information on the projects will be provided as it becomes available.

Sincerely & God Bless

Kevin Pyle
General Manager/Executive Vice-President

Calendar of Events:

- Mar 8 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day 
- Mar 19 - Spring Begins
- Apr 3 - HCTC Annual Meeting

HCTC Annual Meeting

Friday, April 3, 2020

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

Business Meeting: 7 p.m.

Hamilton County Sr. High
School Gym - McLeansboro





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Board of Director Announcement:

The Annual Meeting will be held on FRIDAY, April 3, 2020 at the Hamilton County Senior High School Gym in McLeansboro. This year Broughton (647), Dahlgren (736) and Dale (773) exchanges will be up for Director Elections.

According to the HCTC By-laws, the nominating committees for Broughton (647), Dahlgren (736) and Dale (773) exchanges were selected, met, and have chosen candidates in their respective exchanges. Although the nominees have been selected, the by-laws also allows 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 15 certified members or 10%, 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 15** to file your certified petition with the Co-op for your name to be placed on the ballot at the annual meeting. The deadline to get your name printed in the annual meeting booklet has passed. We look forward to seeing all members at the Annual Meeting.

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

JULIE stands for Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators.



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

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 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.

Pay your bill by phone:

1-855-386-9912

Pay your bill online:

<https://hcc.smarthub.coop>

WIN \$15 OFF YOUR BILL!

1. What number do you call before digging? _____
2. What number can you call to pay your bill over the phone? _____
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: David L & June Rubenacker and Irma Karcher.
They each received \$15 off their bill.

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