

Crosslake Communiqué

July 2016



You're Invited to a Party

Plan to join us for our annual Customer Appreciation! Mark your calendar now and plan to attend our Annual Customer Appreciation Party on Wednesday, August 24. We invite you to stop by to visit with our staff and the new owners — Tri-Co Technologies. Watch for more details in the August issue of the Crosslake Communiqué!



Office Closings

Crosslake Communications and the City of Crosslake will be closed on: Monday, July 4 for Independence Day

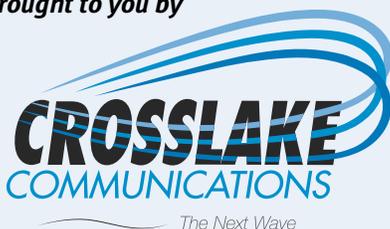
Crosslake Communications

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



Tri-Co Technologies Buys Crosslake Communications

Crosslake Communications has been a city-owned telecommunications company since 1925. In the past 91 years, the company has seen considerable growth in its products and services. What began as a small phone system for fire protection has evolved into a company offering phone, cable TV, and Internet services.

Through the years, the question of whether the City should be in the telecommunications business has arisen often. With new council members every two years, there has been a lot of change in the direction of the company.

In 2006, Crosslake Communications began installing fiber optics to its customers. Currently, about 50% of customers are on the fiber system. Unfortunately, the fiber installation was stalled in 2012 when the company was not able to obtain funding for it. A considerable investment needs to be made to continue upgrading the remaining copper-based plant to provide higher Internet speeds to customers. The City Council has been hesitant to accumulate additional debt to fund these investments. As a result, a subcommittee was formed to create a vision for Crosslake Communications.

During the past eleven months, this subcommittee has worked hard to research all of the options available to Crosslake Communications. Some of the key issues affecting the company were identified and include:

- There are significant changes in funding support for rural companies like Crosslake Communications.
- Broadband usage is increasing at an exponential rate due to the use of the Internet.
- Crosslake Communications has addressed considerable end-of-life equipment issues with the current infrastructure that needs replacing.
- There has been no long-range vision for the company to complete the fiber optics upgrade to the remaining service areas to meet future demands for broadband.

Continued on page 2



Tri-Co Technologies Buys Crosslake Communications

Continued from page 1

The subcommittee determined the company has four options and researched the pros and cons of each:

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

In a December 2015 meeting, the City Council voted unanimously to pursue a partnership with a telecommunications cooperative. However, due to the municipal bidding requirements, sealed bids were going to be required of all interested parties.

After this meeting, consultants were hired to find a company suited to take on the challenges of Crosslake Communications. Documents were located or prepared for upload to an electronic data room for interested companies to view after signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement. There were 11 companies that signed the Non-Disclosure Agreement and were given access to the data room. An on-site visit was set up with interested companies. Those visits took place in May with representatives from seven companies meeting and touring the office and facilities within the city.

The sealed bid-opening took place on May 16, and two bids were received. Both bids fit all requirements of the process and were accepted for evaluation.

A meeting was held with the Crosslake Communications Advisory Board on May 23, at which time they reviewed all

information provided by the bidders. They then made a recommendation to the City Council to accept the bid from Tri-Co Technologies LLC with a purchase price of \$6,372,000 and a commitment to invest \$2,000,000 in the infrastructure over a five-year period. Later that same day, the City Council met to receive the recommendation from the Advisory Board. With a vote of 5-0 to accept the high bid, Tri-Co Technologies was approved as the buyer of Crosslake Communications.

Tri-Co Technologies is a company made up of three telephone companies: West Central Telephone Association (WCTA), Emily Cooperative Telephone Company (ECTC), and Rural Communication Holding Corporation (BEVCOMM). The three companies combined have 226 years of experience. Both ECTC and WCTA have invested in Fiber to the Home (FTTH) to provide telecommunications services to 100% of their members. BEVCOMM currently provides FTTH to 20% of their Internet customers, but in the non-fiber areas, customers can receive Internet speeds up to 90 Mbps. Each of Tri-Co Technologies' partners has a long history of community focus, donating to its respective service communities financially and through employee volunteer participation.

While the bid has been awarded, Tri-Co Technologies will not take over as the owner of Crosslake Communications until after the companies receive regulatory approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the FCC. This is expected to take up to 180 days.

The staff of Crosslake Communications welcomes Tri-Co Technologies as the new owner of Crosslake Communications and is excited about the opportunities this brings customers.



Crosslake *Communiqué* CITY NEWS

www.cityofcrosslake.org

Crosslake Area Library

Bring your children and grandchildren for this Free Legacy Event!! Enter an entertaining world of magic and imagination with Indian-born actor and storyteller, Zaraawar Mistry, in his retelling of classic myths, historical stories, and animal fables from India. In the process, learn about Indian culture, wildlife, food, and history. Greg Herriges plays live music on guitar and bouzouki (Greek flute). This program has been performed at Minnesota libraries and schools as well as at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Minnesota History Center, and Asia Society, New York.



Registration for the Summer Reading Club is open. This popular program for school-age children will be offered from July 7 through August 4 on Thursday mornings, beginning at 9:15 am for ages 5-7 and 9:45 am for grades 2-5. Once a week, children will participate in the “READ, EXPLORE, CREATE” program for incentive reading. We’ll offer weekly presentations such as The Raptor Center, Horses, The Rocket Guy, and a few other surprises. Children who register to attend all of the sessions will receive a free t-shirt, book bag, books, and other weekly prizes. The cost

is \$5 per child and \$1 for a library card of their own if they don’t already have one. Also, we’re opening this program up for drop-ins this year for a fee of \$3.00 per session.

Our Book Sale will be August 4–6. We need many new volunteers for this event, and we’re asking for donations of shelf-quality books for the sale. Just drop off your items during library hours, which are weekdays from 10 am – 4 pm (except Tuesdays, which are 10 am – 6 pm) and Saturdays from 10 am – 1 pm. Stop in and talk to Kim Larson or call at 218-692-READ (7323) for more information. Also, Preschool Story hour will be back in September.

Monthly Safety Tips

Robert Hartman, Police Chief

Every year before the July 4th holiday, I get many questions about which fireworks are legal and which are not, so here are the answers.

Fireworks laws in Minnesota are more stringent than you may realize. The best way to remember what you can and can’t buy: if it flies or explodes, it is **NOT** legal. That includes many popular types of fireworks like bottle rockets, fire crackers, and Roman candles. Sparklers, snakes, and party poppers are still fair game, but they can’t be used on public property such as parks and school grounds.

Some people travel to Wisconsin to purchase fireworks. However, you have to be at

least 18 years old to buy any type of fireworks, and retailers are required to ask for photo ID at the time of purchase. Keep fireworks out of the reach of children and above all — be safe.

Economic Development

Patty Norgaard, EDA President

Over the years, I’ve talked about the phrase, “**Invest in Crosslake.**” It takes on different meanings for each of us. For example, by paying property taxes, we **Invest in Crosslake.** Our volunteers **Invest in Crosslake** when they help the Crosslake Historical Society, Northern Trackers Railroad Museum, Paul Bunyan Scenic By-way Association, and Crosslake-Ideal Lions.

Now you have an opportunity to **Invest in Crosslake** by becoming a Crosslake Laker. Along with the Minnesota Design Team (MDT), you’ll help plan a great weekend on September 16 and 17. Many of you already had the opportunity to learn about the MDT at our June community event. Join us at Town Square on July 12 and in August at Zorbaz for other events to learn about the weekend and what you can do to **Invest in Crosslake!**

Mark your calendars for the Crosslake Community Dinner September 16 for an evening of food, MDT activities, and fun! Everybody has a voice, and we all need to **Invest in Crosslake!**

Parks and Library (PAL) Foundation Update

The PAL Foundation, City of Crosslake, Crosslake Chamber of Commerce, and the Crosslake Fireworks Committee are looking forward to another fabulous fireworks show on Saturday, July 2. Please consider sending a donation to support this Crosslake tradition to: PAL Foundation, 14126 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, MN.

Thanks to the local volunteers who built a barge to create a safer environment for the fireworks to be launched on Sand Island. This barge will also help preserve the island and continue the tradition of this launch location. We also thank the public for their donations of aluminum pontoons to help create the barge. The fireworks are truly a grassroots effort.

Whitefish Warrior: Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 6 for the first annual Whitefish Warrior, an adventure run that will take place on the trails at the Crosslake Community Center. The route will include some mud, a few things to climb, a chance to paddle a kayak,

and a lot of FUN! Proceeds from the event will go to the Parks and Library Foundation of Crosslake to help further its goals. Visit www.crosslakepalfoundation.org for details and the link to register online.

Bocce Ball and Shuffleboard: Stop by the Crosslake Community Center and check out the new shuffleboard and bocce ball courts located east of the playground. The Foundation thanks the contributors for this new family recreation area. Equipment can be checked out at the Community Center front desk.

Public Notice: The City of Crosslake and the Crosslake Fireworks Committee will be utilizing the public access on Robert St. on Saturday, July 2 to bring supplies back and forth from Sand Island to prepare for the fireworks show. Because of this, the access will not be available for public use throughout the day and into the evening. Please make plans to use the other public access points on Cross Lake on July 2.

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.

Open Gym

Hours vary; stop by for a schedule.

Crosslake Walkers & Talkers

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

Yoga

"Yoga with Gail" classes are held Tuesdays from 10 to 11 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

Crosslake Parks and Recreation will offer free pickleball instruction for beginners on July 11 and August 1 from 1 - 2:30 pm. Learn basic skills, scoring, and strategies for this fast-growing sport.

Beginning Pickleball League

Will be held all other Mondays from 1 - 2:30 pm and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 pm for beginners only. 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 mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Annual Membership for 2016 is \$30. Day passes are \$4.

Pickleball Private Rentals

Rent an inside court on Thursdays, 1 - 3 pm, for \$10/hr per set. Reservations required; call 218-692-4271. (Outside equipment rental is based on court availability.)

Adult Tennis Mixer

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

Women's Tennis League

Reserved court time for women-only league 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 for more information.

Disc Golf

Our course is free to the public. Discs for rental or purchase and maps are available at the Recreation Office.

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. 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 a four-hour refresher course for repeat students on July 14, 9 am - 1 pm and an additional class on August 18 from 9 am - 1 pm. To register, call AAA at 888-234-1294.

Crosslake Chautauqua

July 13 at 1:30 pm

Breezy Point Resort - the Facts and the Myths

The July Chautauqua will highlight the evolution of Breezy Point Resort from the Roaring Twenties to the present day. Presenters Dave Gravidahl and George Rasmusson will tell the story, complemented with many photos of the high times and the low times of the resort. Their history will provide a glimpse into the life of its

flamboyant founder, Captain Billy Fawcett.

Youth Programming

Youth Tennis Lessons

There is still time to register for Youth Tennis Lessons for Young Beginners, Beginners, and Advanced Beginners. Session 2 will be held July 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20. Session 3 will be held July 25 - 27, and August 1 - 3. \$38 per session. Register on our website or at the Parks and Recreation office.

Summer Sports Clubs for Boys and Girls Grades 4-8

Basketball - Fridays from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, July 1, 15, 22, 19. Fee \$40

Soccer - Wednesdays from 9:30 am - 11:30 am, July 13, 20, 27. Fee \$32

Fall Soccer

Watch for more information next month on Fall Soccer Registration.

Upcoming Events

Annual Book Sale: August 4-6, 9 am - 4 pm Daily

Crosslake Art Show: August 11-13, 10 am - 5 pm

Community Center Announcements

Property Tax Help

Get assistance with filing your property tax on July 12 from noon to 3 pm. Call 218-692-4271 to schedule an appointment. No walk-ins.

Picnic Shelter

Reservations are now being accepted for shelter rentals through mid-October, weather permitting.

Community Center Clubs Calendar

Art Club.....	July 18, 1 pm
Woodcarvers.....	July 5, 12, 19, 26, 1:30 pm
Railroad Club.....	July 12, 1 pm
Garden Club.....	July 20, 1 pm
Book Club*.....	July 15, 10 am
Bridge.....	July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 1 pm
Mah Jongg.....	July 7, 14, 21, 28 1 pm

*The Book Club's July selection is *The Pearl That Broke Its Shell*, by Nadia Hashimi.

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 July 4 for Independence Day.