

spring 2015

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# THE DCT link

LIFE'S CONNECTIONS DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## SAVE THE DATE! 64th Annual Meeting To Be Held Wednesday, June 10th

Dakota Central Telecommunications' 64th Annual Meeting will be held at the Foster County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, June 10th. The business meeting will be held at 4:30 with a meal served from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Hope to see you on June 10th!



*Computer lab located in the library.*

## Business Spotlight: Carrington City Library

The Carrington City Library isn't just about books. The technology-friendly library is a high-speed wireless Internet hot-spot, computer lab, community gathering place, information center and online card catalog. These are just a few of the many things our city library has to offer. Besides books, of course, Internet access provided by Dakota Central is one of the most important services offered at the library. Not only can users access DCT high-speed Internet for free on their own devices, they are also able to utilize computers, e-readers, printers, scanners, and fax machines – all which require Internet connections. E-readers such as the Nook or Kindle have become increasingly popular, as users are able to check out a device and take it home just like a book.

Library Director Lenore Franchuk says that having Internet access available is necessary to provide a better experience for library users. "Everything requires the Internet now. Even our card catalog is online, which allows users to access the catalog from home," Lenore said. Internet access also enables the City Library to be a part of ND Library2Go, which is an interlibrary loan program. This gives users access to countless eBooks and Audiobooks for all ages.

Not only is the library community-oriented, but it is also very child-focused. They love having young kids visit the library, such as the after-school program (TEAM), and kindergarten



*Librarian Lenore Franchuk*

classes. "We want to make them comfortable here and get them acquainted with how it works," Lenore said. In addition to the activities, games and books available for the kids, they are also able to use the computers to learn more about technology, which is beneficial if they do not have access to the Internet at home.

Another fun thing community members may not know the library has to offer is the community room. The room is available for anyone to rent for events such as showers, parties, or even meetings. Wireless access is available, along with a TV, tables and chairs, and a kitchen area to serve food.

If that isn't enough for you, there will be more technology coming soon! We are excited to announce that we have been working with the library to coordinate technology classes in the computer lab. We both feel classes would be extremely beneficial to the community, as the Internet is a huge part of our daily lives. We are excited to get started, so stay tuned for more information!



# Letter from the General Manager

Keith A. Larson, CEO/GM

TV programming content costs are reviewed annually during the first quarter of each year. We were expecting the increases to be greater than most years, as the local affiliates (ABC, CBS, NBC & FOX) all were up for retransmission negotiations. However, the increases demanded by both the local affiliates and the other content providers were larger than we expected. Four years ago, there was no cost associated with local channels. In 2015, the cost of the local affiliates' content is approximately \$9.00/subscriber/month.

Overall, our content costs went up 19%, or almost \$9.00, over the previous year. In order to at least break even on the content cost increase, it was necessary to pass on the cost to our subscribers beginning April 1. Since we began providing IPTV service in 2004, we have seen our content costs soar 296%. In the early years, we tried to absorb some of the increases in the content costs by not raising our rates. However, since 2007 we have found it necessary to adjust our rates for these increased costs annually. Even with the increase to our subscribers this year, we still have not raised our rates as much as the increased content costs, as our rate to you has been adjusted 221% over the years.

Content providers use numerous tactics to draw more revenue, like requiring cable operators to purchase numerous channels in order to attain their most popular channel. They either will not allow us to take only their most popular channel, or they will price it higher than if we were to take all the channels they offer. In addition to those tying arrangements, the content providers require their channels to be included in the cable operators' most popular TV offering. This makes it extremely difficult to offer optional, less costly offerings with fewer channels.

It is hard to gain any progress through regulatory overview of content costs, as the content providers are well funded and have very large lobbying budgets. Our national association continues to bring this issue up with our regulators and congressional delegations in Washington, DC, but it seems as though there is little momentum for government oversight of the industry.

On a brighter note, the winter has been pretty mild for the most part, and spring should be just around the corner!

*Keith A. Larson*



# Let's Get Busy



# Work I.T.

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## Straight from the Helpdesk... Be Careful What You Share Online

**The copyright cops are really cracking down on copyright infringement committed by consumers.** This includes illegally downloading files like movies, games, or music. We would like to remind our customers to be careful of what they download and/or share online, as it could be illegal. The most common infringement is the illegal file-sharing of copyrighted materials, such as music and videos. Any unacceptable behavior will result in immediate account termination. Therefore, we implement an Acceptable Use Policy, which is a set of rules that restrict the ways in which our network can be used.



In order to reduce the number of infringements, consumers need to be educated on what is unacceptable. According to CNet.com, the Center for Copyright Information has created the "Copyright Alert System" to target consumers downloading illegal content. The purpose of the system is not to arrest or fine these consumers, but to educate them that they are "infringing on protected intellectual copyrights."

For more information about Dakota Central's Acceptable Use Policy, contact us at 652.3184 or [customerservice@daktel.net](mailto:customerservice@daktel.net).

## 4K vs. High Definition

**Need to update your old TV?** The new hype surrounding HDTVs is the new 4K Ultra HD technology.

### WHAT IS 4K UHD?

Let us break it down for you. UHD (Ultra HD) basically means more pixels, meaning higher resolution. Ok, so where does 4K come in? 4K simply describes how many pixels...the images on a 4K TV are around 4,000 pixels wide. So, more pixels = higher resolution = sharper pictures. Clear as 4K, right?

### SHOULD YOU BUY A 4K TV?

That's where things get a little sticky. Remember when HDTVs first came into the game? There was the issue of having an HDTV, but not having High-Definition content playing on it. Same story here. You can have a 4K TV, but if you don't have 4K content playing, it doesn't do you much good. And currently, there is little consumer 4K content available; no TV channels or Blu-ray discs.

Also, in order to see the resolution difference on a 4K TV, you need to be sitting fairly close to the TV. Yes, it sounds strange, but the beauty of 4K is being able to get up close to the screen without the image breaking down. So you may not be willing to re-arrange your living room at the moment. We hear ya!

So, when it comes down to it – the decision is up to you when buying a 4K TV. If you want to be ready to roll when 4K content becomes available, then you definitely should have one. Otherwise, the plain old HDTVs will do for now!

## We Are Expanding Our Fiber Network!

With the help of grant funding from the USDA's Rural Utilities Service, we will be expanding our Fiber Network very soon. We are very excited for the opportunity to bring Fiber-To-The-Home facilities to the rural Jamestown area South of I-94 this spring. Wiring in homes for service will begin in March, with construction beginning in June. We expect services to be up and running by late fall of this year.



## Employee News...

# DCT Welcomes New Employee



**Bryant Stangeland**  
Combination Technician

We would like to welcome Bryant Stangeland to the team! Bryant joined the DCT crew in Jamestown this past December, as a Combination Technician. Originally from Carrington, Bryant lived and worked in Watford City, ND for Reservation Telephone Cooperative for 3 1/2 years, before moving back to the area. Bryant brings experience, hard work, and humor to the table; we are excited to have him on the team!

## Board Nomination Process

**Are you interested in being a candidate for Director on the Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative board?** Following is the nomination process:

A candidate must request an application and petition from the Cooperative by simply contacting one of our offices, then obtain the fifteen signatures of Cooperative members from the same district in which he or she lives – or fifteen signatures at-large for an at-large position. The completed petition must be submitted to the Cooperative no later than April 1. Cooperative members will be informed of the candidates on their May bill. Director elections will be held at the Annual Meeting of Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative on Wednesday, June 10th, 2015.

Cooperative Districts that are up for election are:

### MEDINA EXCHANGE

Currently served by Craig Hoffmann.

Those with a 486 prefix are eligible to run for this exchange.

### WINDSOR EXCHANGE

Currently served by Rodney Suko.

Those with a 763 prefix are eligible to run for this exchange

### GRACE CITY EXCHANGE

Currently served by Kathleen Davis.

Those with a 674 prefix are eligible to run for this exchange.

No nominations from the floor of the annual meeting will be permitted, except in the event that no candidate has been nominated through the petition process.

**To request an application and petition, please call Dakota Central at 952.1000 or 652.3184.**

## We Work Out

**We are striving to stay fit, healthy and happy!**  
Our employees are encouraged to utilize our new



on-site fitness room in order to promote physical wellness within the company. Recently, we have expanded our Carrington

facilities to include a fitness room, which allows our employees to exercise conveniently during breaks or after hours. Making these facilities easy to use helps to keep employees engaged and motivated to exercise regularly.

### THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISING ARE BIG!

Incorporating regular exercise into a routine has been proven to lower stress, improve concentration, enhance creativity, improve mood, and increase time management skills. Physical activity can also be both energizing and tranquilizing during a hectic and stressful work day, not to mention revitalizing, during the gloomy months of winter! We are jumping on the fit bandwagon! Are you?

**SAD THAT YOUR  
WINTER SPORTS  
ARE ALMOST OVER?**

### CHEER UP!

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR BASEBALL,  
TRACK, PROM, CONCERTS, AND  
MORE! STAY TUNED TO CHANNEL 17  
FOR ALL THE ACTION!



# 2015 CHANNEL LINE-UP

## LOCAL BROADCAST CHANNELS

SD	HD	CHANNEL
1		DCT Informational Channel
2		Jamestown Community Channel
3	803	Local Weather Channel
4	804	CBS - KXJB
5	805	NBC - KFJR
6	806	ABC - WDAY
7	807	FOX - KJRR
8	808	ABC - WDAZ
9		DCTV Tutorial Channel
11	811	NBC - KVLV
13	813	PBS - KFME
14		Carrington Community Channel
15		MSN
16		JCTV
17		DCTV17
19		BEK Sports Network
20		BEK Sports Central
21		BEK Sports West
22		ND Senate
23		ND House of Rep.
24		Livestock Auction Channel
105		ME TV - KFJR
108		ME TV - KVLV
116	810	WGN
118		ION
120	845	TBS
132		WDAY DT2

## MAIN CHANNELS

SD	HD	CHANNEL
18		Weather Channel
30	830	ESPN
31	831	ESPN2
32	832	ESPN News
33	829	ESPN U
34		ESPN Classic
36	836	FSN
37		FSN Plus
38	834	BIG 10 Network
100	854	A&E
104	817	ABC Family
112	856	Lifetime
124	852	TNT
128	843	USA
136	819	WE
140	876	Animal Planet
144		Boomerang
148	885	Cartoon Network
150	877	Discovery
154	887	Investigation Discovery
156	878	Destination America
158	886	Discovery Family
160	881	Discovery Science
162	890	Discovery American Heroes
166	870	Disney Channel
168	871	Disney Junior
170	874	Nickelodeon/Nick at Night
174		Teen Nick
178	873	Nick Toons
182	875	Nick Jr.
186	872	Disney XD
190	863	TV Land
194		YOUTOO TV

198	880	TLC
202	857	Hallmark Channel
204	858	Hallmark Movie Channel
206	821	DIY
210	815	Cooking Network
214	814	Food Network
218		Discovery Life
222	822	HGTV
224	818	OWN
226	889	Oxygen
234	891	Esquire
242	816	Travel Channel
246	894	E! Entertainment TV
250	848	TRU TV
258	853	Game Show Network
262	850	Spike TV
266	884	FYI
270	882	History Channel
272	883	H2
276	879	National Geographic
278	862	SYFY
280	865	Turner Classic Movies
282		Chiller
284		Ovation
286	864	AMC
288	867	FX
290	844	Bravo
292	851	Comedy Central
296	866	FX Movie Channel
298	855	Lifetime Movie Network
300		Bloomberg Television
304	827	CNBC
308	823	MSNBC
310	888	Blaze TV
312	828	Fox News
314	824	Fox Business Network
316	825	CNN
320		CNN International
324	826	CNN Headline News
328		C-SPAN
332		C-SPAN 2
336		C-SPAN 3
340	869	BBC America
350	892	CMT
354	899	Great American Country
358	895	MTV
360		MTV Hits
362	896	MTV2
366	897	VH-1
368		VH-1 Classic
370		CMT Pure Country
400	838	FXX
404	835	NFL Network
408	837	Golf Channel
412	841	FOX Sports 1
416		Horse Racing TV
417		TV Games Network
420	842	FOX Sports 2
424	840	Outdoor Channel
428	839	NBC Sports Network
432		Sportsman Channel
436		RFD TV
438		Family Net
450		EWTN

452		PIVOT
454		Inspiration Network
456		Trinity Broadcasting Network
458		3 Angels Broadcasting Network
460		Home Shopping Network
462	820	QVC
464		Jewelry Television
	846	Universal HD
	847	MGM HD
	849	Velocity HD
	859	HDNet Movies
	860	AXS TV HD
	893	Palladia HD

## SPORTS PACKAGE

SD	HD	CHANNEL
39	701	CBS College Sports Network
40		FCS Pacific
41		FCS Central
42		FCS Atlantic
45		SEC Network
401		GOL TV
405	702	NFL Redzone
417		TVG
426	704	World Fishing Net.

## MOVIE CHANNELS

SD	HD	CHANNEL
500	600	HBO East
501	602	HBO2 East
502	608	HBO Signature
503	604	HBO Family
504		HBO West
505		HBO2 West
520	620	Cinemax
521	621	MoreMax
522	622	ActionMax
530	630	Showtime
531	631	Showtime Too
532	632	Showtime Beyond
533	633	Showtime Showcase
534		Showtime Extreme
540	635	Movie Channel
541		Movie Channel Xtra
550		Flix
570	670	Starz
571	671	Starz Edge
572	672	Starz Cinema
573	673	Starz Kids & Family
574	674	Starz Comedy
575	675	Starz in Black
580	680	Encore
581	681	Encore Action
582		Encore Westerns
583	683	Encore Black
584	684	Encore Suspense
585		Encore Family
586	686	Encore Classic

+ OVER 50 MUSIC CHANNELS





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**IT'S A NO-BRAINER!  
Call 652.3184 or 952.1000 today to sign up!**

*\*A one-time \$10 credit will be applied to your DCT account.*

# Win credit on your DCT bill!

Win **\$25 credit** on your DCT bill. Just return this coupon by April 30, 2015, to be eligible for the drawing.

**Congratulations to last issue's winner:  
Betty Montgomery, Carrington.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

The DCT Link is published by Dakota Central Telecommunications.

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