

NEMONT *TODAY*



SPR
16

GET NEMONT & GET CONNECTED

Crow Agency, MT

Monument Center, Suite 1
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Glasgow, MT

702 2nd Ave S
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Plentywood, MT

115 W 2nd Ave
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Poplar, MT

604 Assiniboine Ave
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Scobey, MT

61 Hwy 13 S
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Williston, ND

1135 2nd Ave. W. Suite 206
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. CST Mon-Fri

Wolf Point, MT

220 Benton St
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Worden, MT

2457 Main St
9 a.m. - noon, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Mon
8 a.m. - noon, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Thurs

Visit our website at

www.nemont.net or check
out our Facebook page at
[www.facebook.com/
NemontCountry](http://www.facebook.com/NemontCountry).

NEMONT WILL BE CLOSED

- 05/30 – Memorial Day
- 07/04 – Independence Day
- 09/05 – Labor Day



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NEMONT TODAY

A NOTE FROM NEMONT'S CEO, MIKE KILGORE

Notice anything different? We gave the Nemont Today newsletter a makeover to update its design and expand its content.



As noted on the cover, Nemont is celebrating a major achievement — being recognized by NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association as a **Certified Gig-Capable Provider**. Discover what this all means, including just how fast a Gig Internet connection is, on pages 4 and 5. If your home or business could use faster Internet, now's a great time to contact Nemont about an upgrade. Also in this issue, find out the **essentials of streaming video**, how to enter our **2016 photo contest**, and much more.

The ability to change is essential for business success, and Nemont continues to embrace new technologies in order to bring you better solutions. One example is **SmartHub**, a smart way to manage your Nemont account and pay your bill electronically. We urge you to start using SmartHub if you aren't already. Also on the topic of change, I'd like to share important news:

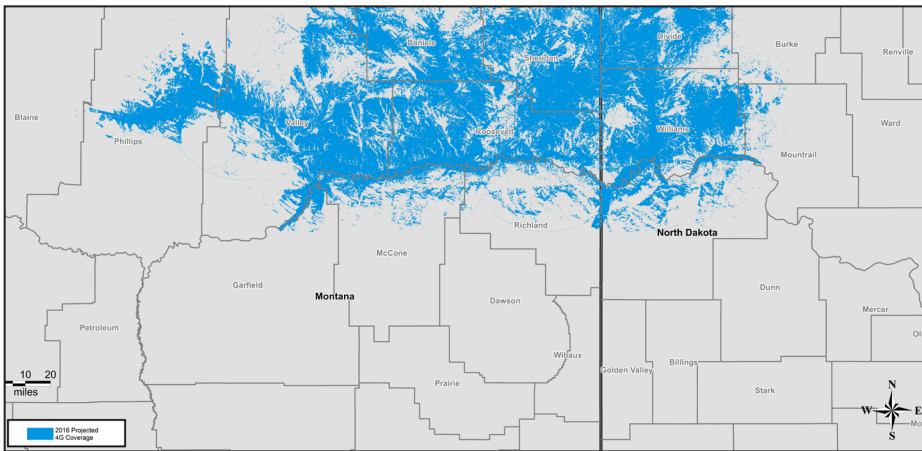
Nemont has launched a Fiber to the Home project (FTTH) in Hinsdale! It's now in its preliminary phase as we seek to acquire right of way in hopes of beginning construction this summer. Nemont crews were recently in the area performing site surveys, which are needed when fiber is installed. Many subscribers in rural settings are not able to receive the benefits of a large and reliable bandwidth connection, due to older copper networks and their distance limitations. When fiber is installed in Hinsdale, customers will experience more reliable voice services as well as access to higher Internet speeds and our video services.

In 1996, the Universal Service Fund (USF) was created to help companies like Nemont provide essential and affordable telecommunication services in high-cost rural areas that are comparable to those offered in urban areas. The original intent of USF was to provide support to rural companies to aid in the deployment and maintenance of plain old telephone service, but we now live in a world that demands high-speed Internet and mobility. **The FCC has been working to transform the USF to support today's relevant and in-demand services.**

In 2011, the FCC released its first comprehensive USF reform order with the goal of modernizing the universal service and intercarrier compensation systems. (Inter-carrier compensation refers to the charges that other telecommunications providers pay Nemont for the use of our network.) The changes are supposed to ensure that robust, affordable voice and broadband service, both fixed and mobile, are available to Americans across the nation.

Continued on page 3

2016 PROJECTED 4G COVERAGE



NOT SO FAST 3G... 4G IS COMING!

Nemont's teams have been busy installing new 4G sites in NE Montana and NW North Dakota over the past year or so as part of our long-term goal to expand the network to match our existing 3G coverage. 4G provides a number of benefits over the old 3G network including expanded roaming with our Canadian neighbors and much faster mobile data speeds. We've delayed our 4G product launch until the summer of 2016 to allow enough time to continue installing new 4G equipment to expand our coverage. After all, it's most important that you can continue to make phone calls from areas where your 3G phone works today. Expanding the 4G network to match the existing 3G coverage has been one of our primary objectives. This may be why you've spotted some new equipment on our cell towers that hasn't begun improving your service quite yet.

The 4G network will work like the 3G service, except with a substantial improvement in your mobile data speeds! The 4G service will also provide excellent voice and data coverage in areas like Opheim, Medicine Lake, Froid and all along Hwy 2. We pride ourselves on serving our friends and neighbors in these communities that the "big national carriers" have never served or even heard of. Our five local Nemont sales offices are staffed with our best and brightest to help answer any of your 4G coverage or feature questions. They're backed by our own local engineers and technicians who strive to provide the best possible service to our customers.

We hope you'll give our new 4G service a try later this summer. Thanks so much for entrusting us with your telecommunications service. Nemont takes great pride in building wireless networks where no other national carrier has gone — this place we're proud to call home.

A NOTE FROM NEMONT'S CEO

Continued from page 2

Why are we so concerned with the FCC's actions? **The funding Nemont receives from the USF, combined with intercarrier compensation, comprises over 50 percent of our total revenue.** It's because of these systems that we're able to transform our network to the modern broadband network needed today and tomorrow.

In 2015, the FCC released its latest order on USF reform. To comply with the significant changes to the USF rules governing small rural carriers such as Nemont, we'll need to make a difficult choice from two options. The first is a regulatory system where we receive USF support via a cost model based on a fictitious network design. One drawback is that while we'll know our payments for the next 10 years, there is no certainty as to what happens after that 10-year period. The second option is to stay within the existing cost-based rate of return regulations. However, the rate of return that may be earned on the regulated interstate services will be reduced from 11.25 percent to 9.75 percent over a six-year period and "stand-alone" broadband (the purchase of broadband without voice service) will be supported under a transformed USF mechanism involving 11 convoluted steps to come up with the new supported amount.

Nemont's commitment to provide high-quality, advanced, and competitive communications services in rural communities remains steadfast. We're working diligently to analyze the potential impact of each option. One thing we know for certain is that the future of USF continues to be uncertain!

Mike Kilgore

Mike Kilgore/CEO



NEMONT NAMED CERTIFIED GIG-CAPABLE PROVIDER

Nemont was recently recognized as a Certified Gig-Capable Provider by NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association for delivering gigabit broadband speeds and enabling technological innovation in the Scobey/Scobey Rural communities. NTCA is the premier association representing nearly 900 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading progress in rural and small-town America.

As a Certified Gig-Capable Provider, Nemont joins a national campaign to build awareness and industry recognition of community-based telecom providers that have built communications networks capable of delivering Internet speeds of up to one gigabit per second. Nemont also received tools to promote itself as a Gig-Capable Provider in the Scobey/Scobey Rural communities and will be recognized in NTCA media, on the NTCA website, and during association conferences and events.

"I applaud Nemont for its commitment to delivering the Internet's fastest speeds—an accomplishment worthy of much praise considering the unique and challenging circumstances small, community-based telecommunications providers operate under every day in serving some of our country's most rural and remote communities," said NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield. "By building a gigabit-capable network, Nemont has not only overcome these challenges, but also shattered conventional benchmarks for broadband speed to enable cutting-edge technologies that drive innovation and

promote economic development in their communities, region and nationwide."

Mike Kilgore, Chief Executive Officer of Nemont, noted, "Nemont is proud to offer gigabit services because high-speed Internet creates endless possibilities in a connected world. Existing businesses can grow, new businesses can be established in rural areas, schools can develop one-on-one initiatives, telemedicine can be offered in rural communities, and communities can enhance their economic development. With these faster Internet speeds, our rural lifestyle will be enhanced without having to sacrifice access to services that have previously only been offered in urban areas."

To achieve certification, telecommunications companies must show that gigabit technology is currently commercially available within 95 percent of one or more exchanges within its serving territory and that such service can be provided without new trenching or stringing new aerial facilities. This statement must be confirmed by a letter from an engineering firm or other independent source involved in the company's network planning, deployment or operation.

Nemont's Gig Internet speeds are currently available in Williston, Nemont Fiber areas, and some parts of the South Central Project area. For more details, call us at 1-800-636-6680 or 406-783-2200.

HOW FAST IS A GIG INTERNET CONNECTION?

You've probably heard people mention Gig Internet speeds in the last few years, but like many, you may be unclear on exactly what the term means. Just how fast is a Gig?

A Gig means 1 Gbps (Gigabit per second). It's the equivalent of 1,000 Mbps (Megabits per second), which is over 100 times faster than the average high-speed Internet connection in the U.S. of 10 Mbps.

Take a look at this comparison of how much faster you can complete online activities with a 1 Gbps connection versus a 10 Mbps connection:

Application	10 Mbps Connection	1 Gbps Connection
Download HD movie	Over an hour and a half	Less than one minute
Download 100 digital pictures	Five minutes	Three seconds
Stream multiple movies and/or TV shows	Maxes out at only two HD shows	Capable of streaming 200 HD shows at one time
Download 20GB video game	Almost five hours	Less than three minutes
Download 100 digital music files	Five minutes and 20 seconds	Less than four seconds

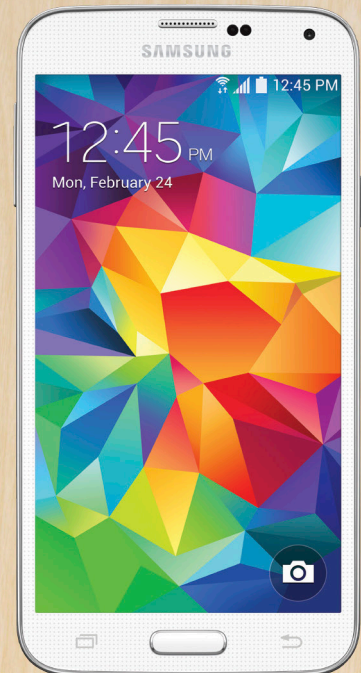
In addition to these incredibly fast download times, a 1 Gbps connection also provides households with enhanced Internet performance and enjoyment. For example, gamers are able to seamlessly play online games with real-time video content and 3D responsiveness. And video quality is greatly improved during video conferencing with Skype or other services.

In the business world, Gig speeds are a huge timesaver and productivity booster. Employees can do whatever they're doing now — data transferring, downloading and uploading — but it will get done in seconds instead of minutes, or minutes instead of hours. Gig speeds also open the door to the optimal use of real-time collaboration tools and cloud-based applications.

Go big and go Gig!

Dad!

**Get A Free
Samsung Galaxy S5
For Your Grad**



**Purchase any
Samsung Galaxy S6
or Note 5 phone
and get a free S5**

Nemont

Offer expires 6/30/16, or while supplies last. Some restrictions apply. A 2-year voice and data contract are required. Taxes, surcharges and other fees are in addition to your monthly access fee. See store for details.

YOUR PHOTO COULD BE FAMOUS!

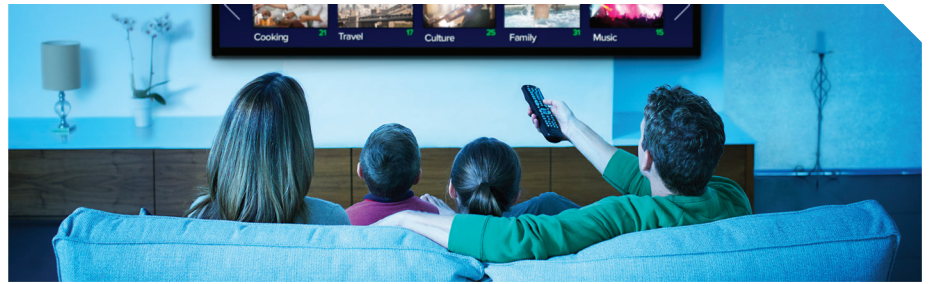
Take a shot at getting your photo in our 2016 wall calendar. Nemont is pleased to announce the 2016 Photo Contest for all our shutterbug customers, to showcase the beautiful life and spirit of our service area.

Winners will have their photo entries featured in the 2016 Nemont wall calendar, which will be distributed at Nemont Telephone Cooperative's annual meeting in October. One entry may be selected for the Nemont Telephone directory cover and/or large wall calendar distributed to business customers.

Send us your best photos capturing the scenes, people, places and events of Montana and northwest North Dakota. The deadline to enter is 07/15/16. Email your high-resolution photo files to photos@nemont.coop.



Leaning Homestead
2015 Photo Contest winner



WHO NEEDS PAY-PER-VIEW? USE STREAMING VIDEO INSTEAD!

You may think you need a TV service with Pay-Per-View in order to select a movie to enjoy at home. Thanks to new technology, that's no longer the case. You can enjoy the same type of convenience and entertainment variety of Pay-Per-View by watching streaming video.

What do you need to get started with streaming video? Not much, and you probably have some of the technology already. Here are the essentials:

- **A high speed Internet connection.** In order to get good video quality while streaming — without buffering — you'll want a connection with download speeds of at least 10 Mbps.
- **An Internet-ready TV or external device.** There are many devices to choose from including Apple TV, Roku Streaming Media Player, Roku Streaming Stick, and Google Chromecast.
- **A streaming service.** For a small monthly fee, you can get access to an unlimited number of movies through a streaming service. The most popular ones today are Netflix and Amazon Instant Video, and they both offer vast movie libraries.

When you combine your Nemont TV service with streaming video, you get an excellent entertainment value. To find out more, please call 1-800-636-6680 or 406-783-2200.

WIN A \$25 CREDIT!

You could win a \$25 credit on your Nemont account. To enter, answer the trivia questions and fill out this official form, then drop it by one of our offices or mail it to: **PO Box 600, Scobey, MT 59263-0600 Attn: Drawing.** Faxed, duplicated, emailed or photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners will be contacted by phone and listed in the Fall 2016 issue.

-\$25 CREDIT OFFICIAL ENTRY -

When was USF created? _____

How many Mbps does one gig equal? _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Area events listed are free of charge. Submit your events by the 15th of July so that they may appear in our next issue. Send to: PO Box 600, Scobey, MT 59263-0600, Attention: Community Calendar or email to nemonttoday@nemont.coop.

JUNE

- **06/02 Nemont Tech Business After Hours** Williston, ND
- **06/04 Independence Bank/Nemont Golf Scramble** Scobey, MT
- **06/09-06/12 Wild West Days** Poplar, MT
- **06/10-06/11 Frontier Days** Culbertson, MT
- **06/12 FM Deaconess Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament** Glasgow, MT
- **06/18 Longest Dam Race** Fort Peck, MT
- **06/24 Mercy Medical Golf Classic** Williston, ND

JULY

- **07/04 Milk River Days** Hinsdale, MT
- **07/07-07/09 Montana Governors Cup Walleye Tournament** Fort Peck, MT
- **07/07-07/10 Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede** Wolf Point, MT
- **07/16 Sheridan Memorial Foundation Golf Tournament** Plentywood, MT

- **07/27-07/30 NE Montana Fair** Glasgow, MT
- **07/29 NE Montana Fair Concert - Emerson Drive & JT Hodges** Glasgow, MT
- **07/27-07/30 Sheridan County Fair** Plentywood, MT
- **07/30 Sheridan County Fair Concert - Terri Clark** Plentywood, MT
- **07/31-08/03 Daniels County Fair** Scobey, MT

AUGUST

- **08/11-08/13 Roosevelt County Fair** Culbertson, MT
- **08/11 Summer Nights on Main Concert - The Cody Charles Band** Williston, ND
- **08/12 Choke Cherry Festival - 1000 Burger Feed** Williston, ND
- **08/13 Choke Cherry Festival - Vendor Day** Williston, ND
- **08/13 Red Ball Golf Tournament** Glasgow, MT



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES

As the school year winds to a close, Nemont would like to congratulate this year's graduates and wish you all good luck as you begin the next chapter in your lives. During all those years in school, you've gone from learning your ABCs to taking the ACTs. Nemont hopes you're proud of how hard you've worked and how far you've come.

Whether your future plans include continuing your education or entering the job market, you'll need to stay connected to technology to help reach your goals. You can count on Nemont for excellent values on a wide selection of wireless phones and plans, Internet service, and more. You can also count on us for expert advice on selecting the right technology and making the most of new features.

Perhaps one day, you might bring your talents to Nemont and join our team.



CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

You're invited to visit Nemont on Facebook to stay updated on our community activities and special values on our communications services. Like what you see? Give us a "thumbs up" with a Like! www.facebook.com/NemontCountry



PO Box 600
Scobey, MT 59263-0600
1-800-636-6680 or 406-783-2200

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW...

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

All sorts of utility lines, pipes, and cables could be buried underground on your property. That's why every digging job—from planting a bush to installing a fence—requires a call to 811 to have utility lines marked.

DISTRICT 3: NEW BOARD MEMBER

Nemont would like to welcome Jeff Pattison as the new board member representing District 3. He was appointed by the Nemont Board of Directors to fulfill Mike Mitchell's term.



Pattison shared, "I grew up in Valley County in a farming/ranching family. I went to high school in Glasgow, then graduated from Montana State University–Northern. Dawn and I married in 1983 and have two sons and two daughters. We currently farm and ranch with my three brothers in Valley and Hill counties.

He added, "I've always been interested in how things are run on a local and state level. I've had the opportunity to serve on several levels including but not limited to: Montana Stockgrowers, Valley County Conservation District, and the Montana House of Representatives as chair of appropriation for natural resources and for the audit committee. Watching paint dry seemed to be the rule of politics, so the quickly changing and challenging technology of telecommunications will be an exciting new dimension. I'm looking forward to this adventure with Nemont and appreciate the opportunity."

NEMONT WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

Karen Cote
Receptionist

Lola Snitchler
Engineering Clerk

Morgan Lorenzo
Customer Service
Specialist

Ed Strickland
Building/Custodial
Maintenance
Technician

Chasity Krauth
Customer Service
Specialist

Jodi Willis
Customer Service
Specialist

Zachary Miller
Internet
Coordinator

Kayla Christensen
Customer Service
Specialist

Ciara Ost
Internet
Coordinator

WANT TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

Outside Plant Engineer
Williston, ND

Visit www.nemont.net to view more details about all open positions and fill out an application form.