



# Connections

**Beresford Municipal Telephone, Internet & Cable TV**

## February 2020

### FTTH Update

The Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project is moving right along! The City Council approved the low bid for the outside plant construction of the project at their January 15, 2020 meeting. Also during this meeting, approval was given to advertise for bids for the access electronics. Outside plant construction is expected to begin in April, with October being the substantially complete timeframe (all weather permitting). Final cutover of the FTTH project is estimated for the first quarter of 2021.

Now we need your input. We are currently in the process of contacting all residents/property owners in Beresford to schedule a time to conduct a Site Survey on your property. The Site Surveys will be conducted by either our engineers, FARR Technologies, or by BMTC employees. At the survey site, we will review the area outside the building, noting things such as dog fencing, irrigation systems, decks, etc., in order to construct a plan for the fiber to be buried up to your building. We will also review the inside of the building/home to determine where the ONT (the electronics for the phone & Internet) will be located. We will work with you to determine both of these locations.

We will be calling you soon to schedule the Site Survey (we may not have your contact number in our records, so if you don't hear from us soon, please give us a call to schedule a site survey at your location). If you have any questions or would like to schedule a Site Survey, please call Beth at 763-2500 Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

### Cable TV Rate Increase

Due to increases from local broadcast stations, the Local Retransmission Fee on your Beresford Cable bill will increase this month. This fee is a charge that local programmers bill to Beresford Cable to retransmit the local programming to our customers & which is directly passed on to our customers. Local broadcast channels are free over the air with an antenna; however, local stations charge cable operators such as Beresford Cable high fees to retransmit their local channels. We work hard negotiating with the programmers on an annual basis to achieve the lowest rate possible, but can't totally avoid an increase. Beginning February 1st, the Local Retransmission Fee will increase by \$2.70. This, in turn, will increase the Tier 1 rate to \$35.25 per month.

There will also be a rate increase in the Tier 2 package, due to satellite programming increases, which, unfortunately, we are also forced to pass on to our customers. Only eight mega-corporations own or control nearly 90% of the channels you receive, and they continue to use their size & power to demand more money every year. We work with a national cooperative of TV providers who negotiate fees and programming on our behalf to try to keep costs under control as much as possible. This increase will change the Tier 2 total cost to \$70.75/month (increase of \$4.60).

Please be assured that Beresford Cablevision has made every effort to negotiate the best price possible for our customers. As always, we are grateful for your business and look forward to continuing to serve you in the years to come.

*The 2020 BMTC Telephone Directories will be available in mid-February. If you have telephone service with us, you will receive 1 book in the mail at no charge. If you would like additional books, there will be a \$2.50 charge per book. You may pick them up at City Hall or Beresford Telephone's office at 120 E. Main Street.*



Here at Beresford Telephone, Internet & Cable, we know the world of technology is constantly changing. That technology affects all our services on a daily basis - telephone, Internet and cable TV. Below you will find an outline of the many options available to you relating to telephone, Internet and cable TV/video, and how BMTC can assist you in getting the services that are right for your family.

**Cable TV:** As we have since 1982, **Beresford Cablevision provides cable TV programming** with a variety of options to fit your needs. We have analog cable which includes Tier 1 (local channels), Tier 2 (expanded basic), and HBO & Showtime. From there you can move up to digital cable with the installation of a DVR & additional programming. A DVR is great for recording and watching shows on your schedule. You can fast forward through commercials on recorded shows, rewind & pause programming, and the DVR includes a comprehensive TV Guide/Listing. And recently, we've enhanced the video quality of 16 standard definition channels into high definition and added them to the Digital HD Packages.

**Outdoor Antenna:** As stated on page 1, local broadcast channels are free over the air with an antenna. If you are interested in receiving just the local channels, this may be the option for you! **Beresford Cablevision can install an antenna on the outside of your house**, enabling you to receive local channels without a monthly fee. There is a one-time charge to install the antenna, but no monthly fee from Beresford Cablevision after the installation.

**Streaming Video:** There are multiple ways to stream video. You can purchase a Smart TV that offers Internet connectivity and support for a range of streaming apps. Most smart TVs support such popular streaming services as Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime Video. However, some sets offer only a handful of apps that rarely change, while other models deliver several screens of offerings. As smart TVs have become more popular, the number of dedicated streaming apps has also grown. 763-5625

If you don't have a Smart TV, you can purchase a streaming device to attach to your TV such as a Roku, Amazon Fire Stick, Apple TV, Google Chromecast, to name just a few. You will need Internet service to be able to stream video, whether you have a smart TV or are using another type of streaming device. There is not a monthly fee for the streaming device, but most streaming services will charge a monthly fee. There are a few streaming services that now offer local channels, so do your research on different services to see what they offer. Also, keep in mind that depending on how much streaming you plan to do, you may need to consider increasing your Internet speed package. **BMTC can help you set up your streaming device and get you on the road to streaming your favorite programs.**

**Internet Service:** BMTC provides high-speed Internet service to the residents of the City of Beresford with available speeds of 10/1, 20/2, 30/5, 50/10 and 70/10 (all speeds not available in all areas). Once the FTTH project is complete, even higher speeds will be available to 100% of the homes & businesses in Beresford. **Broadband Only** service is also now available to our customers, which is Internet service only and does not require the purchase of telephone service.

**Telephone Service:** BMTC has provided residential & commercial telephone service to the City of Beresford since 1924. There have been many changes in the last 96 years but our dedication to providing our customers a quality product and exceptional customer service hasn't changed!

*Give us a call at 763-2500 for all your Cable TV/Video, Telephone & Internet questions,  
or stop in our office at 120 E. Main Street.!*

### Find Your Number for a Bill Credit!

Find your phone, Internet or cable number somewhere in our newsletter & win a \$10 credit on your next bill! We have hidden randomly selected numbers of two customers somewhere in this newsletter. It could be anywhere - in the middle of a sentence, in the border, in a title- you'll have to look carefully! If you find your number, call our office at 763-2500 by February 21st to verify & we'll add a \$10.00 credit on your next bill.



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