



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

P. O. Box 452
New Hope, AL 35760
256-723-4211
nhtc.coop



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- No Hidden Fees
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\$94^{.99}/mo
Taxes & fees included*

**NO UPGRADE OR
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WHEN YOU SIGN UP BY MARCH 28

*Business customers
+\$10/month

SIGN UP TODAY!

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2024 Scholarship Program

NHTC is currently accepting applications for our Annual Scholarship Program for 2024. With this program, NHTC offers two \$1500 scholarships each year to assist area seniors with college expenses. One scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior from KDS DAR and one to a high school senior from NHHS. Applications will be accepted until April 5, 2024.

Visit nhtc.coop/scholarships for more information.



COMMUNITY EVENTS



“Come As You Are” Faith-based Recovery Support Group Meeting

Each Thursday - Meal at 6 pm, Meeting at 6:30 pm
The Care Center Ministry Building (5414 Main Dr.)
For information, please call our office at 256.723.2273 or contact Amy at amy.parker@thecare-center.org

The CARE Center Donations

Food Pantry - toiletries (i.e. - small bottles of laundry detergent, dish soap, disposable razors, shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, toothbrush/paste, toilet paper.)

Summer Camp - Individually wrapped snacks (no peanuts, please) and bottles of water are needed for our upcoming summer camps. We will host over 300 children across three sites in New Hope, Owens Cross Roads, and Gurley. Please drop off donations at The CARE Center.



GED Classes

Each Monday and Wednesday, 5:30-8:30 pm
The Care Center Ministry Building (5414 Main Dr.)
Please call 256.723.2271 or contact Mrs. Cobb at ouida.cobb@thecare-center.org for more information or show up on a class night.

Tax Preparation: February 1st - April 11th

The CARE Center is partnering with AARP to provide free tax preparation services by appointment only. Please call The CARE Center's Business Office at 256.723.2273 to schedule an appointment.

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



New Years Day
Monday, January 1



Good Friday
Friday, March 29

WHY FIBER INTERNET

is More Reliable in all Weather

Most people know that fiber internet is the fastest available. Its fiber optic technology transfers data at near-light speed, making streaming movies in 4K or sharing bandwidth with your family a breeze.

But did you know fiber is also more reliable than other kinds of internet as well, especially in severe weather? Legacy internet connections (think older systems like cable, DSL, satellite, and wireless that rely on outdated technologies) just cannot compete with fiber's speeds or reliability. Because of their structural differences and even the way they're deployed and installed, those older technologies are far more susceptible to outages due to inclement weather.

At NHTC, we're proud to deliver the fastest, most reliable internet our community can get. Read on to better understand why fiber internet is heads-and-shoulders above other technologies for reliability, and why you can count on it in just about any weather condition.

Fiber Lines Are Buried—and Not Directly Exposed to Weather Threats

Unlike many other kinds of internet, like cable, satellite, DSL, or wireless 5G, our fiber lines are buried beneath the surface of the ground. This means that your fiber connection is hidden away from wind, rain, ice, and other weather impacts.

Fallen trees, which are the bane of telephone and many other exposed powerlines and wires, simply can't touch a buried fiber line. Just think of how gusty winds, thunderstorms or even ice storms can bring down tree limbs (or entire trees) over powerlines, knocking out power, telephone, and — way too

frequently—internet services to tens of thousands of customers at a time!

Because our fiber is installed in the ground, these risks just don't impact customers utilizing our fiber internet. And fiber is far less prone to service disruptions from dramatic fluctuations in cold or hot weather because the ground helps insulate the fiber lines from extreme temperatures.

Fiber Is Not Affected by Electromagnetic Interference

Another significant advantage fiber has over other forms of internet technology is the composition of the materials it uses, which makes it much less susceptible to electromagnetic interference. Electromagnetic interference (often called EMI) occurs when an outside source, anything from a household appliance to nearby construction work, interrupts the normal flow and transmission of electrical signals.

Bad weather can cause EMI, too, especially when lightning strikes wreak havoc on electrical systems. For internet users, EMI can lead to service disruptions, slowdowns, distortions, or even crashes of your internet. And bad weather is the worst time for downtime! No one wants to be stuck at home without the connection they need to check in on loved ones, get weather reports, or keep the kids entertained.

Unlike fiber, cable internet uses coaxial cable, which is comprised of a metal-based (copper) wire. Copper-based coaxial cable can be easily influenced by nearby electromagnetic energy — including some very common sources that are probably in your home! These include mundane household items like microwave ovens, but also nearby power lines and even electrical motors.

Rather than relying on copper wires, fiber optic lines consist of many tiny hairs of thin glass, which transmit internet signal at nearly the speed of light. Thus, because it is composed of glass (rather than metal), fiber internet simply isn't affected by EMI from appliances, power lines, or even the weather like coaxial cable internet is.

Light Is Flexible!

Lastly, fiber's inherent advantages over cable in just about any weather condition stick out for another reason—light is flexible! And that flexibility really matters during all-manner of extreme weather events.

Most people think of downed powerlines and extreme temperatures as the primary causes of weather-based internet problems. But inclement weather can sometimes cause cable lines to bend (i.e., from extreme precipitation or flooding). That crimping harms the copper wiring within and can slow or even stop the flow of internet signal to your home. Not so with fiber!

Fiber optic lines and their many strands of fine glass "hairs" can more easily bend without being crimped or damaged—and without interrupting or preventing the internet signal. The glass materials are so flexible that with fiber, the internet signal literally "goes with the flow"! Thus, unless the fiber connection is physically cut, you shouldn't lose internet signal due to any unforeseen bending of your lines from harsh weather.

From the way it is installed in the ground to the quality of its materials and components, fiber internet is just more reliable in all weather conditions than cable, DSL, satellite or wireless internet. You just can't find a more dependable or faster internet connection than fiber!

RECIPES



Old-Fashioned Potato Soup

INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ cup butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 6 potatoes, peeled & diced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 3 cups water
- 2 tablespoons chicken bouillon powder
- 3 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 3 cups milk
- 1 Tbsp dried parsley
- ¼ Tsp dried thyme
- Black pepper to taste

GARNISH: (optional)

- Crumbled bacon
- Cut green onion or scallions
- Shredded Cheese of your choice
- Sour cream

INSTRUCTIONS:

Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in onion; cook and stir until onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes.

While onions are cooking, place diced potatoes, carrots, water, and chicken bouillon in another pot and bring to a boil. Cook until vegetables are tender, about 10 min. Do not overcook. Season with ground black pepper to taste.

Add flour to cooked onions to make a paste. Cook, stirring constantly, for 2 minutes. Gradually add milk and stir well. Cook over low heat stirring constantly until warm. Add potato and carrot mixture. Stir in parsley and thyme and heat through. Serve hot with garnish options of your choice.



Chocolate-Covered Bacon Strips

INGREDIENTS

- 12 slices thick-cut bacon
- 12 wooden skewers
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 Tbsp vegetable shortening

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Place a baking rack on top of a large baking sheet. Thread each slice of bacon onto a skewer; place skewered bacon on the baking rack.

Cook bacon in the preheated oven until crisp (approximately 20 to 25 minutes). Remove from oven and cool completely. Combine chocolate chips

and shortening in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat in the microwave in 30-second intervals until chocolate is melted and smooth, stirring after each interval.

Coat each side of the skewered bacon with the chocolate mixture using a pastry brush. Place coated bacon on a sheet of waxed paper. Refrigerate until firm, at least 30 minutes. Store in refrigerator until ready to serve.

Topping options – ideas for topping options include finely chopped walnuts, pistachios, toasted coconut, brown sugar, or cayenne pepper. Sprinkle on the topping of your choice while chocolate is still wet.



**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!