

MTA SAFETY AWARDS

Park Region was awarded the Safety Award at the Minnesota Telecom Alliance Annual Meeting. This award recognizes companies that excel in safety practices based on safety trends and the following criteria.

1. Active employee participation in scheduled training and the safety program.
2. Safety training to ensure employees unable to attend in-person training complete the training online within 90 days.
3. Worksite/facility hazard identification results are 80% or better.
4. Recordable injury rate is below the OSHA average rate of 3%.
5. Maintain safety program records.
6. When required, employees wear appropriate PPE.

Park Region's General Manager/CEO, Dave Bickett, was also awarded with the MTA Safety Coin for performing the Heimlich maneuver last summer at an MTA event.

We are proud of our employees for always putting safety first and for Dave's heroic actions.



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NTCA KEY EMPLOYEE AWARD

It is with great pride and admiration that we announce Park Region's Dale Thompson has been selected as the 2022 recipient of the NTCA Key Employee Award in the Excellence Awards program. This national award recognizes an employee other than a manager/executive who has made significant contributions to a company's growth and success and for going above and beyond the expectations of his position.

Over the past 50 years Dale has been instrumental in the development of Park Region. His knowledge, commitment, and personality are truly assets as an employee and friend, and his dedication and passion to the industry are being deservedly recognized. Join us in congratulating Dale on this prestigious award – Congratulations Dale and thank you for all you do!



Shirley Bloomfield, NTCA CEO
Dale Thompson, Park Region Engineer

2022 ANNUAL MEETING & CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT

Park Region is thrilled to bring back the Underwood Lion's pork chop dinner at the Annual Meeting and Customer Appreciation Event. **This year's event will be held Thursday, April 13, 2023 at the Underwood Public School.** Doors will open at 5pm. Enjoy a famous Underwood Lion's pork chop and all the fixings in the commons area, then make your way to the gym to register for the meeting, visit with staff members and our Board of Directors, see product demonstrations and more. Our Annual Meeting will begin at 6:30pm, followed by numerous prize drawings.

If the meeting needs to be rescheduled for any reason, the alternate date is Thursday, April 27, 2023. The postponement will be posted on our Facebook page, website, and radio. A notice will also be mailed to members.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. This new benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands.

Eligible households can visit www.affordableconnectivity.gov/how-to-apply to enroll with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) online or by mail.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting www.fcc.gov/ACP or by calling 877-384-2575.

FIBER COMING TO RURAL FERGUS FALLS

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development recently announced the 2022 Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program recipients and Otter Tail Telcom/Park Region is pleased to be one of them. This collaborative effort with our partners at the State of Minnesota, Otter Tail County, and local townships will be monumental for Otter Tail Telcom/Park Region to expand broadband access in Otter Tail County.

Otter Tail Telcom is committed to bringing fiber-to-the-premise infrastructure to locations in the rural Fergus Falls area. The state-of-the-art technology will offer internet speeds up to 1 Gig/1 Gig. We will be expanding broadband services in this area throughout 2023 and 2024.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our partners for their initial and continued support as well as all the residents and businesses in the project area who will entrust us with the privilege to be their communication services provider. We look forward to serving you well into the future with your fiber optic services. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 218.998.2000 or email sales@parkregion.com and we will be glad to assist you.