



TELEPHONE



TELEVISION



INTERNET



BUSINESS



MANAGER'S MINUTE:

Sprucing Things Up

THROUGHOUT THE PAST SPRING AND SUMMER, employees of your Cooperative have been sprucing things up outside of our office, at our remote cabinets, and the brick structures throughout the county. When you drive by, you will notice nicely trimmed, freshly planted flowers, mulched landscaping around our office, and much-needed cleaning and painting of our brick remote buildings throughout the county. Our Citizens' family of employees made a list of needs and balanced schedules to see these projects through. With a bit of teamwork, elbow grease, and sunny days, they took these tasks on all while balancing their daily responsibilities. Their hard work is sincerely appreciated.

Our fiber project continues... we are happy to say that we are now connecting customers in Little River, Check, Burks Fork, and portions of Pizzaro (pending Parkway permits are delaying a few locations at this time). If you live along any of these or other completed areas, please give us a call so we can put your service order on for installation. Future construction areas consist of Floyd South and Ballard. We are 90% complete with the ACAM

project passing over 9,100 homes and have connected nearly 4,000 customers. My appreciation goes out to our dedicated employees and contractors who have diligently remained on task. **We ARE dedicated to customer service and committed to technology!**

We continue to migrate customers to the new SFN TV Now platform as fiber is completed in areas. For those in the future fiber construction areas, please do not worry. We will NOT shut off your TV service until we can deliver fiber to your home and provide you with the new TV platform. I would also like to say for those who choose not to convert to SFN TV Now, we respect your decision. You are welcome to try other TV options. There are no contracts with SFN TV Now, so you are welcome to connect to the service at any time. Knowing that we anticipate shutting down our TV headend by the end of 2023 gives you time to research other options that suit *your* needs.

I invite you to mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21, 2023, to come to the Citizens Telephone Annual Meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to learn what your

Cooperative is working on, hear future plans, see our progress this year, and mingle with our employees over a delicious meal. Proxies should arrive in your mailbox the first week of October. **If you do not plan to attend, please return them by 5 pm on Thursday, October 19th.** You are welcome to drop them off or mail them with your bill payment. Our door prizes this year include a Roku TV, Blackstone Tabletop Griddle, Cordless Leaf Blower, Amazon Fire Tablet, and two Roku 4K+ Express media players with remote controls.

Our Community Events Committee is hard at work preparing a NEW Halloween Event for your enjoyment. **"Game On -- The Race To Halloween"** will be held inside Citizens' Event Shelter on **Saturday, October 28th from 5 - 8 pm.** Come enjoy the fun with treats and prizes for children 13 and under.

I look forward to seeing you soon. Until then, my door is always open to you.

Sincerely,
Donna Smith
CEO & General Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Citizens Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting

Registration starts at 11 AM. Meeting at 12 PM

*Remember to turn in your proxies by October 19th if you are not coming to the meeting. They can be mailed with your bill payment or dropped off at the main office.

Saturday, October 28, 2023

Halloween Event -

"Game On - The Race To Halloween"

5 PM to 8 PM in the Citizens Event Shelter

10 Ways You Can Reduce Online Tracking

Many online services anonymously track your online activities. For example, e-commerce sites will track activity to recommend products for you to buy or to provide better customer experiences. Other services will track for convenience to use its services across devices. Many services will track activity to sell information or monitor website usability.

Keep in mind that most tracking is harmless, but it can still make you feel uncomfortable. This tracking has become a common part of online interactions. Here are 10 tips to help reduce online tracking.

1. Change Browser Privacy Settings

Websites can control the tracking that takes place, but your browser can affect the process as well. Browsers - including Chrome, Safari, Edge, and Firefox- all have their own settings. You can update your settings to change what cookies are stored on your computer, what kind of cookies are allowed, and what browsing mode you want to use. You can also browse using private browsing mode. Take time to explore your browser settings and adjust them to suit your needs.

2. Clear Browser History and Cookies

Cookies can make browsing and shopping easier. Cookies can include your location, language, preferences, and the time you spend browsing. You can remove cookies using your browser. If you need assistance, make an online search on how to “clear cookies” and include the name of your browser in your search. Most of the time, you can also clear your browsing history when you clear cookies.

3. Change Phone Privacy Settings

You can also be tracked through your services and the apps you use when

on your mobile device. You can change your phone’s privacy settings to turn off personalized ads and advertising identifiers. You can also adjust tracking settings and location controls to limit your location being shared.

4. Change Internet-Connected TV Privacy Settings

Many smart TVs and other streaming devices have privacy settings that you can use to control tracking. To adjust the settings on your TV, do an online search using the name of your device and the words “privacy settings.”

5. Opt Out of Targeted Advertising

Targeted advertising is when personal information is gathered and ads are sent to you that are meant to interest you and relate to you. Some people find this helpful. If you want more privacy, you can opt out of targeted advertising on the browsers that you use on different devices. You can also opt out of target advertising on social media apps. For more information on opting out, you can visit youradchoices.com/control and optout.networkadvertising.org.

6. Opt Out of Sites That Sell Personal Information

Data brokers are services that collect personal information about you from different online sources. They can then sell information to other services that use it for identity verification, fraud detection, credit eligibility, and product marketing. However, if you do not like this process, you can search on optoutprescreen.com for online opt out tools.

7. Use Ad Blockers

One way you can avoid seeing ads in your online activity is to use an ad blocker. Some ad blockers, like the Chrome extension **Adblock Plus**, work well to keep you from seeing unwanted ads. It is important to note that adblockers may not block 100% of ads, and some sites may ask you to unblock ads to use the site.

QUICK TIP: You can use tracker blockers like Privacy Badger (privacybadger.org) to stop internet trackers from gathering personal information.

8. Browse Using Incognito Mode

Incognito Mode is a private browsing method in your browser. It stops temporary data from being captured by your device. This includes cookies, browsing history, and information that you enter into forms. Each browser has a version of incognito mode. Chrome has Incognito Mode. Edge uses InPrivate, in Firefox it’s called Private Browsing, and in Safari it’s called Private. Remember that Incognito Mode is not foolproof.

9. Use a VPN

If you want more privacy than Incognito Mode can provide, you can use a virtual private network (VPN). This will help you secure private data like passwords, banking information, and credit card numbers. It hides your IP address, so your online interactions are essentially invisible. VPNs can be very helpful when you use public Wi-Fi.

10. Use Private Search Engines

Google has become so popular that you may not realize that there are other search engines out there. One example is DuckDuckGo (duckduckgo.com). It offers greater privacy through a search solution that does not track your search history. The company also has a mobile app and browser extension so you can have privacy on all devices.

