



EAST BUCHANAN TELEPHONE COOP & COUNTY LINE FIBER

August 2026 Newsletter

FIBER PROJECTS UPDATE

Our 2026 fiber expansion projects are moving ahead quickly thanks to our new fiber contractor. The Rowley-Walker grant project, including homes northeast of Monti, is nearly complete, with fiber splicing now underway.

Service to more than 100 farms and homes will begin soon. Residents in the project area are encouraged to complete a service application online to help speed up installation. We will notify homeowners when testing is completed and they're ready for installation.

Construction is also progressing well in West Oelwein, with the project expected to be ready for fiber splicing by late-August. And near Lamont, crews have already begun installing fiber along Julie rural roadways, and the first Lamont town customers are expected to receive service in early October.

These projects are part of our ongoing commitment to deliver faster, more reliable Internet service to rural Iowa while supporting the long-term growth of EBTC and County Line Fiber.

NO NEED FOR BUFFERING

In our May newsletter, we shared exciting news about upgraded speeds for our Lifeline and Basic Internet plans, along with the introduction of our new 2 Gig (2,000 Mbps) service. We've received positive feedback from customers and are pleased that so many are enjoying the enhanced performance and value these upgrades provide.

It's hard to believe, but back-to-school season and fall sports are already here. With the average U.S. household now connected to over 17 devices, including computers, tablets, smartphones, gaming systems, smart TVs, security cameras, and smart home devices, Internet demand continues to grow. If your family has experienced buffering, lagging, or slowdowns when multiple devices are online at the same time, it may be a great opportunity to upgrade to a faster Internet package.

Contact us today to take advantage of a free one-week trial of the next higher speed plan and experience the difference for yourself.

Starlink

Starlink satellite Internet continues to receive plenty of attention nationally due to its owner, but satellite service still falls short of the speed, reliability, and consistency that fiber Internet provides. A June 11th Washington Post article highlighted recent Starlink price increases, including one rural customer facing a 44% rate hike and another who was notified that his monthly bill would more than double.

One customer, a former Nebraska state senator and attorney, summed it up well: "Fiber would offer a far more stable alternative. I would switch to fiber tomorrow if it was offered." We couldn't agree more. Fiber remains the gold standard for dependable, future-ready Internet service.

TMO-USCC Merger

Since T-Mobile's acquisition of U.S. Cellular, we have received reports from some customers experiencing weaker cell coverage and performance, including users of wireless home Internet services. While we are not involved in the operation of cellular networks, we do know that fiber remains the backbone that supports them. In fact, when you make a wireless call, the connection is only wireless between your device and the nearest cell tower. From there, the call travels over fiber optic networks, including fiber connections EBTC provides to many area towers, before going out to the world and reaching its destination.

It's a good reminder that even wireless technology depends on a strong fiber infrastructure. As the saying goes: Wireless needs wires!

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Fiber Projects Update
- No Need for Buffering
- Wireless Service
- Board of Directors Nominations
- What Internet Speed Do You Need
- Payment Processing Change
- Thank You
- August Anniversary
- Back to School
- Recipe
- 3 Names: Sally, Julie & Martha

Board of Directors Nominations

The bylaws of East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative approved at the December 2020 Annual Meeting, to provide for a sixty day period whereby cooperative members may nominate other members or they may nominate themselves to run in the Board election at the Annual Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2026. This sixty day nomination period begins on August 15 and will end on October 15, 2026. If no nominations are received by October 15th, the Board nomination committee will then seek members to run in the board election.

All 3 Incumbent Board members have chosen to run for re-election, therefore, the Sally bylaws allow for only one nomination per that exchange area. The incumbent board members running for re-election and another 3 year term are:

Winthrop Exchange --Daniel Cocking
Quasqueton Exchange - Eldon Baragary
Aurora/Stamley Exchange -- Colin Koch

Again, it is important to note that the bylaws provide for only the first nomination received from a cooperative member in each exchange area be accepted to run in the board election.

Nominations will be accepted via phone 319-935-3011 or via mail sent to PO Box 100, Winthrop IA 50682 anytime after August 15, 2026. Only cooperative members can be nominated and are eligible to vote in the election. Please contact East Buchanan Telephone Office with any questions.

LIFELINE PLAN	BASIC PLAN	FAST PLAN	FASTEST PLAN	2-GIG MAX PLAN
\$49.95 /month	\$84.95 /month	\$114.95 /month	\$154.95 /month	\$249.95 /month
25 Mbps	200 Mbps	500 Mbps	1000 Mbps	2000 Mbps

What Internet Speed Do You Need?

Choose the plan that fits your home—not just the biggest speed available. While competitors prices are on the rise, EBTC prices have stayed the same since 2021!

- 25 Mbps: 1-5 Devices Email • Browsing • Social Media • Light Streaming
- 200 Mbps: 5-15 Devices Streaming • Video Calls • Gaming • Most Families
- 500 Mbps: 15-25 Devices Multiple Streams • Remote Work • Smart Home Devices
- 1 Gig: 25-50 Devices Heavy Gaming • Content Creation • Large Downloads
- 2 Gig: 50+ Devices Power Users • Home Businesses • Advanced Smart Homes

Did You Know?

Many households find that 200 Mbps or 500 Mbps provides plenty of speed for streaming, working from home, gaming, and connecting multiple devices—without paying for more speed than they need.

Need help choosing a plan? East Buchanan Telephone/County Line Fiber can help you find the best fit for your home and budget. Call: 319-935-3011 or 319-283-1188 Fast • Reliable • Local

IMPORTANT UPDATE

TO OUR ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL

We are updating our online payment portal to **Paymentus**

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 4TH
The new Paymentus portal will go live on August 4th.

NEW LOGIN
You will need to set up a new login to the Paymentus portal.

PAYMENT FEE
Payment transactions will now be **\$3.25** online.

Important Billing Update

We are upgrading our payment system to Paymentus!

As part of this transition, customers who use automatic payments must update their payment information in the new portal.

While you're updating your account, we encourage you to consider switching to ACH/Bank Draft payments. ACH payments are a secure, convenient way to pay your bill each month and can help you avoid the additional \$3.25 processing fees often associated with credit and debit card transactions.

- ✓ Secure and reliable
- ✓ Automatic monthly payments
- ✓ No need to update expired cards
- ✓ Potential savings on processing fees

To update your payment method or enroll in ACH payments, contact our office at 319-935-3011 for assistance.

We're committed to providing an easy, convenient billing experience along with the fast, reliable internet you depend on.

THANK YOU!



From installing new fiber services and maintaining our network to answering your calls and providing friendly customer support, our team works hard every day to keep our community connected. We're more than just an internet provider—we're your neighbors, and we're proud to serve the communities we call home.

Thank you for trusting us with your internet service. We appreciate every customer and look forward to continuing to provide the reliable, local service you deserve.

Local people. Local service. Reliable connections.

August Employee Anniversary



5 YEARS DREW FANGMAN



Go back to school with fast, reliable internet that can handle the load & is ready for the fall school sports season! Contact us at 319-935-3011 or 319-283-1188



Mom's Zucchini Bread



INGREDIENTS:

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
3 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon cloves
3 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
2 1/4 cups white sugar
3 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups grated zucchini
1 cup chopped walnuts

DIRECTIONS:

- Grease and flour two 8 x 4 inch pans. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
- Sift flour, salt, baking powder, soda, cloves, and cinnamon together in a bowl.
- Beat eggs, oil, vanilla, and sugar together in a large bowl. Add sifted ingredients to the creamed mixture, and beat well. Stir in zucchini and nuts until well combined. Pour batter into prepared pans.
- Bake for 40 to 60 minutes, or until tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan on rack for 20 minutes. Remove bread from pan, and completely cool