



HARLAN MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Mr. Tom's Neighborhood— *Construction Update*

Support your local meter reader

Please help our meter readers. Keep snow from building up around gas meters and, if possible, clear a path to make it easier for meter readers to get to electric, gas and water meters. A little extra time shoveling a path to your meter is greatly appreciated.

See us on the web:

- www.har-tel.com—for information on HMU telephone, cable TV and Internet.
- www.HMU-harlan.com—for questions on electric, gas, water, billing, administrative and HMU Board information.
- www.harlanet.com— local weather, local and regional links, emergency messages, Harlan Theater listings.



Construction continues on the new HMU operations center. The unseasonably mild winter weather has allowed crews to work outside.

The parking areas, and even the stripes for parking, are done. The roof and the side walls of the garage are done as well as external brick and trim work on the administrative and technical part of the building. Internally, the fire sprinklers and the ca-

bling for voice, data and video are done. The cabinetry and finish trim work nears completion. Some of the drywall and painting is done.

This picture shows the east side of the vehicle storage garage, parking area and what we call the 'lay down yard' where all weather materials, like spools of overhead electric wire or fiber optic cable, will be stored for quick access when needed.

I'm pleased to report that after several years of preparation, planning, engineering, testing and discussion, the new water treatment plant, sited directly north east of the building, will begin.

The DNR has approved our plan. We will receive and open contractor bids this month. I'm hopeful we can begin construction on the new plant in 2012 meaning the plant should be on line in 2013.

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HARLAN'S PREMIER
PROVIDER OF ELECTRIC,
GAS, WATER AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS.



Fiber to the home –Part 1

The fiber to the premise rebuild in the western part of Harlan (roughly 12th street west and Cyclone to Chatburn) is on hold for the winter.

Thousands of main fiber lines have been pulled to the new operations center. This winter finds us installing all the new electronics and connecting all of the individual lines to the customer and the current HMU building.

What are the advantages of direct fiber over the current

system? As more content is transferred digitally, capacity, or the amount of data that can be carried at any one time over a given technology, becomes the limiting factor.

A single strand of fiber, about the size of a human hair, is capable of transmitting a larger amount of data to customers compared to the current system. For all practical purposes, fiber has a virtually 'unlimited' capacity and is more

limited by the components at the end of the fiber rather than the fiber itself.

We used to think of data capacity in terms of kilobytes. (Remember dial up?) or thousands of bytes of data per second. Then megabytes or millions of bytes of data. With fiber, you can start discussing gigabytes (billions) or terabytes (trillions) of data per second.

Next month: "OK. It's fast. What does that mean to me?"

Carbon Monoxide poisoning is preventable.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created by an incomplete burning of oil or gas by-products. Potential sources include automobiles, gas appliances, gas furnaces, chimneys, charcoal grills and portable kerosene heaters.

Some common symptoms of CO poisoning are: nausea, vomiting, headache,

dizziness, persistent cough, fatigue, eye and upper respiratory tract irritation, wheezing or increased angina in people with coronary disease.

If you suspect a build up of CO in your home or business, it is important to promptly leave first and then call emergency responders to gain medical attention if necessary. Have a qualified person test CO levels within the

home before returning. HMU will perform a CO test.

While CO alarms can be a useful secondary line of defense, the primary line of protection is prevention, which includes regular, professional inspections of gas and other fuel burning appliances. Chimney flues should be cleaned regularly. Never use charcoal or propane

grills inside as a heating source or for cooking. Never leave a car running in a closed garage, especially a garage attached to or under living quarters.

Simple regular maintenance and inspection of appliances and safe habits can lower your chances of carbon monoxide poisoning.