



# Connections

Beresford Municipal Telephone, Internet & Cable TV

**April 2021**

## Changing of the Guard

Congratulations to **Todd Hansen** on his retirement that was effective March 19th! Todd began his career at BMTC in July 1994, spending the last 17 years as General Manager. During Todd's term as GM, we've had many upgrades in the telephone, Cable TV and Internet services, including the Fiber-to-the-Home project that is nearing completion. He's been a terrific asset to BMTC and will be greatly missed. We wish him nothing but the best as he enjoys a well-earned retirement.

Taking over as BMTC's General Manager is **Austin Hansen**. Austin is a Beresford native & spent his high school summers working at BMTC. After graduating from Mitchell Technical Institute in 2002 with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Telecommunications, he spent 12 years at Long Lines Communications in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. He began his career with BMTC as a Central Office Engineer in 2015. Austin has been very instrumental in the design and coordination of the Fiber-to-the-Home project. We congratulate and welcome him in his new role as GM of BMTC and look forward to more exciting projects in the coming years!

We also want to wish **Tony Laurvick** congratulations on his promotion to Central Office Technician. Tony has been with BMTC since 2018 and has been a great addition to our team!



## Fiber to the Home Update

As we stated in our last Newsletter, we continue the process of contacting customers to schedule appointments to do the final step to convert telephone and Internet services from copper to fiber. Prior to contacting customers, each location has to be tested to ensure it is ready for conversion. We hope to have the conversions completed or close to completion by late June. We will call you as soon as your location is tested and ready for conversion. At that time you can choose to increase your Internet speed or remain with the speed you currently have. Again, we appreciate your patience and support of this project!

## Cable TV Rate Increase

Beresford Cablevision rates will increase effective April 1, 2021. The rate increase is a direct impact of increases Beresford Cablevision receives from local and non-local programmers each year. We do our best to minimize the increases we must pass on to our customers, but the increasing costs of programming imposed on us, and all cable operators, are beyond our control.

The new rates are as follows:

Tier 1/Basic Cable	\$ 38.80	Tier 3/Showtime	\$ 94.00
Tier 2/Expanded Basic	\$ 79.00	Tier 3/HBO	\$ 98.50
Tier 2 Bethesda/Bethesda Inn	\$ 60.55	Tier 4/HBO & Showtime	\$110.50

We don't enjoy raising our cable rates any more than you enjoy paying the higher rates. If the cost of cable TV is becoming too prohibitive for you, there are alternatives such as installing an antenna on your home, or streaming programs over the Internet through your Smart TV or with a streaming device attached to your television. Please give us a call at 763-2500 if you would like information & pricing on antenna installation or Internet rates.

## 10-Digital Dialing is Coming to South Dakota

The FCC recently adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Crisis Lifeline, which will begin July 16, 2022. Until that time, customers must dial 1-800-273-TALK to reach the Lifeline. **In order for 988 to work in our area code, 10-digit dialing must first be implemented, which will change the way you dial local calls.**

**What will be the new dialing procedure?** To complete all local calls, you will now need to dial the area code plus the telephone number. For example, if you are calling a local Beresford number (763, 253, 300, 372, 751, 957), you will need to dial 605-763-XXXX. If you are calling someone outside of the Beresford area, you will dial as you always have by dialing 1 + area code + telephone number.

Even though you are dialing the area code to call a Beresford number, you will not be charged long distance rates. But if you call outside the Beresford area, long distance rates will apply, as they always have.

You can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services). Any 411, 511, 611 or 811 services available in this area can also still be reached by dialing those three-digit codes.

The National Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Crisis Lifeline can still be reached by dialing 1-800-273-TALK. Beginning July 16, 2022, dialing "988" will route your call to the National Suicide Prevention Line.

**When will this change begin?** Beginning April 24, 2021, you should begin dialing 10 digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. If you forget and dial just 7 digits, your call will still be completed.

**The date we must begin using the 10-digit dialing is still pending. We will give you advance notice as soon as we are able.**

If you have any questions regarding this information, please call Beresford Telephone at 605-763-2500. You may also visit the FCC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/suicide-prevention-hotline>.

### New Internet Packages

With the installation of fiber at your home or business, you will now have more options for your Internet speeds. The speeds listed below are available where fiber has been completed into your home or business:

50 Mbps Download/50 Mbps Upload	\$ 65.00
100/100	\$ 90.00
250/250	\$115.00

Please note that you may need to upgrade your router to reach the higher speeds. You may purchase your own router or lease a router with Managed Wi-Fi from BMTC for a monthly fee of \$8.95.

If you would like more information on speeds or routers, please give us a call at 763-2500.

9655-E9L

#### 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 April 19th to verify & we'll add a \$10.00 credit on your next bill.

**Beresford Municipal Telephone,  
Internet & Cablevision  
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Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
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