

The Connector

Expect More. Do More.

Q3 2020 Newsletter



Main Street Rehabilitation

Residents and visitors to La Porte City are sure to notice the many construction projects going on this summer in our community. It includes reconstruction of the street, new sidewalks, memorial benches, lighting, and the construction of a plaza for small community gatherings.



LPC Connect has a front-row vantage point of the Main Street Reconstruction project. Access to our business office is limited due to street closures. However, we are currently closed to walk-in due to physical distancing for the safety of our customers and employees. The City expects the Main Street Rehabilitation project to be completed in October 2020.



PROPOSED RENDERING OF MAIN STREET

We're Committed to Keeping You Connected

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed daily life for everyone. What hasn't changed is LPC Connect's ongoing commitment to keeping you connected. Years ago, we invested heavily in our fiber networks to provide reliable and virtually unlimited broadband to our service area. Today, the Fusion Network is meeting the challenge of accelerated home internet use.

We know you need to keep working, learning, and unwinding during these challenging times. **Please call 319-342-3369 if you need local help with any of our communications services.**



Beware of COVID-19 Computer Scams

Many of us are spending more time than normal on our screens, whether we are working from home or binge-watching our favorite shows. Scammers and hackers are taking the vulnerabilities presented by COVID-19 to launch new phishing and malware attacks. Phishing is when people try to get you to give them sensitive information, like social security numbers, credit card numbers, and so on. Malware is a program that can get into your computer and damage files, delete them, or give your computer a virus.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO TO STAY VIGILANT:

- **Don't open that attachment or click that link.** If you don't recognize the person who sent the email, don't click on an attachment or link. Even if you do recognize the sender, if there is no personal information in the email, don't click. You might receive an email that says "Look at this" along with a link or an attachment. Only open attachments or click on links if they are clearly from someone you know. If you're unsure, call the person to verify.
- **Watch out for pop-ups.** If a pop-up appears on your computer or phone that sounds too good to be true, it is. Pop-ups promising that you have won something or saying there's a problem on your computer should be treated with skepticism.
- **Don't fall for a scam.** There is no prince in Nigeria who will give you seven million dollars. If you receive a message from a loved one who says they have been kidnapped and need money immediately, take a deep breath and call the person to check before you do anything else. Never give out personal information—bank account or credit card information, social security number, etc.—unless you are certain it is going to the right place.
- **Use a strong password.** Just about every safety checklist starts with this simple tip. When you create a password, make sure it is nearly impossible to guess. Do that by creating a long password (8 or more characters) that includes both uppercase and lowercase letters, at least one number, and at least one special character (like ! or @ or \$ or %).



- **Double-check the address.** If you get to a website asking you to download something or input information, check the web address to be sure. If you see a trusted website, like amazon.com, then you're okay. But if you see something like amazon.134870xkajg.com, that's a scam. The word or phrase next to the ".com" is the real owner of the site, so smile.amazon.com is really Amazon but the previous example (amazon.134870xkajg.com) is not. This advice applies to email addresses, too. A common email scam is an email that appears to be from a coworker saying, "Can you please open this attachment and print it for me?" Your coworker's name may be there, but the email address will be wrong.

Unfortunately, some people are taking this vulnerable time to exploit people. Stay vigilant and you'll be fine. If you have questions about something you think may be a scam, don't hesitate to contact us. We also offer Tech Home, a suite of computer security services, which includes anti-virus protection, cloud data storage, and a password manager.

Contact LPC Connect for more information on Tech Home and call 319-342-3369.

TECH HOME
Technology Made Easy

LPC Connect

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Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

319-342-3369

email: lpctelco@lpctel.net
www.lpcconnect.net
www.facebook.com/lpcconnect/

Internet Tech Support: 855-558-9863
SecureIT Tech Support: 877-373-3320
After Hours Repair: 319-342-2213

How Technology is Helping Seniors Live Independently

Given the comforting familiarity and fond memories of home, it's no surprise that home is where many seniors prefer to spend their golden years. Yet declines in physical abilities or cognitive function can make living alone an unsafe option. Thankfully, new technology is enabling more seniors to stay in their homes and age in place.

A growing number of affordable devices are now on the market to help seniors enjoy greater independence and give their families more peace of mind. They include:

- **Smart Detection Devices** — There are smart stove alarms to alert older adults to potentially dangerous situations in the kitchen and smart bath monitors to detect potential overflow issues and shut off water before the bathtub overfills.
- **Smart Medication Reminders** — Since seniors often take multiple medications, making sure the correct medication is taken at the correct time is a worrisome issue for many families. To address it, smart medication pillboxes offer audible or visual cues to prompt users to take their meds and can also send remote alerts to caregivers.
- **Smart Doorbells** — By providing a video picture of visitors, these devices help older adults decide whether or not to answer the door to a stranger.
- **Smart Home Security Systems** — These can be programmed to automatically lock doors, arm security systems, and alert homeowners and caregivers remotely if issues arise.

Other assistive devices include phones with large buttons that are easy for stiff fingers to use, and curtains or blinds that can be operated with remote controls.

Smart devices which help seniors age in place add to the demands of a home's internet connection. Contact **LPC Connect for more information on speeds and prices of our internet plans.**

Article Courtesy of Cornerstone Group



Relax and Watch TV Without A TV

Use TV Everywhere

You don't have to be at home in a room with a TV to enjoy your FusionTV plan. With TV Everywhere, you can stream programming — including live TV and full episodes of current TV shows — to your tablet, smartphone, or laptop from anywhere with an internet signal.

This means you can watch what you want on separate devices in your bedroom, on your gaming system, or during your break at work. You can also “take the show on the road” while riding in a car or killing time at an airport.

To start enjoying TV Everywhere, simply register with your LPC Connect account number at www.lpcconnect.net. Not yet one of our FusionTV customers? Call today at 319-342-3369 to sign up.

There's a Ripple Effect When You Shop Local

When a single stone is thrown in a lake, many ripples form from the impact and expand across the water. That's similar to the effect you can have in your community when you choose to shop locally.

When you choose locally owned businesses for your shopping, you create a ripple effect. It starts with your own experience and the benefits you get from shopping at independent stores—such as being able to rely on local retailers' expertise. Then the effects keep going. By shopping at local stores, you connect with your community. You strengthen your local economy. And finally, as the circle of ripples extends out, you cast a vote for the American dream.



HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SHOP WITH LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES:

- **You benefit from expertise.** Get the right item and save time by relying on the expertise of local retailers.
- **You connect with your community.** Shopping locally means bumping into friends, enjoying lively streets, and trading neighborhood news with the people behind the counter. Local businesses make communities work.
- **You strengthen your local economy.** Local retailers hire local people, pay local taxes, and source goods locally. When you shop locally, you expand the opportunity where you live.
- **You cast a vote for the American dream.** Starting a small business has long been a pathway to the middle class. By supporting local entrepreneurs, you invest in a future that works for all of us.

LPC Connect believes strongly in the importance of supporting local businesses, and we thank you for choosing us as your communications provider. By working together, we can help our community thrive.



“ Easy to work with and had nothing but good luck with LPC Connect!

– JASON, MOUNT AUBURN

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