# The Communicator

News from your local coop to keep you connected.

July 2022

## **Smart Rural Community**



Spring Grove Communications is honored to be a Smart Rural Community provider!

Smart Rural Community is a group of providers who are committed to driving growth and creating opportunities for our community. Smart Rural Community providers enable fast, reliable and sustainable connectivity needed to thrive in an online world.

Spring Grove Communications has met Smart Rural Community requirements, set by the Rural Broadband Association, to be a member provider that works tirelessly to keep small-town America connected. Providers lead and collaborate on broadbandenabled projects that provide technology for distance learning, enhance state-of-the-art health care through telemedicine, and encourage entrepreneurship and economic development. These initiatives, among others, help to connect rural communities and keep them advancing towards a future-proof sustainable infrastructure.

We are proud to join a network of Smart Rural Community rural broadband providers who meet robust broadband standards and are grateful to serve our rural community members – one connection at a time. #SmartRuralCommunity

## Give back to the community!

The Power of Change is a voluntary program where members can elect to have their monthly bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. Money collected through this program will be given back to events and projects that contribute to the community and local area. This is a great way to give back! Call our office if you'd like to participate in this program.

Our office will be closed Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.



If you have any service affecting troubles during this time, please call our on-call technician at 498-4357.



Your Local Technology Headquarters

507-498-3456 • contactus@sqc-coop.com • www.yourlocal.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

### Are you updating your router's firmware?

#### What is firmware and why do I need to update it?

Firmware is the software that comes preinstalled on the router. Every router manufacturer has its own version of this software and, like the operating systems that run on your smart phone or your personal computer, it controls all the inner workings of the device. For example, it's the firmware that makes it possible for your router to communicate wirelessly with your devices; it helps protect your network from malware, viruses and other threats; and it provides the administration software that you use to manage your router's settings. Why do I have to worry about updating the firmware? One big reason is performance. Everybody wants their home Wi-Fi to be fast and accessible from every room in the house. Firmware updates provide bug fixes and technology improvements that lead to a better overall Wi-Fi experience for you and your family.

#### How do I update my router's firmware?

If you have one of our Whole Home W-Fi routers, we take care of all of the updating for you. If you've purchased your own router, there are several steps involved in updating your firmware. First you need to consult the router's user manual and find out how to log in to your router's administration panel from your computer. Once you're logged in, there is sometimes an option to download and install the latest firmware if your router doesn't provide this option, you need to verify which version of the firmware you currently have and then search the Internet to find out where to download the latest version. Once you've downloaded it, you need to follow the detailed instructions that explain how to get the new firmware from your computer to your router.

Let us take care of the updating for you! With our Whole Home Wi-Fi routers, we automatically run updates to the router so you never have to worry about it. Call us at 498-3456 to get started!



ANDROID APP ON

Google play

Available on the

App Store

your bill on-line with Smarthub

1. Obtain your account number. You can find your account number in the upper right corner of your bill. Don't have your bill? Call our office at 498-3456 and we'll get your account number for you.

Here's how you can view and pay

- 2. Go to www.yourlocal.coop
- 3. Click on Smarthub from the menu.
- 4. Click on NEW USER? Sign up to access our Self Service site.
- 5. Enter account number and last name on the account to start the registration process.
- 6. Simply follow the instructions on your screen.

