

# The Communicator

News from your local coop to keep you connected. December 2023

## Take a Byte Out of Hunger for the Holidays!

We are excited to be hosting a Food Drive from November 27th to December 15th!

Bring in three non-perishable food items to our office and you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$75 Red's Hometown Market gift card, just in time for the holidays!

All proceeds will go to the Houston County Food Shelf and the Trinity Lutheran Church Little Free Pantry.



### Office Closed

Our office will be closed Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas as well as Monday, January 1 for the New Year.

If you have any service outages, please call 498-3456 to reach our on-call technician or to leave a message for the next business day.

## Treat Yourself This Christmas!

Our Whole Home Wi-Fi is the gift that keeps on giving! From powerful Wi-Fi to network security and parental controls, this is as advanced as Wi-Fi gets. Experience fast, consistent service anywhere in your home and control it all. Bring on the New Year with the Ultimate Wi-Fi Experience! Call us today to get on our schedule and mention this newsletter for one month free!

Give yourself the gift of the ultimate Wi-Fi experience!



## Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a government benefit helping low income households pay for broadband. If you qualify, you can get a \$30 credit toward your monthly internet bill!

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting [www.getinternet.gov](http://www.getinternet.gov), or by calling 877-384-2575.

## Your Local Technology Headquarters

507-498-3456 - [contactus@sgc-coop.com](mailto:contactus@sgc-coop.com) - [www.yourlocal.coop](http://www.yourlocal.coop)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer*



# Stay Safe From Holiday Scams!

For many of us, the holiday season is about friends, family, food, and shopping! Unfortunately, while you're looking for the perfect gift, cybercriminals are looking for ways to scam you. Follow the tips below to shop online safely:

## Never install unfamiliar software.

There are hundreds of shopping apps out there. Some of these apps may be malicious, so only use apps that you know and trust. When you download software or apps, be sure to download from verified sources such as the App Store or Google Play.

## Verify attachments are safe before downloading them.

A common tactic among cyber criminals is to create phony email notifications from a retailer or postal service. These notifications often include a malicious attachment. The cyber criminals may claim that there was an update to your order or that your package has been delayed, but you'll have to download the attachment to find out more. Don't fall for this trick! Before you open the attachment, contact the retailer or postal service to verify that the notification is legitimate. You can also look up your order directly on the website where you made the purchase.

## Verify links before clicking.

Watch out for malicious advertisements, otherwise known as malvertising. Malvertising is when cyber criminals use ads to spread malware or to trick users into providing sensitive information. When online shopping, only click on an ad or link from a reputable source, such as a retailer's official social media profile. To be extra careful, use your browser to navigate to the store's official website to shop instead.

*Tips via Knowbe4.com*

**We have several tools that can help keep you safe online!**

**ProtectIQ:** ProtectIQ is a feature that can be added to your Whole Home Wi-Fi router. With this enabled, any device that is connected to your router is automatically protected! This includes cameras, smart TVs, tablets, baby monitors, etc.

**TechShield:** Techshield is another program offered by Harmony Telephone to keep you safe while online. With TechShield, you can protect up to 5 computers and 5 mobile devices with the antivirus program SecureIT. It also gives you access to cloud backup to keep files safe as well as a password manager and 24/7/365 product support.

**Device Support & Repair:** Did you accidentally become a victim of an online scam? We can help! Our computer techs can look over your device to get rid of any threats and set you up to be protected in the future.

## Community Education Classes

What would you like to learn more about in the technology field? How to update your computer? How to delete apps on your iPad? How to avoid scams? Basic troubleshooting?

Let us know! Email us at [contactus@sgc-coop.com](mailto:contactus@sgc-coop.com) or give us a call at 498-3456 with your ideas!