A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT PARK REGION

THE PROGRESS

APRIL 2026

National Safe Digging Month

April is National Safe Digging Month, and we're here to remind you that safe excavation starts before you break ground. Minnesota law requires excavators to contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC, Minnesota's 811) before digging either online, by phone, or using the GSOC app. Contacting 811 and waiting for utility markings helps prevent injuries, service disruptions, and expensive delays. Make 811 your first step on every job. Learn more and submit tickets online for free at **www.gopherstateonecall.org.**

811 SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS. EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.

Fiber vs. Satellite in Rural Areas

As your local technology provider, we aim to continue expanding our high-speed fiber network into rural areas. In remote areas, sometimes the only available "fast" option is satellite internet. However, satellite internet isn't always quite as powerful as it may appear. Here are 3 examples of fiber's advantages over satellite:

1. Speed

Fiber: Up to 1Gbps (1000Mbps) download AND upload.

Satellite: Typically 25-150Mbps download, *much* lower uploads.

What this means: Fiber is equipped to handle multiple users at one time, with a smoother and faster connection. With satellite, you will have a less stable and slower internet experience.

2. Latency

Fiber: ~5-20 milliseconds (ms)

Satellite: Traditionally 600-800 ms, *some* newer technologies deliver ~20-50 ms inconsistently

What this means: Fiber wins on latency. This difference is felt most in Zoom calls, gaming, and other real-time activities. A satellite connection will have noticeable lag, while fiber is instant and snappy.

3. Reliability

Fiber: Unaffected by weather conditions. Connection is always stable.

Satellite: Signal degrades in rain, snow, clouds, etc. Weather can reduce speeds up to 30-50%.

What this means: As Minnesotans, we know a thing or two about winter. The deep snow and icy roads are enough to deal with— fiber ensures that your network is up and running regardless of weather conditions.

The Verdict

Satellite can be viable in locations without an alternative, but it can't beat the speed and reliability of fiber. In a world where internet is becoming more of a necessity than a luxury— you deserve options. That's why we are actively investing in infrastructure to expand our network and deliver fiber to our rural communities.

What Would You Buy with an Extra $10?

What would you buy with an extra $10? Movie tickets, clothes, or fishing jigs? Sign up for autopay & e-billing with Park Region and you'll get a $10 credit on your next bill. If you only sign up for one option, you will receive a $5 credit on your next bill. Simply stop by one of our offices to sign up or visit **www.parkregion.com/bill-pay/** to access the Automatic Payment Form. Return the form to one of our offices, or mail to **PO Box 277, Underwood, MN 56586.**

Save the Date!

PARK REGION MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO.

ANNUAL MEETING

& CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT

Park Region is thrilled to announce the date of the Annual Meeting and Customer Appreciation Event which will be held on **Thursday, April 16, 2026** at the Underwood Public School. Doors will open at 5pm.

Enjoy a famous Underwood Lion's pork chop with 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. The Annual Meeting will begin at 6:30pm, followed by numerous prize drawings.

Park Region Co-Op Members will receive an official notice in the mail. Mark your calendars now to join us on April 16th!

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