THE INSIDER

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NHTC
Faster, Farther, Better.

is a progressive communications provider serving the Grant, Gurley, New Hope, Owens Cross Roads, and surrounding areas, founded in 1951.

P. O. Box 452
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256-723-4211
nhtc.coop

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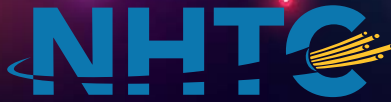# FIBER INTERNET
so fast, it's
SCARY!

Sign up for **2.5 Gig** internet by 12/29 and we will waive the upgrade or installation fee!

$94.99 / mo
Taxes and fees included.
Business Customers + $10/mo

NHTC

Customer Appreciation Day

Friday, October 20 | 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Refreshments served throughout the day. Lunch served beginning at 11 am until gone. Please join us for some food, fun, and fellowship. We hope to see you there!

5415 Main Drive • New Hope, AL

COMMUNITY EVENTS

I Golf Because I Care - Golf Tournamet
Friday, October 13 • 10: 30 a.m.
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail
Visit thecare-center.org to register or contact 256-723-2273

City of New Hope Trunk or Treat
October 31 • 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Gazebo - 5484 Main Drive

Owens Cross Roads Halloween Trick or Treating Drive Thru
October 31 • 5 - 7 p.m.
Owens Cross Roads City Hall - 9032 Hwy 431 S

Grant Christmas on Main
December 1
Main Street Park, Grant
Food & craft vendors contact 256-728-2007 to reserve a booth.

Grant Christmas Parade
December 2 • 1 p.m.

City of Owens Cross Roads Christmas Parade
December 9 • 2 p.m.

City of New Hope Walk-N-The-Trees
Reserve your tree by November 1st
For more information, contact the city clerk at New Hope City Hall- 256-723-2616 ext. 213.

City of New Hope Christmas Parade
December 9t • 6 p.m.
Lineup starts at 5 p.m. at the school

City of New Hope Santa at the Gazebo
Immediately following the parade, bring your camera for photos with Santa at the gazebo.

Looking for local community events? Be sure to check out MacaroniKID for local family fun, activities, giveaways, events, & more! Join for free today!
www.scottsboro.macaronikid.com

Upcoming NHTC Closures

Veterans Day
Friday, November 10

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 23
& Friday, November 24

Christmas
Monday, December 25
& Tuesday, December 26

October: National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a nationally-recognized time to reflect on some of the less pleasant elements of today's cyber-driven world—and how to protect your devices, network, online accounts, assets, and privacy. Your neighbors at NHTC do more than deliver fast, reliable fiber internet to your home. Every day, our team works tirelessly to provide your high-speed internet service as safely and securely as possible.

Our best efforts are only most effective when you take necessary precautions to ensure your online security and protect your privacy, too. So, we believe Cybersecurity Awareness Month is an opportune time to share some of our top tips for keeping your home network and devices secure. We've compiled some cybersecurity measures to help you stay safer online.

1. Create and Use Strong Passwords

As basic and simple as it sounds, we cannot stress enough the need to create strong passwords for your online accounts and devices. But unfortunately, far too many people still use the same passwords from years ago (or longer!).

Hackers and other security breaches have compromised numerous online accounts in recent years. That means the password you named after the dog you had in the early 2000s might be in the hands of someone with bad intentions.

Some of the most effective password creation tips include:
• Using long passwords, preferably at least 8-characters in length.
• Never use personal information such as your name, date of birth, hobbies, or your Social Security Number.
• Use capital letters and vary their placement (i.e., don't just use a capital letter at the beginning of your password, but add at least one capital letter at a random position in your password).
• Add symbols and numbers to the words and letters you choose.
Random passwords are the most secure and well worth the few minutes of your time to generate and memorize.

2. Keep Your Software Updated

Your devices' operating systems and the apps and programs you run are usually consistently monitored for security weaknesses and threats. Their developers stay on top of these concerns and constantly improve them, filling in breaches and gaps and keeping the software and devices stable and robust.

However, your software only gains these benefits if you keep them updated! And unfortunately, far too few of us even check to ensure we are running the latest and most secure versions of the software that runs our devices and programs.

Many devices and programs contain an auto-update feature or will automatically notify you when there is a software update. Take advantage of these features to stay on top of the latest security measures and improvements of each device, app, and program you regularly use.

3. Beware of Phishing Scams

There has been an alarming increase in "phishing" scams. Phishing is different from ordinary hacking because scammers attempt to lure you into providing your personal information directly to them.

Phishing scammers try to get you to enter your password, home address, Social Security Number, or even your bank account information, any one of which could lead to identity theft, online extortion, ransom, or even theft.

Preying particularly on older individuals, who are more accustomed to solicitation and marketing advances, phishing has become more common and sophisticated. It's essential to recognize phishing before and during a phishing attempt.

Signs of phishing scams include:
• Emails or text messages indicating "unusual activity" on your account and then asking you to click on a link and follow the instructions—do NOT click on any such link!
• Messages with a lack of any greeting, or only using portions of your email address, or using "Sir/Madam" instead of your name, or containing an incorrect spelling of your name.
• The email address domain name is misspelled or does not match the company or governmental entity it claims to be.
• Urgent time limitations to "act now" are included in the message, often provoking you to respond within one day or even a matter of hours, which attempts to make you "click" without thinking carefully about whether it is legitimate.
• Poorly written text and content, clearly demonstrating that the message is not a legitimate business or governmental matter.

4. Consider a Network Security Solution

Sometimes, even with the best of intentions, we make mistakes. We accidentally click links that we should not click, or we respond to emails that we should not have responded to. To help prevent human error, you may consider signing up for a network security solution such as NHTC's Enhanced Wi-Fi powered by Plume. Enhanced Wi-Fi offers advanced network protection and parental controls allowing you to control every device in your home and protect your network privacy to keep data secure with built-in detection against malware, spam, phishing, and other threats.

Implementing these tips will help keep you, your family, and your devices, data, and programs safer and more secure. And always use your common sense—if something does not seem or feel right, do not click, or engage. When you use these insights, you can stay safe and productive on NHTC's fast, reliable, secure fiber network.

Thank you for your continued business and support!

RECIPES

Buffalo Chicken Mac & Cheese

INGREDIENTS:
1 (16 oz) package elbow macaroni
1 rotisserie chicken
6 tbsp butter
6 tbsp all-purpose flour
3 cups milk
1 pinch ground black pepper
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
½ cup hot sauce, or more to taste
½ cup crumbled Gorgonzola cheese

INSTRUCTIONS:
Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook macaroni in boiling water, stirring occasionally until tender yet firm to the bite, about 8 minutes. Drain.

Cut wings and legs off rotisserie chicken. Remove skin and bones from wings and legs; chop or shred dark meat into bite-sized pieces.

Melt butter in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Gradually whisk in flour until a thick paste forms. Cook until golden, about 1 minute.

Pour in milk, whisking constantly, until thickened and bubbling, about 5 minutes. Continue to cook and stir until sauce is smooth, about 1 minute more. Reduce heat and season with pepper.

Stir Cheddar and Monterey Jack into the sauce until melted and combined. Stir in hot sauce to the desired level of spiciness. Add Gorgonzola, chicken, and macaroni; mix well to combine.

Serve hot and enjoy!

Toffee

INGREDIENTS
2 cups unsalted butter
2 cups white sugar
¼ tsp salt
2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
1 cup finely chopped almonds

INSTRUCTIONS:
Combine butter, sugar, and salt in a large, heavy-bottomed saucepan over medium heat; stir constantly in one direction until butter is melted, about 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, line a 9x13-inch baking dish with a sheet of parchment paper, letting it overhang two sides of the dish.

Once the butter has melted, stop stirring and bring mixture to a boil. Once boiling, cook, stirring only 2 to 3 times, until it turns a dark amber color and the temperature reaches 285 degrees F (137 degrees C) on a candy thermometer, 20 to 30 minutes.

Immediately pour toffee into the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle chocolate chips on top and let sit until they soften, 1 to 2 minutes. Use a spatula to spread softened chocolate into a thin, even layer. Sprinkle nuts over the chocolate and press down slightly; wearing a plastic bag over your hand will minimize the mess.

Place toffee in the refrigerator until set, about 1 hour.

Lift hardened toffee out of the baking dish with parchment paper. Break into pieces and store in an airtight container.

WE WANT YOUR RECIPES!

Send your recipe(s), a photo of the dish, your name, and a contact number to **theinsider@nhtc.coop**. We'll consider publishing them in upcoming newsletters!