

Crosslake Communiqué

May 2016



Our Whole Home DVR is a Whole Lot More Handy

With the new Whole Home DVR from Crosslake Communications, you have many more TV options. You can view DVR recordings using any networked set-top box in your home, and even finish watching a recorded program in one room that was started in another. Video library management features also make it easier to keep track of your collection, and the 500 GB of capacity roughly equates to 300 hours of SD content or 55 hours of HD content.

For the whole story on our Whole Home DVR, call 218-692-2777.

Office Closings

Crosslake Communications and the City of Crosslake will be closed on:

- Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day

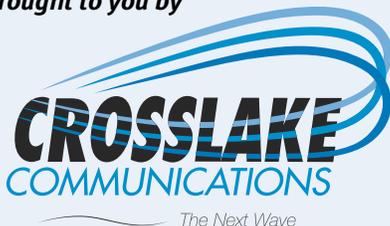
Crosslake Communications

35910 County Road 66
PO Box 70
Crosslake, MN 56442
218-692-2777
www.crosslake.net

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm
For help with service problems during non-business hours, please call 218-692-2777 or 800-992-8220. A live answering service may dispatch a technician.

Brought to you by



An Update on the Future Plans of Crosslake Communications

If you're just returning from your winter away, we want to update you on some possible changes in the works for Crosslake Communications.

Our company has a fiber optic infrastructure serving approximately 55% of the homes and businesses within Crosslake. The investment to upgrade the remaining service areas with fiber optic cables would take approximately \$7.6 million. Crosslake Communications is currently upgrading the electronics used to deliver services on the existing fiber optics in the amount of \$725,000 and is also servicing debt for the original fiber optic projects through a bond with a balance of \$2.130 million.

The City Council has been hesitant to accumulate additional debt to fund the completion of a fiber optic buildout. After a Strategic Planning process and numerous joint Advisory Board and City Council meetings, a subcommittee was formed in July 2015 to review the needs of Crosslake Communications and develop a Vision for the enterprise. The subcommittee held numerous meetings and determined there were four options for Crosslake Communications:

- Continue on as status quo.
- Sell the company.
- Create a stand-alone cooperative.
- Merge with an existing telecommunications cooperative.



The subcommittee then reviewed the pros and cons of each option. During a joint meeting on December 10—attended by the subcommittee, Advisory Board and Crosslake City Council—the Council was given a summary of the work done and acted upon the Advisory Board's recommendation by voting unanimously to pursue a partnership with a telecommunications cooperative.

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Crosslake Communications faced with a Cable TV Rate Increase

Each year, Crosslake Communications faces large increases in network fees which affect what we must charge our cable TV customers. We want to explain this challenge to you by answering these common questions:

1. Why are these increases necessary?

Over the past 10 years, network fees for the local TV broadcast channels have increased **40 times** for Crosslake Communications! Network channels are local channels such as ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC. These increases in fees for programming are not unique to Crosslake Communications. Our competitors are affected as well. In addition, prices for other channels, especially sports and premium movie channels, also continue to rise significantly.

2. Why can't I choose the channels I want to receive?

Carrying individual channels instead of a network owner's entire "family of networks" is not an option offered to Crosslake Communications. We're forced to carry ALL networks from a given network owner. Most agreements require us to pay large programming fee hikes or forgo carriage of all networks with no option in between. Network owners have also forced Crosslake Communications to carry channels on specific tiers as part of the agreement, which drives costs higher. We're required to pay a fee for every household that receives a channel, regardless of whether anyone in that household even watches it.

Effective with our May 2016 billing, all our cable TV customers will see a rate increase. We're working with many other cable and satellite providers to draw attention to the ever-growing network fees for TV programming. You may be aware of some of the recent, highly publicized disputes with channel owners involving DirecTV and DISH Network.

We invite you to contact our office if you want to explore options for your home TV service. Call 218-692-2777 or 800-992-8220.

Future Plans of Crosslake Communications

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Since that December 10 meeting, the subcommittee hired consultants to move forward with the potential partnership. These consultants, along with the management staff of Crosslake Communications, are making preparations to find a company suited to take on the challenges of Crosslake Communications. The key issues include:

- There are significant changes in funding support for rural companies like Crosslake Communications.
- Broadband usage is increasing at an exponential rate due to growth in Internet use.
- Crosslake Communications is currently investing thousands of dollars replacing a considerable amount of "end of life" equipment within our infrastructure.
- There is no long-term Vision for Crosslake Communications to complete the fiber optic buildout to the remaining service areas to meet the future broadband requirements.

As technology and customer demands continue to change, it's critical for our community to receive the services we need now and will need in the future. The work of the Visioning Subcommittee will help ensure the citizens of Crosslake receive the high level of customer service they expect from Crosslake Communications. Investments in the infrastructure must become a reality in order for Crosslake to get the services necessary to keep up with changing technology.

If you have questions about this process, please call Debby Floerchinger at 218-692-2777.





Crosslake *Communiqué* CITY NEWS

www.cityofcrosslake.org

Crosslake Area Library

We look forward to seeing you at the May Legacy, a musical presentation called *The Immigrant's Story—Found in Translation* by Arna Rennan. Some families feared losing their loved ones into the unknown, and others mocked the grandiose claims and promises of the new land, warning them of their folly. Their stories are shared as songs from a variety of music genres including waltz tunes and vaudeville songs from "Snoose Boulevard" sung in "Swenglish." This free event is May 12 at 2 pm in the Crosslake Community Center.



Our Preschool Story Hour will end for the season on May 26. The library will be closed on May 30 for Memorial Day.

Monthly Safety Tips

Robert Hartman, Police Chief

A few months ago, a 22-year-old mother was killed because of a distracted driver. The driver of the vehicle that killed her was a 20-year-old man who was using his phone when he crossed the center line and crashed into her vehicle.

The Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety says distracted or inattentive driving plays a factor in one out of four crashes and results in approximately 70 deaths and 350 serious injuries every year. Remember, it's illegal for drivers in Minnesota to read, write or send texts and emails or access the Internet while behind the wheel, including while stopped.

Mayor's Report

Steve Roe, Mayor

Our Chamber of Commerce crew once again produced a spectacular St. Patrick's Day weekend topped off with a great parade. Many thanks also go out to our fantastic lineup of businesses as well as our Public Works Department and Ted Strand for sprucing up the area before and after the weekend. About 20,000 visitors and participants were involved.

Planning for the future of Crosslake Communications continues. It's my wish that whatever the result, the outcome will be beneficial to all residents. Your comments on this project are welcomed and encouraged.

Our Economic Development Authority is seeking help from the Minnesota Design Team. This is intended to provide our City with a visual idea for the future appearance of Crosslake. They have submitted an application and are waiting for the Design Team's decision.

I'm also looking forward to the fishing opener, which occurs this month. It marks the beginning of the summer season and a

welcoming time for our seasonal residents. We look forward to seeing our neighbors and friends again.

Economic Development

Patty Norgaard, EDA President

At the April EDA meeting, Jennifer Bergman, Executive Director of Crow Wing County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, reviewed the findings of a Housing Study conducted by Maxfield Research. The study presented housing trends and needs for the Brainerd Lakes Area. Population growth is expected to increase, especially in the senior/retiree population. With changes in demographics and housing preferences plus continued population growth, approximately 4,970 permanent year-round housing units in Crow Wing County will be needed from now until 2030.

According to the study, of the 4,970 housing needs, Crosslake would have a projected demand of 195 units. Much of that demand will be in second homes or retirees moving from the Lakes into year-round residences.

Housing in Crosslake produces lively conversations. However, if we're to grow and thrive as a community, we must fill the needs of our demographics (which includes rental) and still maintain our quality of space and preservation of environment.



Parks and Library (PAL) Foundation Update

Grand Opening - The PAL Foundation and the Crosslake Parks and Recreation Department have announced that the family recreation area behind the Community Center will open in late May. The tentative Grand Opening has been set for Sunday, May 22 at 2 pm. This new addition to the Crosslake Community Center Park will feature two shuffleboard courts, two bocce ball courts, and a sidewalk from the parking lot. The facility will be free to use, and equipment will be checked out at the Center's front desk. This facility was made possible thanks to a donation from a local couple who wanted to see more family and senior outdoor recreation at the Community Center site. We're truly grateful for their donation to the PAL Foundation.

Volunteer Rewards - The Crosslake Parks Department will be rewarding individuals who donate their time and talents to the Library Patio Garden Area. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering and earning rewards at the Community Center Park, contact Park Director Jon Henke. Volunteers are needed once a week to help maintain the Patio Garden outside the Library. Meet up with friends and develop relationships with others who have decided to share their talents in maintaining and improving our Patio Garden.

Crosslake Parks and Recreation



To register or receive more information on park or library programs, please contact the Community Center at 218-692-4271 or the Library at 218-692-7323. You can also log into the City website (www.cityofcrosslake.org) and click the programs and activities tab or find us under the departments tab.

Adult Fitness Activities

Open Gym

With special events, youth sports, and groups utilizing the gym space, hours vary monthly. Stop by for a schedule or call ahead at 218-692-4271.

Crosslake Walkers & Talkers

The Community Center gym is open Monday - Friday, 8 - 9 am for walking.

Yoga

"Yoga with Gail," Tuesdays, 10 - 11:30 am.

Community Center Fitness Room

The Community Center offers an array of fitness equipment and the fitness room is open to everyone 15 and older. Day passes and memberships are available. We also offer fitness incentive programs for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of MN and ND, Preferred One, Health Partners and South Country Health Alliance, and Medica.

Learn to Play Pickleball

Parks and Rec will offer free Beginners Pickleball Instruction on May 2, June 6, July 11 and August 1. An instructor will teach basic skills, scoring, and strategies. Pre-registration required.

Pickleball Play for Beginners Only

Will be held Mondays May - Aug. from 1 - 2:30 pm and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Annual membership is \$30. Day pass is \$4.

Pickleball

Intermediate/Advanced Pickleball Mixer's hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:30 - 3:30 pm and Friday from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Annual membership is \$30. Day passes are available.

Pickleball Private Rentals

Pickleball inside court time has been set aside for private rental on Thursdays from 1 - 3 pm. Court/equipment rental is \$10/hour and must be secured in advance by calling 218-692-4271. (Outside equipment rental is based on court availability. Fee is \$10/hour per set; Spring-Fall only).

Adult Volleyball

Enjoy competitive volleyball Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm. League play continues through May 25. Memberships and day passes are available.

Adult Tennis Mixer

Join us Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9 - 11 am for adult mixed doubles play. Program runs June 6 through August 30. Annual fee is \$22. Stop by our office to register or call 218-692-4271.

Women's Tennis League

Reserved court time for women-only league is Wednesday mornings from 9 - 11 am, June 1

through August 31. Annual fee is \$22 or registration in Adult Tennis Mixer. Stop by our office to register or call 218-692-4271.

Senior Programs

Senior Nutrition Site

The Community Center is the site for the Senior Nutrition program Monday - Friday. Lunch is served at 11:30 am. For reservations, call 218-692-4271 by 4 pm the business day prior to your meal. Deliveries are also available to home-bound individuals in the Crosslake area.

SilverSneakers® Program Offerings:

Classic Class

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:15 am. Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activities for daily living.

SilverSneakers® Circuit Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:15 am. Combine fun with fitness to increase your cardiovascular power and muscular endurance with a standing circuit workout.

SilverSneakers® Yoga Stretch

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:15 am. This popular class will move your whole body through a series of seated and standing yoga poses. As with all the SilverSneakers classes, a chair is used for support, stretching, and relaxation exercises. Classes are free to all eligible SilverSneakers members. Non-members may purchase a \$28 punch card, good for 8 classes, or a day pass for \$4/class.

Silver&Fit

Silver&Fit is designed to help older adults achieve better health through regular exercise and health education. Silver&Fit provides eligible members with no-cost or low-cost fitness memberships through arrangements with some health plans. Silver&Fit is provided by American Specialty Health Fitness, Inc., a subsidiary of American Specialty Health, Inc.

Education

AAA Driver Safety Program

The Minnesota Highway Safety and Research Center and AAA are sponsoring safety classes at the Community Center. An 8-hour class for first time students is scheduled for: Wednesday and Thursday, May 4 and 5 from 9 am to 1 pm each day. A 4-hour refresher course for repeat students is being offered Thursday, May 12 from 9 am - 1 pm. To register, call AAA at 888-234-1294.

Crosslake Chautauqua

A free presentation called *Unexplored Territory: Nearby Vacations You Never Thought to Take*

will be held May 11 at 1:30 pm. It will cover many unique, picturesque, and historic getaways within a 2-hour drive from Crosslake. Alden and Mary Hardwick set a goal of exploring one of these destinations each week, and have experienced many adventures. They will share stories, photos, and suggestions, and provide handouts of vacation destinations. Chautauqua is an educational forum offering free programs on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm.

Youth Programming

2016 Junior Golf and Pizza League

Mondays from June 13 - July 18; ages 12 and older, 4 - 6 pm; ages 11 and under, 5 - 6:30 pm. This league provides a short instruction and practice period, followed by a chance to apply these skills on a golf course. Class size is limited. Call Crosswoods Golf Course at 218-692-4653 for details and pricing.

Youth Tennis Lessons

Mon - Wed mornings. Session #1 June 13 - 22, Session #2 July 11 - 20, Session #3 July 25 - August 3. \$90 - three sessions, \$38 per session or \$25 per week.

Upcoming Events

Annual Crosslake Garden Club's Plant Sale

Saturday, June 4 from 8:30 - 11:00 am at the picnic shelter.

Community Center Announcements

Picnic Shelter

Reservations are now being accepted for shelter rentals through mid-October, weather permitting. Make reservations early to secure your date.

Community Center Clubs Calendar

Art Club.....	May 2, 1 pm
Woodcarvers.....	May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 1:30 pm
Railroad Club.....	May 9, 1 pm
Garden Club.....	May 18, 1 pm
Book Club*.....	May 20, 10 am
Bridge.....	May 6, 13, 20, 27, 1 pm
Mah Jongg.....	May 5, 12, 19, 26, 1 pm

*Please call the Community Center at 218-692-4271 for the Book Club's May selection.

Community Center Hours • 218-692-4271

Monday through Thursday, 5 am - 9 pm
Friday, 5 am - 7 pm
Saturday, 8 am - 4 pm
Sunday, 8 am - 4 pm

Library Hours • 218-692-READ (7323)

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, 10 am - 4 pm
Tuesday, 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday, 10 am - 1 pm
The Community Center will be closed on May 30 for Memorial Day.