



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fiber Fast Internet is Coming to Tilden and Eagle Point

Bloomer Telephone Company to deliver Gig speeds

Tilden and Eagle Point, Wisconsin | October 26, 2021 – Bloomer Telephone Company (Bloomer, Wisc.) is thrilled to announce further expansion of their fiber network to the towns of Tilden and Eagle Point, Wisc. The company will deliver up to 1,000 Megabits per second of internet speed—that’s 1 Gig—to area businesses and homes. The project is sponsored and funded by Bloomer Telephone Company, Chippewa County, Town of Eagle Point and Town of Tilden and includes an endorsement by the Chippewa Falls Unified School District, and partially funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act for Broadband Access. Through this effort, Bloomer hopes to make a positive impact on the community members’ lives and the local economy.

“Bloomer Telephone Company has a rich history of investing in the Chippewa Valley. We are excited to expand our fiber network to 300+ rural Tilden and Eagle Point families, businesses and farms, giving them an internet connection and a local company they can count on.” said General Manager Kent Klima. “Access to reliable, fast internet is not just for those in big cities. Bloomer will provide that!”

The fiber expansion project will begin in the Spring of 2022 and take place over 2 years. The estimated investment is \$3,754M. In early 2022, Bloomer will be going door-to-door to homes and businesses within the fiber build zone. Interested consumers can register at bloomer.net/progress, which also details available products and pricing.

Fiber internet is quickly becoming a must-have service, as vital as power and water to many. A 2016 study¹ by the Fiber Broadband Association found that, “Fast and reliable broadband is now rated the single most important amenity for [apartment] residents, more important than a pool, 24-hour security monitoring, covered parking, gym access and even cable TV.”

That same Fiber Broadband Association released a 2015 study² that found access to fiber had a direct impact on home real estate values. “The boost to the value of a typical home – \$5,437 – is roughly equivalent to adding a fireplace, half of a bathroom or a quarter of a swimming pool to the home,” the Association stated in a release about the study.

“More and more devices require an internet connection, making the demand for bandwidth critical. Whether it is a family bonding while streaming movies together or a business needing a reliable, fast connection to compete in a global economy, we know that fiber internet is the best solution,” said Klima.

¹ <https://www.fiberbroadband.org/blog/fiber-optic-broadband-boosts-value-of-multifamily-homes>

² <https://www.fiberbroadband.org/blog/study-shows-home-values-up-3.1-with-access-to-fiber>



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What Fiber Means to Chippewa County Residents

Beyond helping to bridge the digital divide (or chasm as it is now being called), fiber brings:

1. Reliable, high-quality connection that isn't susceptible to inclement weather conditions
2. Faster connection speeds – up to 1,000 Mbps
3. Unlimited Internet usage – no caps on data consumption or throttling
4. Bandwidth that is not shared with your neighbor
5. Improved productivity and ability to compete globally
6. Access to remote jobs, online education and telehealth services
7. Future-ready technology for homes and businesses
8. Increased property values
9. Clearer phone conversations and TV signals
10. Secure voice and data transmissions

About Bloomer Telephone Company

Bloomer Telephone Company began in 1901 in Bloomer, Wisconsin and has been providing telephone services ever since. The company is proud to serve its internet customers with a 100% fiber-optic network, providing the area's fastest speeds and the ability to offer exceptional video entertainment options. Bloomer Telephone Company continues to extend its fiber-optic network to more rural customers in the Bloomer, Colfax and areas of Elk Mound. For more information, please visit www.bloomer.net.

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