

photo by
Joann Ellis

RINGER

JANUARY 2019



HAPPY *New* YEAR!

CHANGING LIVES.
MAKING CONNECTIONS.

Ray Chamber Christmas Open House



NCC Employees (L to R): Taryn Bergstrom,
Jen Bingeman and Dina Edwards

NCC's Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Project to Wrap up in 2019

This year's FTTH construction season, once complete will conclude the 12-year project to completely re-build the network with fiber optics. Plans include the Flaxton and Lignite exchanges, Powers Lake town and Wildrose town. Customers in the rural areas of Powers Lake and Wildrose exchanges have previously been cutover to fiber optics. At the completion of it, NCC service area will be 100% fiber.

Easements for the 2019 projects have been mailed to landowners. We will continue to work with landowners to get them signed so that the projects are not delayed and contractors can get to work right away this spring. We anticipate construction to begin this spring and summer, with cutovers starting this fall. All customers involved should have just recently received a packet of information. The contractor hired for the project, Ernst Trenching or one of their sub-contractors will be contacting subscribers to schedule and complete a pre-installation, which is done before construction in hopes that we can better accommodate customer requests for where the fiber is plowed and enters your home/ business. Please keep an eye out for Open Houses to be scheduled with a short presentation about the projects in your area. Other updates are:

Crosby town: Construction of main line is complete and contractors are working to finish up this project, which we were unsure would be able to finish before freeze up. Splicing and testing will need to happen before the cutovers can begin which is tentatively scheduled to begin late March/early April.

Bowbells: Construction of the main line is complete. Splicing has finished up and cutover installations will soon begin to all premises which were plowed to and received a fiber drop this past fall. Packets of information will soon be mailed to customers involved in this project. Cutover to the new fiber optics network at each individual home and business is expected to begin late January/early February.

Ray town: Cutovers at individual premises is well underway. NCC technicians continue to work to get services at customer homes and businesses completed as soon as possible. If you have not called our office to place your order, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you to all landowners and customers for your cooperation during this years construction season! If you have any issues with any of the construction completed, please contact our office as soon as you are aware of the issue. NCC employees are working very hard to ensure the entire network is future proofed so that members may enjoy advanced technology services.



New Listings

CROSBY

Parry Breanna965-8228

GREMORA

Wood Antoniette.....694-5569

POWERS LAKE

Anderson Adrian.....464-6748

TIOGA

Michael Fifer.....664-4931

Retransmission Agreements for Local Networks & Increased Programming Fees Result in Annual TV Rate Increase

- Due to increase in content and retransmission agreement costs, NCC TV customers will see a rate increase to all TV packages effective January 1, 2019 as follows:

RF Cable TV:

Economy \$44.49/mo.

Basic \$87.54/mo.

Expanded \$116.49/mo.

Advanced TV:

Economy \$44.49/mo.

Basic \$90.55/mo.

Expanded \$116.49/mo.

This amount is a combination of the TV package price and the Local Broadcast Fee on your monthly bill from NCC.

- Starz/Encore Premium Package goes to \$11.00 and Showtime Premium Package is \$15.00/mo.
- Multi Dwelling Unit subscribers will see an additional \$1.00/mo./unit.

How are TV package prices determined?

NCC pays each network a monthly fee per subscriber for their channel(s). Networks raise their fees annually and many networks that were previously free or low cost are now charging high rates. Also, higher retransmission fees demanded by local broadcasters have increased significantly since 2012. The local networks (ABC, NBC, CBS and/or FOX) have also forced us to carry other channels in conjunction with their local channel, adding even more fees for channels that may not be requested by customers. While content providers and broadcasters' demands are challenging, NCC continues to fight to bring you quality TV at affordable prices.

We look forward to serving you.



Go Green!

NCC's online customer portal
800-245-5884 • www.nccray.com



Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, "universal service" means basic telephone service that is available to all consumers.

Universal service is voice grade access to the telecommunications network, including local usage, touch-tone calling, single-party service, access to emergency 911 service, access to operator service, and discounted services to qualifying low-income consumers. All of these services are available from Northwest Communications Cooperative in these areas: Alamo, Bowbells, Columbus, Crosby, Epping, Flaxton, Grenora, Lignite, Marmon, McGregor, Noonan, Powers Lake, Ray, Round Prairie, Tioga, and Wildrose.

Monthly charges for these universal services are:

Basic local resident service:	\$22.46 - \$24.50
(Charges vary depending on extended area service (EAS) to designated service areas)	
Touch-tone Service	No additional charge
Single Party Service	No additional charge
Access to emergency service:	No additional charge
(Local government assesses a tax to pay for special equipment)	
Access to operator services:	No additional charge
(Charges for services vary and are determined by the long distance carrier you have chosen that provides your operator service.)	
Access to directory assistance:	No additional charge
(Charges for services provided by Directory Assistance vary and are determined by the long distance carrier that provides the service.)	

Low-income Programs:

Lifeline (low-income) monthly discount	\$9.25/mo. discount
(Toll blocking to prevent long distance calls from your phone, available at no charge to qualifying low-income consumers)	

Fixed Federal, State and Local Prescribed Charges:

Federal Subscriber Line Charge:	
Residential & Single-Line Business	\$6.50
Multi Line Business	\$9.20
Federal Universal Service Charge:	
Single User Residential	\$1.30
Single User Business	\$1.90
Multi Line Business	\$2.44
Access Recovery Charge:	
Single Line Business	\$1.50
Multi Line Business	\$3.00
Telecommunications Relay Service	\$0.04
911 -Emergency Services	\$1.50 - \$2.00

If you have Universal Services questions, please call NCC 568-3331.

Report Trouble: 611

Email: ncc@nccray.com

Ph: 701-568-3331 or 800-245-5884

Directory Assistance: 411

Call Before You Dig: 811

Newsletter Editor: Angela Schepp

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Business Hours: M-F 8am to 5pm.

NCC Message Center will take calls outside of these hours.

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