

ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE BREAKS GROUND ON BROADBAND EXPANSION

Arrowhead Cooperative begins work to expand high-speed broadband services in Cook County.



In March of 2021, we announced that Arrowhead Cooperative was successful in securing a bid of \$18.4 million in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction. After finalizing all the required paperwork and initial review, we received confirmation that we would be receiving this new funding last October. Now a year later, after significant planning and material sourcing, we are excited to announce that the Cooperative has broken ground on this life-changing project for our region.

Arrowhead Cooperative launched its broadband division in 2010 after receiving over \$16 million in grants and low-interest loans from the United States Department of Agriculture. In addition, Cook County awarded the Cooperative a \$4 million grant to aid the project. Fiber-to-the-home service was then offered to locations on the electrical grid. In relatively short order, Arrowhead Cooperative made high-speed internet hook-ups possible for over 70 percent of Cook County's population. This new funding will allow Arrowhead Cooperative to grow the availability of broadband services in our area. "We are so excited to bring these reliable and valuable services to more members of our community," said CEO John Twiest.

This funding is set up over 10 years. The Cooperative will be installing approximately 20 – 25 miles of facility per year in areas of the county determined by FCC mapping.

"While we would have liked to break ground earlier this year, our biggest challenge has been the availability of materials," shared Twiest. "We only just received the elements we needed to begin in September. Our 2022 construction season will be a short one focused on building our main line, however planning will continue through the winter and the Cooperative expects to complete the project in 2029. We have many, many hours of work ahead of us and our staff is excited to bring gigabit broadband to unserved areas." Details about interconnecting future subscribers won't be available for some time yet.

Access to reliable, high-quality broadband connectivity should be a reality for everyone, no matter where you live and we look forward to leveraging our technology and expertise to deliver high-quality service to more people in our service territory. This funding makes it possible. We ask for patience from our community as we develop, share, and execute the plans with all involved. We understand how important this is and will do our very best to move safely and efficiently.

RDOF is a once-in-a-lifetime funding opportunity that is projected to dramatically improve the quality of life in our area, and Arrowhead Cooperative is excited about the future.

ARROWHEAD BROADBAND PUT YOUR SERVICE ON VACATION HOLD

Going on vacation or away for a while? Find out how to temporarily suspend your service.

Reminder to Arrowhead Broadband Residential Subscribers: if you will be suspending your phone or internet service this fall, please contact our office three business days before the date you are pausing service.

The minimum monthly service charge for each suspended service is \$10 and the maximum length of a suspension is 6 months. If you suspended your service last year, you need to have 6 months of active service before you are eligible to suspend again. For example, if your service became active in May you must wait until November to suspend this year. You may request suspension via phone at (218) 663-9030 or email broadband@arrowhead.coop.



WARM HANDS & WARM HEARTS

Arrowhead Cooperative is collecting cold-weather accessories (mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves) as well as gift cards to local grocery stores to help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

Contributions of **new or homemade** winter accessories can be brought to Arrowhead Cooperative's office by 4 pm on December 16.

Operation Family Christmas coordinators will distribute your donations to those in need in our community.

Help us decorate our mitten tree with warmth, comfort, and cheer!

LAST CHANCE FOR 2022 REBATES

Arrowhead Cooperative offers a wide range of programs and smart technologies to our members to help manage electricity while ensuring reliability. We offer several rebates and incentives to save you even more when making energy-efficient changes in your home.

It's not too late to make the energy efficiency upgrades that will save you money before the end of the year. Take advantage of these great offers before time runs out.

ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCES
Energy Star® Dehumidifier \$25
Energy Star® Clothes Dryer \$25
Energy Star Freezer or Refrigerator \$75 (Proof of recycling old unit required.)
LIGHTING
Energy Star® LED Bulbs up to \$2 per bulb
HVAC
Smart Thermostat \$25
ETS Space Heating System \$50 per kW
Ductless ASHP – Electric Primary Heat \$500
Ductless ASHP – Delivered Fuels Primary Heat \$300
Central ASHP System \$480-\$630 (Call for details.)
WATER HEATING
ETS Water Heater \$400 (80+ gallon and high efficiency only)
Heat Pump Water Heater \$500
Interruptible Water Heater \$200 (50+ gallon and high efficiency only)

In addition to the residential rebates above, Arrowhead Cooperative offers commercial rebates for lighting, motors, drives, and more. All rebate and incentive programs have certain restrictions and requirements that must be met before a rebate can be issued. Contact Arrowhead Cooperative for more information and to access the appropriate rebate forms by calling (800) 864-3744 or emailing newsletter@arrowhead.coop

You don't have to sacrifice your lifestyle or a single degree of comfort to be a smart energy user. Contact the member services department today to learn more about how you can improve your home's energy use.

REMINDER: ALL REBATE FORMS FOR 2022 MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 29, 2022 AT 4:00 PM.

CO-OP NEWS

OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25, 2022, in observance of Thanksgiving. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

COLD WEATHER RULE REMINDER

Arrowhead Cooperative members who may have trouble paying their winter energy bills are reminded that the Cold Weather Rule took effect October 1, 2021.

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule protects qualified residential utility customers during the winter months. Under this rule, electric service will not be disconnected from October 1 through April 30 due to non-payment, if customers meet Cold Weather Rule requirements. However, this rule does not relieve members of their responsibility to pay their utility bills.

Those who qualify for Cold Weather Rule protection need to set up a payment schedule with the Cooperative. Call us today for more information or to set up your payment arrangement at (800) 864-3744.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.



Happy
Thanksgiving!



'TIS THE SEASON FOR **ENERGY SAVINGS**



The holiday season is one of the most energy-intensive times of the year, but that doesn't mean you should keep your twinkling, strobing and glittering decorations packed away. Instead, **use up to 90% less electricity** by switching from incandescent models to durable, longer-lasting LED holiday lighting. And now for a limited time, you can save 10%!

SAVE 10% ON LED HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Give yourself the gift of energy savings at energywisemnstore.com/holidaylights.



WATCH FOR HIDDEN DANGERS

Zippering over glistening snow is always a thrill, but beware of hidden dangers while snowmobiling!

Guy wires that help anchor power poles may be difficult to see. Underground utility facilities may also be hidden by drifting snow. To stay safe, we recommend staying on marked snowmobiling trails.



NOVEMBER CALENDAR WINNER

Submitted by: Teman Bradley



EFFICIENCY TIP

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home.

ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

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