

The Landline Telephone: Still Around for a Reason!

The landline telephone is not simply sitting around gathering dust in people's homes, it is still around for a few very good reasons. So if you have been considering getting rid of your landline phone, read on for some reasons to reconsider.

- The first great reason for a landline telephone is when calling 911. Your landline telephone is tied into your address, and this address will display on the emergency response system. So whether someone is unable to speak the address or someone does not know the address, emergency personnel will still be able to respond and in the most timely manner. On top of this, a landline telephone is much harder to lose than a cell phone, and therefore can be faster and easier to find when emergencies happen.

New, Improved, and Just for You!

La Jicarita is excited to announce the launch of our updated website www.lajicarita.com. The new site has a fresh new look and was designed with your needs in mind. The user-friendly navigation provides easy access to our services, our contact information, FAQs, the latest Fiber Project updates, and more. Stop by www.lajicarita.com today to see what's new!

What is an Easement?

By definition, a utility easement simply gives a service provider the right to use—and access—a specific area of a property. Although this may seem like an obvious process needed to provide service to a customer, there is more to it for La Jicarita RURAL Telephone Cooperative.

Right-of-way easements are very important to us and all of our members of the Cooperative and most especially those in rural areas.

We would like to acknowledge those customers who have allowed us an easement to provide a service to their neighbors and in some cases, neighboring communities. We feel that everyone deserves to have a telephone and/or Internet connection, and with your support we can provide continued service to others in our Mora and Wagon Mound Exchanges.

We could not do it without you! **THANK YOU.**

—LJRTC Board & Management



- Another situation in which landlines phones can be extremely helpful is in the event of a power outage. A corded phone will keep working when the power is out, because the phone company has an emergency back-up system for just this occasion. When the power is out, your cell phone may run out of power—but you can still talk to friends, family, and anyone else you need to on your corded landline phone.
 - Cell phone technology just keeps getting better. But the fact is that in some areas, cell reception is nowhere near the clarity or reliability of a landline phone. Even if your cell reception is great—the chance of something disrupting cell service is greater than on a landline. This can be especially important for people suffering from hearing loss or for people who rely on the phone for business or other important communications.
 - How secure are your phone conversations? Well with a cell phone, anyone with interception equipment – or even other cell phones – could listen in and get valuable private information. Bank card information, when you might be leaving your house, the names of your loved ones, and lots more information could potentially be used to do you and your family harm.
- Landline phone service has been around for over a century. It may seem like old technology, but it can still be an invaluable tool for you and your family.

Securing Your Data in a Few Simple Steps

- There seems to be a new data breach every day. In our digital world, there are a few simple ways that you can keep yourself from being a statistic.
- Make your online passwords very difficult to guess, and change them often. It should not contain your name, family members names, usernames, birthdays or other significant dates. They should be significantly different from past passwords, and should contain a mix of letters and numbers, uppercase and lowercase, and symbols if they are allowed. Try substituting letters with numbers and symbols. If you have to write it down, do not label it as such and put it in a very secure location.
 - If you are purchasing something over the Internet, make sure it is a trusted and safe site. You may want to look into a virtual credit card, which is a one-time use system made specifically for online purchases. Check to see that the beginning of the web address is “https://”, not just “http://”. Check for the ‘lock’ icon in the status bar of the browser window. And above all, if something doesn't



Bandwidth 101: What You Need to Know about the Numbers

You all know what the Internet is, and you know you have (or can get) an Internet Service Provider. So what is bandwidth and where does it come into play with your Internet? Or maybe the question should be: why does it matter? Keep reading to find out!

Imagine the Internet as a milkshake. It's fluid, and anyone with a straw or a spoon can dig in and eat some. Imagine the shopkeeper as your ISP—they make the eating of the milkshakes possible, and have the cups, spoons, and straws to help you enjoy it. Bandwidth is, essentially, the size of straw that you choose to enjoy your milkshake with. A teeny, tiny coffee-stirrer straw will take an excruciating amount of time. A regular-size straw will take a reasonable amount of time. A wide straw will allow you to eat the milkshake pretty quickly.

Quickly consuming Internet content will not give you brain-freeze like a milkshake will, thank goodness. Internet speeds are measured in bytes per second or bps. So if you have 56k Internet, you have available up to 56,000 bytes per

second of data. This connection is pretty much the lowest available any more, and can be very slow. If you have 1.5 Mbps Internet, you can download approximately 1,500,000 bytes per second. A 50 Mbps Internet connection will give you access to more than 50,000,000 bytes per second.

Available Internet speeds keep increasing with technology and needs, and the prices are going down over time. So while you are sitting there waiting for your Internet page to load, or waiting for your movie to stream, you may find yourself thinking about tiny straws...or craving a milkshake.



- seem right—it probably isn't.
- Secure your wireless router. Change the default usernames and passwords, following best practices mentioned in the first tip. Turn on the WPA/WEP encryption and change the default SSID (but disable SSID Broadcast). Assign a static IP address to your devices, and enable the firewall on your devices and the router. If it sounds like the last few sentences were in a different language, don't just ignore the issue. Reach out to a trustworthy source to help you—it's worth it!
 - Anti-virus software is not enough. You should have software installed that is anti-virus, antispam, firewall, privacy, backup, phishing protection, and tuneup. This type of software is called a security suite. The best versions of these software systems when used correctly, keep your computer safe from most security concerns.

Fiber Project Update

La Jicarita's fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) projects are still progressing as planned. The two major FTTH projects are the Stimulus Projects (Mora, Rainsville, Holman and south Chacon) and Phase II of the "L" Loan Projects (Wagon Mound, Ocate and parts of Chacon). With the completion of these main construction stages, the focus will shift to connecting cooperative members to new fiber optic services. In areas where the new fiber has been constructed, coop members receiving services over existing copper wires will be connected (cutover) to the new fiber network.

In Wagon Mound, all coop members have been cutover to fiber. Many members have been cutover to the fiber in Mora, Rainsville, Chacon and Ocate. La Jicarita will be continuing this transition in these areas as well as in the Holman area over the first half of 2014. The transitions of members to fiber in both the Mora and Wagon Mound exchanges will allow La Jicarita to retire and remove the old aerial copper plant related to the Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative's new electric line between Mora and La Cueva. All aerial cable from Mora to Chacon will also be retired.

In addition to the fiber infrastructure being implemented through both the Stimulus and "L" Loan projects, La Jicarita has erected two towers in the Wagon Mound exchange to provide upgraded services to members who are located in outlying areas of the exchange that could not feasibly be reached within the fiber projects. Both of these towers are complete and actively providing services to several cooperative members with more being moved to the new wireless service in the near future.

Moving into 2014, La Jicarita has plans to continue upgrading facilities in the Mora exchange through continued equipment and fiber optic upgrades. Our goal is to provide members with the best and most economically feasible telecommunication services.

Questions? Please contact La Jicarita Operations Manager
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Visit us at www.lajicarita.com today.



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