

From the Manager's Desk

Well it looks like we made it through 2011.

As stated at the last annual meeting, we are looking to build a new foundation. We were able to lay a few of the key cornerstones necessary for the technologies of the future. One project that we made a lot of progress on was our migration to a new soft switch. The Softswitch is a new switching technology that allows us the ability to move to an IP world for voice calls. Although we were able to complete most of the central office wire work and migration from the old switch, there is still some work yet to be done. Our completion target for this project is early 2012.

Another cornerstone we started was upgrading our transport equipment to be able to keep up with the demand of bandwidth. This also included a project that was started in 2010 in which we partnered with other Illinois telephone companies to create a backbone fiber network. This gave us the ability to increase your speeds last January while being able to hold the price.

As always, we installed more fiber cable into our network this past year. Our work installing fiber will be continuous until we have reached your door step.

The landline fiber supports the capability to high bandwidth connections for today's technologies, such as video and internet applications. Which reminds me...we are getting close to providing a new type of TV. A TV service that runs on the telephone lines, this TV is the future. What is it you ask? It is "FUTIVA" TV. (fuu-tee-vah) "Futiva" is the future of Internet, the future of "video" and the future of accessing the world in a different way. We have spent the last part of 2011 installing new equipment at our office to provide this new service, which we will be launching very soon. There will be some changes as the old system goes away, technology will change to IP (Internet Protocol). You can still use your old TV, but with FutivaTV you can record your favorite programs and also watch high definition programming (where available). Although this service will not be available to everyone at the beginning, we will work toward providing this service to everyone who wishes to have it. If you are interested please contact our office. If our current television service is not available in your area, please put your name on the waiting list. This will help us in planning to provide you this service as soon as it becomes available.

 Hamilton County
Telephone Co-op

618-736-2211
Fax: 618-736-2616
Mon - Fri / 7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Do you wonder why we are going to all this trouble?

This year has not only been about equipment, cable or even new services. We have also been working hard for your co-op continued success as every year more folks disconnect from the traditional landline and move to a mobile phone. Also we are now faced with reduced support from USF/ICC which is what a rural carrier relies upon to make them whole.

The world is changing and we have to change too. We are at a threshold in history not unlike the forefathers of the co-op who wanted to provide the best communications. We too must decide to bring the best in the next generation of services. Communications, as you know, has changed from dial tone to internet. Technology that allows someone to attend classes on line, work from home, communicate on Facebook, send emails, pay bills and have the ability to monitor your property when you are away. New things are being thought of everyday and who knows what they will think of tomorrow...

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and we wish you the best for 2012 and beyond. We appreciate you, our members, for your support of the co-op.

Sincerely & God Bless,
Kevin Pyle
General Manager

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Kevin Pyle
Executive Vice President &
General Manager

Board of Directors:

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J.C. Pool

648 Exchange

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*Congratulations to Mindi Kolts on five years of service with HCTC.
She provides customer service and serves as our marketing representative.*

NEW DIRECTORY LISTINGS:

Roger Allen	648-2290
Justin & Cindy Billington	757-2525
T.J. Burnett	756-2508
Matthew Clevenger	773-4279
Chad Roberson	773-4474
Mike Webber	736-2572

January Events:

January 1 - New Year's Day
(Office will be CLOSED Jan 2)
January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(HCTC office is OPEN)

Capital Credit Checks:

Capital Credit Refund checks were mailed out on December 15, 2011. If you had telephone service in 1998 and have not received your refund check, please note that typically we wait until February to reissue lost checks.

Also, if your marital status has changed or a member on the account is deceased, proper documentation needs to be provided in order for us to update our records. Contact our office for more details.



www.growillinois.net



Last month's winners were: Donald Harrawood, Carol Werntz, and Irma Karcher.

Always remember to check out our website for the latest information, news and alerts.

www.hamiltoncom.net