



# Craw-Kan

Your Community Technology Partner

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**PAID**  
Joplin, MO 64802  
Permit No. 116

AUGUST  
2023

The  
**Craw-Kan**  
Connection

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## Fiber Coming to More Members!

As part of the US Department of Agriculture's ReConnect program, the Cooperative has received approval for a \$49.9 million dollar loan to build out high-speed fiber internet to the communities of Bartlett, Hallowell, West Mineral, Crestline, Galesburg, Walnut, Brazilton, Hepler, Farlington and Hiattville. This five-year build out will get us even closer to our goal of having 100% of our Coop built out with gigabit speed internet. The loan comes with a very attractive 2% fixed rate for the life of the loan.

To qualify for the ReConnect Program, an applicant must serve a rural area that lacks access to internet service at speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. Applicants must also commit to building to all customers in the proposed area. We are currently going through the pre-build process of performing all required environmental reviews and our engineers are gathering a list of prospective bidders for year 1 of the project.

Our plan is to begin in Hiattville and Farlington and then move to Hepler, Walnut and Brazilton. Construction is expected to begin in early 2024. Thanks to the tremendous support of our members for more than 70 years, Craw-Kan is able to help make sure rural America continues to be a place of opportunity to live, work and raise a family.

### Board of Directors

Mary Smith,  
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*Vice-President*

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*Director*

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*Director*

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*Director*

Roger Doue,  
*Director*

Randy Vogts,  
*Director*

Craig Wilbert,  
*General Manager*

The Craw-Kan Connection is  
a member newsletter published by Craw-Kan.

Find us on these  
social media sites  
for the latest news  
on your cooperative



This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.

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Craw-Kan AUGUST 2023

## Customer Appreciation is Friday, September 8th

Our annual customer appreciation day is scheduled for Friday, September 8th from 11 am - 2 pm. As a way to show our gratitude to our patrons, we would like to invite all our members to join us for lunch at our business office in Girard (200 N. Ozark). Come have lunch with us!



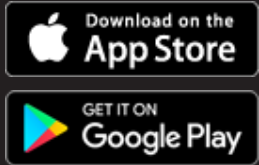
## National Do Not Call Registry

Managed by the Federal Trade Commission, the DNC registry gives you an opportunity to limit the telemarketing calls you receive. After you place your telephone number on the Registry, most telemarketers will be required to remove your number from their call lists and may not call you. However, you may still receive calls from political organizations, charities, telephone surveyors, or companies with which you have an existing business relationship.

You can register by calling toll free 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register. You may also go to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) if you have a working email address. Registration is free.

## Pay with SmartHub

Paying bills shouldn't be a hassle. We offer more ways to pay your bill now than ever. Pay online or pay with the easy to use SmartHub app available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.



## Craw-Kan Director Positions

Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative has a board of nine directors each serving a three year term. Elections are staggered, according to our By-Laws whereby three director positions are up for election each year at the Craw-Kan Annual Meeting held in October. A nominating committee, appointed by the current directors in August, will meet in early September to make nominations for the three positions to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of Members in October. Voting at the Annual Meeting is by secret ballot. The By-Laws allow nominations from the floor of the Annual Meeting and any member desiring to vote for a candidate nominated from the floor at the meeting shall write in the name of such candidate beneath the candidates nominated by the committee. Each voting member of the Cooperative present in person at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for three candidates. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes at such meeting shall be declared elected as Directors. For more detailed information on the election of Directors see Article IV of the By-Laws in the front of the Directory.

The Craw-Kan By-Laws state in Section 4.3 "Any member shall be eligible to be nominated, elected and remain a Director of cooperative who:

- Resides in the geographic area served by the Cooperative.
- Is not an employee of cooperative or in any way financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling communication services or communication supplies or maintaining communication facilities. However, the Board may grant exceptions for 'de minimus' competing enterprises.
- Is not closely related to an incumbent Director or an employee of the Cooperative.
- Whose election would not establish a majority of directors to represent any one exchange area.
- Whose election would not establish a majority of more than one director to represent either the rural or urban areas.

If you would be interested in having the nominating committee consider you for nomination, your application will be presented to the nomination committee. Please send the following information to the General Manager, P.O. Box 100, Girard, KS 66743 **no later than September 12, 2023:**

### Information Required:

Name, address and telephone number.  
Work experience.  
Short paragraph stating why you would be interested in being a director.

### Local Service Rates For Telephone Service

Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a telecommunications provider who provides basic and enhanced services within its service territory. Basic services are offered at various rates depending on the state and location where you receive service. Customers have access to long distance, directory assistance, and operator service providers of their choice, at rates established by those carriers. Emergency 911 Services are provided and a surcharge is assessed at governmental rates. If you have any questions regarding the Company's services you can visit the business office located at: 200 N. Ozark St., Girard, KS 66743 or by calling 800-362-0316.

## Colony Exchange Fiber-To-The-Home Project

Late last year Governor Laura Kelly announced over \$80 million dollars in grant funding for broadband as part of the Kansas Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF). Craw-Kan applied and was awarded a \$4.6 million dollar grant for the area of Colony, Kansas in the first round of awards. Originally, it was anticipated that this would cover 70-80% of the project costs, but it will be much less with the recent price increases in construction and equipment - which makes the grant even more crucial.

In May of this year, we received bids for this project and the winning lowest bidder was Wildcat Construction. As of now, construction is slated to start in October of this year. The project is expected to take 10-12 months to complete and once complete, we will add roughly another 100 miles of reliable high-speed fiber-optics to the cooperative's network and be able to offer the same \$70/mo GIGABIT speeds to Colony and the surrounding area.



## Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an FCC benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.

The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount per household.

### Who is Eligible?

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines; or
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools.;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or

### Two-Steps to Enroll

1. Go to [AffordableConnectivity.gov](http://AffordableConnectivity.gov) to submit an application or print out a mail-in application; and
2. Contact Craw-Kan to sign consent and opt-in forms where required and select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

## Lifeline

You may be eligible to receive a discount on your monthly local telephone bill through the Lifeline Program. You are eligible if you receive any of the following: Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, Veterans Pension of Survivors Benefit Programs, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, & Tribal Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard). For more information about the Lifeline Program, call your local telephone service provider. Craw-Kan Telephone Cooperative, Inc. customers may call 800-362-0316.

## Call Before You Dig

Kansas 800-344-7233  
Missouri 800-344-7483  
Oklahoma 800-362-0318

