

Happy Mother's Day

NEWSLETTER

# Teleconnections

May 2020

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(542-3263)

**With the uncertainty of COVID-19, we are more than happy to help assist you as much as possible over the phone and remotely during this time. The office lobby is temporarily closed. We have the privilege and responsibility to provide an essential service our communities rely on and will continue to do so to the best of our ability.**

## COVID-19 Stay At Home Impacts

Well 2020 is shaping up to be one to remember. High School and college graduates alike would prefer to have sporting events, special celebrations and graduation ceremonies as fond memories. Instead 2020 is the year that wasn't. Many colleges have moved forward with all online learning and many area school districts have struggled with what online learning even looks like.

With Governor Reynolds recommending schools and non-essential businesses stay closed and residents stay home, local teachers and students transition to learning at home among many others moving their office spaces to dining room tables. Even as the school year comes to a close in the next few weeks the future still looks a bit uncertain.

What is the one consistent take-away from this situation? Broadband. How essential Internet is to everyone. Across the nation people are relying on their Wifi as devices throughout their home connect to the Internet for ordering supplies, online learning, working from home and simply communicating with friends, family and colleagues. WCCTA continues to maintain, evolve and grow our Fiber network to ensure our customers stay connected.

*Congratulations Area Graduates!*

## Construction Continues

Fiber construction continues in Calhoun County as Central Cable Contractors have finished up with major construction in Lohrville. They are now plowing Fiber in Manson. We are collecting permits to plow to locations within the city of Rockwell City. These communities are being plowed the first time for free so be sure to tell your friends and neighbors!



## Battery Back Ups

Fiber communications is dependent on commercial power.

If your electricity goes out so does your communications service! At WCCTA we do everything possible to keep customers connected whether the outage is a few minutes or a few hours:

- Underground facilities
- Redundant Networks
- Backup Batteries at Central Offices
- Generators for WCCTA Locations
- Local Employees
- Backup Batteries at End User Locations

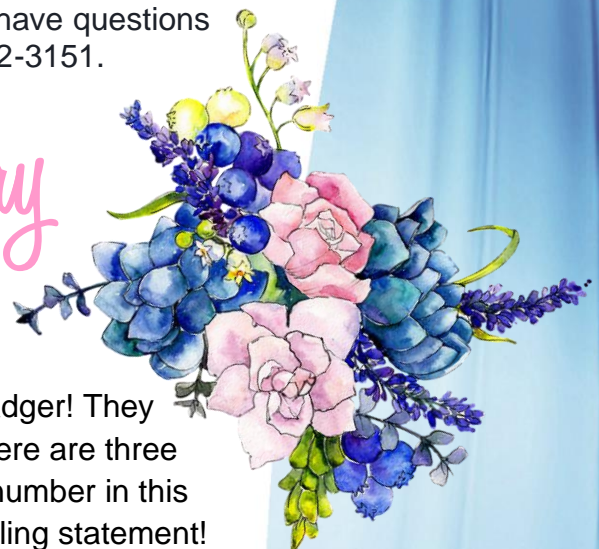
Your battery backup device must always be plugged into an electrical outlet to continually provide power to your telephone network. The indicators should always show green. Battery backup units are available (8 hour or 24 hour) for purchase from WCCTA.

## Spring Storm Season

Spring storms can wreak havoc in our communities, bringing with them lightning, heavy rain, and high winds. In some cases, this can lead to flooding and power outages. The good news is that with a little preparation, you'll be equipped to weather spring storms more successfully:

- Remember, a lightning bolt can carry billions of watts of electricity. If a strike would occur near your home, its powerful surge could damage your electronics and potentially injure you. To reduce your risk, unplug your computers, televisions, routers, and other wired electronics before bad weather hits.
- It's a smart idea to back up your computer files to online storage or a remote site. That way, if flooding or a tornado happens at your home and your hard drive is damaged, your data will still be safe and accessible.
- Conserve the battery on electronics like mobile phones and tablets. Remember the wireless router in your home and other equipment is powered by electricity, too! This could affect how you receive a wireless signal from your router or cellular provider even though your devices are mobile.
- On a fiber based network your battery back up (supplied by WCCTA) is important. During a power outage the network automatically conserves battery life by limiting your connection to voice only (if you subscribe to voice service.) If you have questions about your backup battery please contact the WCCTA office at 352-3151.

*Happy Mother's Day*



## Newsletter Contest

Congratulations to David Walsh in Clare and Elizabeth Lund in Badger! They found their phone number hidden in the newsletter last month! There are three hidden in this newsletter. Can you find them? Find YOUR phone number in this newsletter and contact our office to win a \$10.00 credit on your billing statement!