

YOUR NDTC QUARTERLY

OUTLOOK

FALL 2024

COMMUNITY FOCUS:

McVille, ND

“Small Enough to Know You, Large
Enough to Serve You”



McVille
WELCOMES YOU
ESTABLISHED 1906



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Office Hours

Mon. – Fri. 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.
Phone lines are open until 6 P.M.
Repair Center also available
Sat. 8 A.M. – 5 P.M.

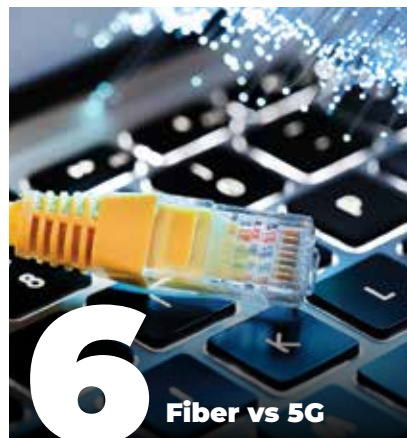
Help Desk

701.662.8350 available 24/7

Payment Drop-Offs

- NDTC office in Devils Lake
- 1st United Bank in Cando, Rugby, Maddock, & Devils Lake

To report trouble, call 701.662.1100.
If after hours, follow prompts
for assistance.



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NOTES FROM THE

General Manager

Rodney Hoffmeyer // NDTC General Manager



Hope everyone had an enjoyable summer; they seem to go by faster each year. As I write this, it is the time when we see students heading back to school. That time has passed for my kids, but it sure is enjoyable watching the grandkids get excited for a new year. It is also the time that we, as drivers, need to pay more attention in school zones and crosswalks as children are heading to school. Let's all do our part and keep our children safe this year.

Is your broadband connection ready for back to school? First, speed does matter. Take the quiz on our website, gondtc.com, to find the best speed your family needs, or give us a call if you have any questions. Second, is your wireless router slowing you down? Older wireless routers or ones that are not compatible with your computer or devices may be slowing down your connection. If you have had your router for a number of years, it may be time to replace it with a new one, or better yet replace it with Managed Wi-Fi from NDTC. We take care of all your wireless router needs and have solutions to ensure you have a strong broadband connection throughout your home. Managed Wi-Fi also has an app available with many features, including parental controls that may help keep your children safe on the internet.

NDTC has a long history of supporting local schools. Some of the ways we do this are by sponsoring tailgates, presenting information to students in their classroom, or hosting a tour of our facilities. NDTC is also proud to be able to provide schools with funding for their events or projects through

our Dollars in Motion program. These dollars are also available for community projects. Information is available on our website at gondtc.com/dollars-in-motion. College scholarships have been available to NDTC customers with graduating seniors for 25 years. We'll be offering ten \$1,000.00 scholarships again this year! Applications will be available on NDTC's website in early 2025. Be sure to have your graduating senior apply.

Thank you to the teachers and staff for all they do for students. If there is anything we can do to help during the school year, please let us know.

Wishing everyone a wonderful year.

Rodney Hoffmeyer

// MCVILLE, ND

“Small Enough to Know You, Large Enough to Serve You”

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Nestled in the heart of ND along Hwy 15 is a quiet little town with a fitting slogan: *“Small enough to know you, Large enough to serve you”*. This agricultural town with a population of around 400 residents was founded in 1906 by the McDougall family. With many early residents having “Mc” in their last names, the town officially became McVillage. Originally located a few miles north of its current location, McVillage was moved as the railroad advanced through the area. With the Sheyenne River Valley a short distance away, the area provides a scenic backdrop for nature enthusiasts to enjoy hunting, fishing, and bird watching. City Auditor Chanda Arneson explained, “the McVillage area sits atop a natural aquifer, which provides a great source of fresh groundwater.” This groundwater is essential for sustaining the region’s agriculture and ecosystems.



Life in McVillage radiates the value of simplicity and connection. Residents enjoy a peaceful, rural lifestyle where community events, family connections, and outdoor activities are central to daily life. An event highlight is McVillage Days, a four-day celebration full of activities for the whole family including canoe races, a helicopter golf ball drop, parades, inflatables for the kids, couch races, street dances, youth fishing derby, and a whole lot more. This annual event is held the third full weekend in July. Along with McVillage Days, the city celebrates Winterfest on the Sunday following Thanksgiving with a day full of music, prizes and a meal, and of course Santa is present to help kick off the countdown to Christmas.

These events wouldn’t be possible without the help of volunteers, and McVillage has many who serve on the fire department, ambulance service, shade tree committee, library board, auxiliary, and community club, to name a few. Arneson said, “Residents in McVillage have a go-getter, entrepreneurial spirit. When people see a need in the community, they are willing to step up and help fill that need.” One example of this mindset is the updates slated for the town’s baseball diamond. A community member saw the need, reached out to the Minnesota Twins Foundation, and received a grant that sparked a movement within the residents to volunteer their time and equipment, and help fund upgrades that will allow the town to host more games and tournaments. Arneson also mentioned the construction of a shower house at the McVillage Dam recreational area. This new addition will allow those who utilize the site a place to clean off after a day of swimming or camping. Visitors to the McVillage Dam can also enjoy frisbee golf, the park, boating, and fishing. Take a walk along the bike path at the dam and you will find a row of trees that have been planted in honor



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Chanda Arneson - City Auditor

of residents who have made meaningful contributions to the community.

McVile is home to many essential services and amenities, including the McVile clinic, hospital, assisted living, and a care center. McVile is part of the Dakota Prairie school district, which is one of the largest in the state, covering approximately 900 square miles. The elementary school is in McVile and houses Pre-K through 6th grade, with the high school located in Petersburg, ND. McVile also has a public library, a municipal airport, and a well-kept 9-hole golf course. Many artisans who specialize in photography, painting, and sculpting can be found in and around the area, with items on display and some for purchase at the local bakery.

Blending the rich history of small-town ND while adapting to the modern world can sometimes be tricky. When asked about the future goals of McVile, Arneson said, "Celebrating and maintaining our sense of community, finding a way to mesh the perspectives and ideas of those who are lifelong residents with those who are new to the area." While visiting McVile, one can see how residents are honoring their agricultural roots while also finding ways to adapt to the changing world.

More than just a dot on the map, McVile is a community where hard work, neighborliness, and tradition are alive and well. Whether you are passing through or looking for a place to call home, McVile offers the simplicity of rural life with a sense of belonging that is hard to find anywhere else.



WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR COMMUNITY FOCUS?

Call us at 701.662.1100, share how our services have benefited you or the people in your area, and you may be featured in our Community Focus!

Navigating the Latest Cybersecurity Threats:

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

October is Cybersecurity Month, and each year we at NDTCT like to make sure you are aware of the latest threats and educate you on ways to protect yourselves, your families, and your businesses. The latest wave of cyber threats includes ransomware, phishing, and social engineering attacks, all of which can have devastating consequences if not properly managed. Here's a look at these threats and how to combat them.

Ransomware Attacks

Ransomware remains one of the most prevalent and dangerous cyber threats. In a ransomware attack, malicious software encrypts a victim's data, and the attacker demands a ransom to restore access. These attacks can target anyone, from individuals to large corporations.

Protection Tips:

- 1 Regular Backups:** Regularly back up your data to an external hard drive or cloud storage. Ensure backups are not connected to your main network to avoid them being compromised during an attack.
- 2 Update Software:** Keep your operating systems and software up to date with the latest security patches to close vulnerabilities that ransomware exploits.
- 3 Use Antivirus Software:** Install and maintain reputable antivirus software that can detect and prevent ransomware before it infiltrates your system.

Phishing Attacks

Phishing attacks involve fraudulent attempts to obtain sensitive information, such as usernames, passwords, and credit card details, by disguising themselves as trustworthy entities in electronic communication. These attacks have become increasingly sophisticated, making them harder to detect.

Protection Tips:

- 1 Verify Emails and Links:** Be cautious with emails and messages that ask for personal information. Verify the sender's identity before clicking on links or downloading attachments.
- 2 Use Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** Enable MFA on your accounts to add an extra layer of security, making it harder for attackers to gain access even if they obtain your password.
- 3 Educate Yourself:** Stay informed about the latest phishing tactics and learn how to recognize suspicious emails and websites.





Broadband Nutrition Labels

Social Engineering Attacks

Social engineering attacks exploit human psychology rather than technical vulnerabilities. Attackers use information gathered from social media and other platforms to make victims believe they are a “trusted source,” manipulating victims into divulging confidential information or performing actions that compromise security.

Protection Tips:

- 1 Be Skeptical:** Always be skeptical of unsolicited requests for sensitive information, even if they appear to come from trusted sources.
- 2 Secure Personal Information:** Be mindful of the information you share online and ensure your privacy settings on social media are set to limit access to your personal data.
- 3 Training and Awareness:** Regularly participate in cybersecurity training and awareness programs to stay vigilant against social engineering tactics.

By staying informed about the latest cybersecurity threats and adopting robust security practices, individuals can significantly reduce their risk of falling victim to these malicious attacks. Protecting yourself requires a combination of technology, awareness, and vigilance.

For more resources about cybersecurity and how to keep your information safe online, visit [staysafeonline.org](https://www.staysafeonline.org).

In the 1990s, nutrition labels became mandatory on most packaged food products. By October 10th, 2024, all internet service providers are required to display Broadband Consumer Labels, or in other words, Broadband Nutrition Labels.

According to the FCC, the labels “are designed to provide clear, easy-to-understand, and accurate information about the cost and performance of high-speed internet services. The labels are modeled after the FDA nutrition labels and are intended to help consumers comparison shop for the internet service plan that will best meet their needs and budget. Internet service providers that offer home, or fixed, internet services, or mobile broadband plans are required to have a label for each service plan they offer.”

Broadband Consumer Labels are required at point-of-sale locations, including online and in stores. They must disclose information on broadband prices, introductory rates, data allowances, and broadband speeds. The labels also include links to service providers’ network management practices and privacy policies.

→ For more information on Broadband Consumer Labels, visit [fcc.gov/broadbandlabels](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandlabels).

// EVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES:

Fiber vs 5G

In today's fast-paced world, technology evolves rapidly. Fiber, copper, 4G LTE, 5G; there are so many terms out there, it's hard to keep up. Lately, fiber and 5G have become the most highly talked-about technologies. How do you determine what is best for you and your family's communication needs? Below are some important points to consider.

Fiber-Optics, also known as fiber, uses tiny strands of glass wire to transmit data. A fiber network is scalable and can meet the needs of users well into the future. Currently, NDTC's fiber network can provide speeds up to 10Gbps (that's 10,000 gigabytes per second)! 5G is a wireless cellular network that relies on towers to transmit data. Typically, 5G users see speeds around 80-200Mbps; 1,000Mbps (or 1Gbps) is attainable depending on the cellular network.

5G wireless service can experience issues with signal interference, physical obstructions, and network congestion. NDTC fiber provides dependable, consistent connectivity without interruptions or slowdowns over a dedicated fiber connection directly to your home or business.

NDTC fiber is buried in the ground, ensuring that weather conditions don't disrupt your connection. Unlike 5G wireless, NDTC's fiber network keeps you connected through rain, wind, or snow.

5G wireless can slow down when you reach a data limit, or lag during peak hours. With NDTC fiber, data caps and speed throttling don't exist, so you can enjoy unlimited data and consistent speeds every time you go online.



NDTC fiber is backed by a local team of your neighbors, family, or friends, who provide exceptional customer service. If any questions arise, our team of knowledgeable customer service representatives and technicians works hard to ensure you experience quick solutions and superior service.

At NDTC, we know that you have options for your communication services, and it isn't always easy to make choices. Fortunately, living in an area served by NDTC, you already have access to the fastest, most reliable fiber-optic network available, making your choice a bit easier.



Learn more about our internet services at gondtc.com/internet.

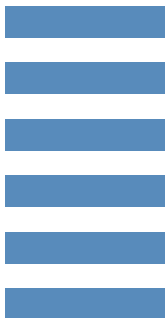
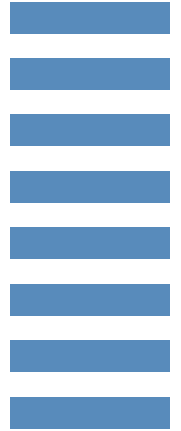
NDTC Summer Recap

After the wonderful success of last summer’s 30th Anniversary picnic celebrations, we decided to bring the picnics back again this year. NDTC took the opportunity to show our gratitude to customers at three “Connecting with Communities” picnics. While serving burgers, hot dogs, and beans, we had an opportunity to connect with many of you.

We originally planned to kick off our first June picnic in Cando, but rain forced us to reschedule! The new date brought better weather and a great turnout. Our second June picnic, held at Merchants Bank Park in downtown Rugby, also saw fantastic attendance and we were able to avoid the rain. On a sunny day in July, we concluded the summer picnics with our final event at Centennial Park in New Rockford, serving a large crowd that included a group of well-mannered future NDTC customers from the local daycare.

In addition to picnics, this summer also marked our second year of offering FREE general admission days at the swimming pools in several towns within the NDTC service area. Once again, it made a huge splash! Not only was there free entry for the day, but refreshments were provided, and kids had the chance to win a door prize.

We appreciate all our current and future customers and hope this marks the beginning of a summer tradition. Keep an eye out for announcements next year—we might be visiting your town!



988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The 988 Lifeline can help prevent suicide. They provide free and confidential support to people with emotional and suicidal distress.

Simply calling or texting 988 or chatting 988lifeline.org will connect a person in crisis to compassionate care and support for any mental health or substance use-related distress. Anyone—a person in crisis, or someone supporting a person in crisis—can reach 988 in the United States through any land line, cell phone, and voice-over-internet device 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

With rising levels of anxiety, depression, emotional distress, and overdose deaths, it is crucial that people have somewhere to turn when they're in crisis. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States. The number of people with a substance use disorder continues to increase. The 988 Lifeline is a direct connection to immediate and free support and resources for anyone in crisis.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or [text 988](tel:988) or chat 988lifeline.org.



National Do Not Call Registry

The National Do Not Call Registry, managed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), was established in 2003 to offer consumers a chance to stop unwelcomed sales calls.

Registering your number(s) in the database is free. Once registered, telemarketers covered by the registry have up to 31 days to stop calling your number. You can add both landline and cellular numbers, and once they're in the registry, they remain there indefinitely.

There are exceptions granted by existing laws and regulations, so not all unsolicited calls will stop. Some examples include political groups, not-for-profit organizations, surveys, and debt collectors.

If you've already added your phone number and are still getting a lot of unwanted calls, odds are the calls are from scammers. NDTC's Call Screening service is available to prevent robocalls/spoofed calls to your landline. Otherwise, if you do happen to answer one of these calls, hang up and report the call to the FTC. Do not get scammed into pressing buttons to be removed from their lists or giving ANY of your personal or banking information.

If your number is registered with the Do Not Call Registry, companies that can still call you are those with whom you've recently conducted business or whom you've given written permission to call. However, if you request them to stop calling, they must comply. Make sure to note the date you made this request, as it may be needed if you decide to file a complaint.

Visit donotcall.gov to register a number, check if you previously registered, file a complaint against someone violating the Registry, or for more information.



Call us at 701.662.1100 to hear more about our Call Screening service.

// AUTUMN

Word Scramble

1. CNAOR _____

9. EGROAN _____

2. PEALPS _____

10. GRNIAK _____

3. HAENLWOEL _____

11. ERD _____

4. SORCCREWA _____

12. ROBINEF _____

5. SVHTRAE _____

13. BIDS R _____

6. FOTSR _____

14. KCJAET _____

7. UNUMTA _____

15. TLBFLOOA _____

8. NSPPIUKM _____

win
\$25
credit
FROM NDTC

Return this completed coupon to NDTC to be eligible for the next drawing. Congratulations to Janet Voeller from Rugby, ND! She was the winner of the credit from the Summer newsletter issue.

Name _____

Phone # _____

#10 on the Word Scramble _____

I understand my full name and my city of residence will be listed in the next newsletter if my name is drawn. _____
(initial)



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A New Streaming Option for
Digital TV **Coming Soon.**

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