

Fiber-to-Home project to improve Internet, video & voice service

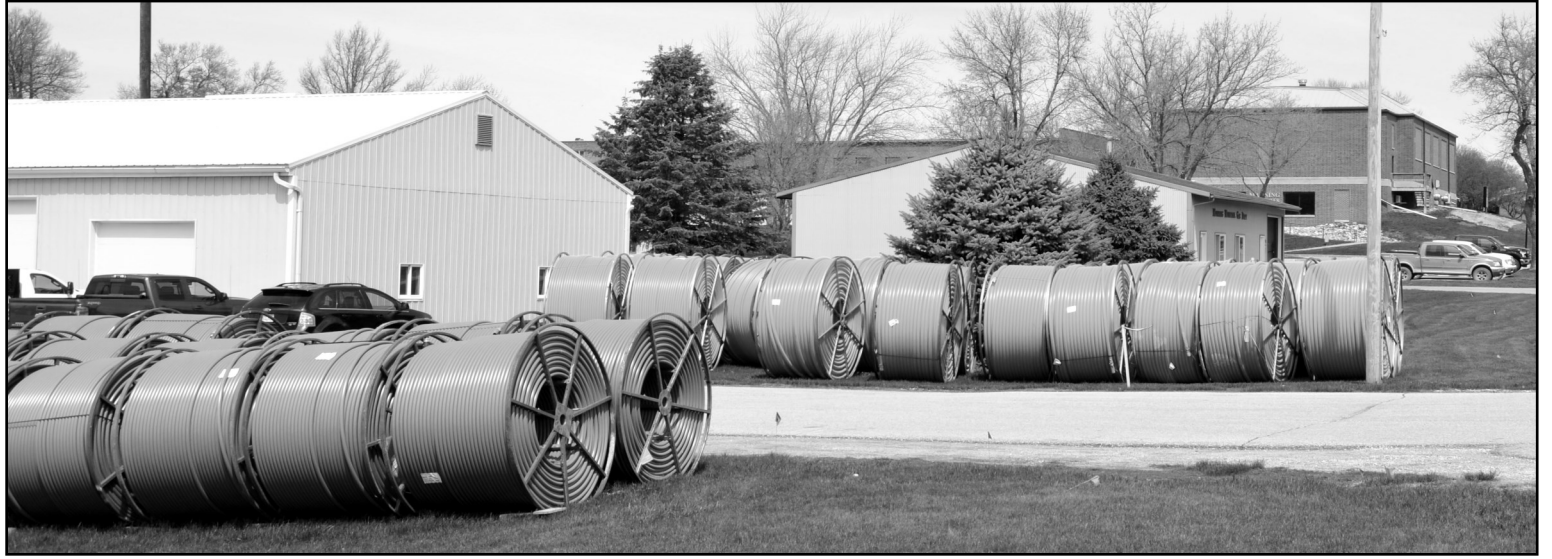
The huge rolls of duct seen around town are signs of the new fiber optic cable project which will bring higher bandwidth and better service to MMCTSU customers.

The project represents Manning's third and, possibly, final system to improve communication; Internet, video and voice. The orange and gray duct being bored to commercial and residential locations is carrier pipe to hold and protect the fiber cable.

"The duct in the Main Street area was finished in May and the crews have started work in the residential areas," said Jeremy Carroll, Manning Utility Manager. "This work goes in stages, and this time we spent some extra money because technology changes so rapidly. If we ever need to, we can pull the fiber cables out of the carrier ducts and put in whatever the latest and greatest is, without digging up property. So, we kind of future-proofed this system."

The city's existing system, a copper coaxial network, has been difficult and costly to maintain. Every time lightning hits the ground it costs the city \$5,000 to \$8,000 because of damaged equipment.

"It's a very touchy system," said Carroll. "With this new system, every run of fiber will go from the point of connection at the premises (home or office) to all the way back to the head end next to the L9 substation."



The current system is also limited. It is starting to bottleneck.

"Especially with everyone being home at this time, we're maxing out our infrastructure," he said.

During this installation, workmen will come to the home four times. First to land the duct against the house; secondly, the crew pulling the fiber will secure the duct and set an outside housing unit for the new equipment. Members of the cutover crew will then install the equipment and connect wires inside the home. The final step is re-seeding and repair lawns for fall. For these reasons, customers have been asked to sign and return the notification mailed to them.

Carroll said, "We hope to begin pulling fiber in these ducts mid-July and then start cutting customers over the first part of September."

He continued, "There

are two ways that this will cost residents nothing. Either they are an existing customer that we cut over or they let us know they want to become a new customer. The duct will be brought to the home, regardless, but no equipment will be installed, and then if they come back at a later date, there will be a cost."

He said they are also excited about cost projections.

"This first year of service, we are projecting that if our customer base holds and grows, as we think it will, and we are able to take on more capacity, we're hopeful that our prices will hold true through 2020, and that we can come up with some cost-effective packages for 2021 for folks," he said.

People will have until the July 31 to signup

MMCTSU will not be installing any equipment at homes if the owner does not want service.

Carroll stated, "I want every customer in this town. Our customer service will be second to nobody; guaranteed return call within 24 hours of a cus-

tomers notifying us of an issue. We really want to build that trust. We're excited about being able to offer this. There are not many communities of our size that are able to do projects like this. It is another opportunity to set Manning apart even more."

Installation will be completed by the end of the year.

Center St Bridge

Replacement of the Center Street bridge has begun. A gas line had to be moved and a sewer interceptor line was missed in the drawings creating new challenges. The crew then ran into a concrete graveyard. The problems increased the cost about \$12,000.

Council resignation

Elizabeth Leo has submitted her resignation from the city council. A decision was made to announce the opening, and the council will make an appointment to the seat at the June 16 meeting.

Notice to Manning Pharmacy customers

We believe the current coronavirus is serious and we have changed practices during this medical challenge. We ask all citizens and customers to use good handwashing techniques and follow recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control.

AS WE CONSIDER OPENING TO THE PUBLIC, WE ASK YOU TO CONTINUE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND CLEANSING MEASURES, WE ASK YOU TO WEAR A MASK WHILE SHOPPING (THE PHARMACY HAS MASKS FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT), WE WILL RELAX AND ENFORCE OUR REQUIREMENTS AS INSTRUCTED BY THE CDC.

We hope to open soon and will expect all who do business with Manning Pharmacy to RESPECT OUR EMPLOYEES and our PATIENT SAFETY by practicing the following:

- IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME!
- CALL AHEAD FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTION
Leave a cell phone number to allow us to notify you by text when ready
- WE PROVIDE CURBSIDE PICKUP if you need or request this service
- We PROVIDE HOME DELIVERY for those elderly, shut ins, or limited travel options. For the safety of our employees, we ask you to meet them at the door and exchange medications and payment without entry to the home.
- KEEP A MASK WITH YOU WHEN GOING OUT AND SHOPPING. THE STAFF IS REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND OUR STAFF'S HEALTH AND SAFETY.
- CONSIDER A HEALTHY FAMILY MEMBER TO PICK UP MEDICATIONS.
- CONSIDER SOCIAL DISTANCING (about 6 feet apart from another person) when out of the home or work. The pharmacy does have plenty of space for distance if you should need to come in.
- WE HAVE 2 HAND SANITIZING STATIONS: INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR AND THE PHARMACY AREA.
- WE WILL TRY to meet all requests for additional quantities of medication

We appreciate your business and we are concerned for your health and well-being, as well as that of our friends, customers, and our employees. I am sure, as a community, we can show our true colors by our actions during this medical challenge. We hope to share better news in the coming weeks.

Be safe, smart, and healthy
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