



# Connections

Beresford Municipal Telephone, Internet & Cable TV

July 2021

## Fiber to the Home Update

We are in the final stages of our FTTH project! We have just a handful of residential telephone and/or Internet customers that still need to be cut over to fiber. If you haven't been contacted, please give us a call as soon as possible. Our copper service will be ending soon so if you haven't been switched to fiber, your services will no longer be operable once that service ends. We are also in the process of contacting businesses to get their services onto fiber. In addition, we are working on getting clean-up done for areas that need grass seed, holes filled, etc. If you have an area that was affected by the fiber construction that still needs clean-up, please give us a call. We appreciate your cooperation and patience, as well as the great feedback we've had on this project. It's been a long haul, but it has definitely been worth the wait. *Thank you! We've said it before and it remains true - BMTC has the BEST customers!!*

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## Robocalls

Don't recognize the number of that incoming call? Chances are you know exactly what they want. It goes something like this... "We've been trying to reach you about your car's extended warranty..." If you've simply stopped answering unfamiliar calls, you're not alone. But you'll soon get some relief. Telecommunications companies such as SDN Communications and its member companies, which includes Beresford Telephone, have spent months implementing solutions to eliminate spam and spoofed robocalls for customers and they're ready to shake things up.

The TRACED Act, or the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, which Senator John Thune co-sponsored and Congress passed in December 2019, aims to stop unwanted robocalls by authenticating legitimate calls and holding bad actors accountable. To do that, service providers (BMTC) must put a Robocall Mitigation Plan in place, get certified as a "Good Actor" and listed in an FCC database, and stop accepting traffic from anyone not on that list by June 30, 2021. SDN has centralized the process for its members. They've chosen a system called STIR/SHAKEN, which has nothing to do with the way James Bond takes his martinis. The massive acronym stands for Secure Telephony Identity Revisited and Signature-based Handling of Asserted Information using toKENS. In essence, the telecom company where a call originates verifies that the caller is an authentic number and passes that information along with the call. Legitimate calls are completed. When a robocall with inauthentic or spoofed data comes through, it's blocked, and the end user doesn't know what they're missing. So, will the TRACED Act completely solve the problem of illegal robocalls? Senator Thune posed that question on the Senate floor the month after the TRACED Act passed and delivered an honest answer. "No," he said. "But it will go a long way toward making it safe to answer your phone again. And it will help ensure that those who exploit vulnerable individuals face punishment for their actions." The goal is to reduce or eliminate the number of robocalls people are receiving. Due to their size, SDN's members qualify for a two-year extension to implement STIR/SHAKEN. But the goal is to have as many member companies as possible configured and 100% compliant with the Act by the June 30, 2021 deadline. BMTC has done our part and filed our "Robocall Mitigation Plan" with the FCC in June.

### Robocalls that DO NOT require your permission:

- > **Messages that are purely informational.** Robocalls about your flight being canceled, reminding you about an appointment, or letting you know about a delayed school opening fall into this category, as long as the caller doesn't also try to sell you something.
- > **Debt collection calls.** A business contacting you to collect a debt can use robocalls to reach you. But robocalls that try to sell you services to reduce your debt are illegal and are almost certainly scams.
- > **Political calls.**
- > **Calls from some health care providers.** This includes a robocall from a pharmacy reminding you to refill a prescription.
- > **Messages from charities.** Charities can make these calls themselves. But if a charity hires someone to make robocalls on its behalf, the robocalls can only go to members of the charity or prior donors. They also must include an automated option to let you stop future calls.

(Portions of the above information taken from [www.sdncommunications.com](http://www.sdncommunications.com).)

### On the Move?

If you are moving to a new home within Beresford, please bring your router with you but leave the new fiber ONT (modem) in the house or apartment where it was installed. The fiber ONT is a small white box about the size of a deck of cards (see picture). Please call our office to schedule an appointment to move your Internet service. With the installation of the new fiber equipment, we now need to come to your new location to ensure that your router is correctly installed and that the ONT is in the home. Please call us at 763-2500 a few days prior to your move so we can arrange a time that works for both you and our technicians. If you are disconnecting and/or moving out of town and own your router, you can take it with you as it is your property. If you are leasing a router from BMTC, please return it to our office at 120 E. Main Street or to City Hall.

Thank you!



Fiber ONT

763-5137

### 10-Digit Dialing Reminder

In our last Newsletter we told you about the FCC's 10-digit dialing mandate. Beginning in October 2021, all South Dakota residents will need to dial the 605 area code for all LOCAL calls. You may begin doing this now, but it will not be mandatory until October. At this time, if you do not dial 605 on your local calls, your call will still go through. When the effective date is determined later this year, it will be mandatory to begin using 10-digit dialing for local calls. More information will be provided as we receive it.

### BMTC New Webpage and TV Guide

Check out our new webpage, [www.mybmtc.net](http://www.mybmtc.net)! We are still providing the same valuable information but now in an updated format. You will also see a link for BMTC TV Guide. On the "Zap2it" TV Guide, you will find a listing of all the cable programming available to our customers. The first time you view the guide, you will need to insert our area code and then choose "Beresford Cablevision - Cable".



### Welcome John!

We are pleased to welcome & introduce the newest member of the BMTC Team, John Ganschow. John and his wife Alisha & 2 children moved to Beresford in the spring of 2020 and quickly fell in love with this community. He is originally from Wakonda, SD, so is no stranger to the area. He is also a member of the Beresford Fire Department and an avid golfer. BMTC is very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated team of employees!

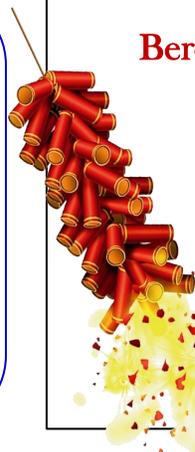


Our office will be closed in honor of the holiday on Monday, July 5th.

### 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 July 20th to verify & we'll add a \$10.00 credit on your next bill.

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