

PBC Named Certified Gig-Capable Provider by NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association

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



As a Certified Gig-Capable Provider, Paul Bunyan Communications 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 1 gigabit per second, which is 100 times faster than those currently available in many U.S. households.

"I applaud Paul Bunyan Communications 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, Paul Bunyan Communications 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."

To achieve certification, telecommunications companies must show that gigabit technology is currently commercially available within 95% 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.

More information about the NTCA Gig-Capable Provider certification program is available at www.ntca.org/gig-certified.

TELE U WHAT

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Published by Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative
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email: info@paulbunyan.net
online: paulbunyan.net

After Hours Repair
(800) 475.8309

BEMIDJI

1831 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone (218) 444.1234
Toll Free (888) 586.3100
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Paul Bunyan Net

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
NOTE: No walk-in customers after 6:00 pm, phone support only

GRAND RAPIDS

Grand Square
1220 S. Pokegama Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone (218) 999.1234
Toll Free (888) 586.3100
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President **Kathy Peterson, District 3**
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Vice President **Jim Tarbell, District 4**
Cohasset, Deer River, Grand Rapids

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City of Bemidji



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Bemidji, MN 56601

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COOPERATIVE NEWS AND INFORMATION DECEMBER 2015
TELE U WHAT

Merry
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY
New Year

Wishing you and your family a holiday season filled with love, laughter, and good cheer from all of us at Paul Bunyan Communications.

Holiday Open House
Friday, December 11
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Bemidji & Grand Rapids

Please join us for hot cider, cookies, collector ornament, 2016 calendars, and the new MN Gold Phone Book



Northern Safety and Security Sold to Per Mar Security

On October 1, Northern Safety and Security was sold to Per Mar Security. Per Mar Security was founded in Daventry, Iowa in 1953 and brings over 60 years of security industry experience to northern Minnesota. Per Mar will continue operations at the Bemidji office in the Beltrami Electric building under the Per Mar name. All NSS staff were given the opportunity to continue employment with the new company, which many have elected to do. Paul Bunyan Communications was one of eight owners of Northern Safety and Security since its inception.

PLAY THE PAUL BUNYAN COMMUNICATIONS PICK-IT BOWL CHALLENGE!

Pick the winning teams of this year's college bowl games and you could win a credit on your Paul Bunyan Communications account

VISIT PAULBUNYAN.NET TO GET STARTED
Games start December 19th

1st Place Prize \$500 Credit	2nd Place Prize \$250 Credit	3rd Place Prize \$100 Credit
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No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Prizes not redeemable for cash. Some restrictions may apply.

SEPTEMBER

Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on September 9, 2015. Also present were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson, CFO Dave Schultz and Administrative Assistant Elaine Iverson.

- The Manager updated the board on our CLEC projects. New member sign-ups in the rural Park Rapids and Trout Lake areas were discussed. GigaZone activations were reviewed and 2015 construction for new activations was discussed. Other remaining construction for the year was discussed. Access lines for the ILEC were reviewed.
- Digital video was discussed. PBTv Lite options were discussed.
- The Manager updated the Board on data services.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried to adopt a corporate banking resolution for a depository and to designate authorized check signers. A revision to management policy for authorized check signers was also reviewed.
- The President requested feedback and suggestions for director education topics.
- The CEO provided an update on our two partnerships of Independent Emergency Services and Broadband Visions.
- The Manager gave his monthly report. He announced PBC will be awarded the Smart Rural Community Award from NTCA. He provided employee updates.
- The July 2015 financial report was reviewed.

OCTOBER

Paul Bunyan Communications Board of Directors conducted its monthly meeting on October 12, 2015. Also present were CEO and General Manager Gary Johnson, CFO Dave Schultz and Administrative Assistant Elaine Iverson

- The Manager updated the board on our CLEC projects. New member sign-ups in the Park Rapids and Trout Lake areas were discussed. GigaZone activations were reviewed. Remaining construction for this fall was reviewed. Access lines for the ILEC were reviewed.
- Digital video was discussed. PBTv Lite options were discussed. Usage for On Demand and Pay Per View services was reviewed.
- The Manager updated the Board on data services.
- Cooperative Development General Manager Vicky Swanson provided an update on the history and current and future projects of this successful partnership company with Beltrami Electric.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried to continue a financial donation to the Itasca Economic Development Corporation for an additional three-year term.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept an Agreement for Services from Olsen Thielen for their accounting services for the annual audit.
- Directors were designated to attend the NTCA Rural Telecom Industry Meeting and Expo. Kathy Peterson was designated voting delegate and Glenda Martin alternate.
- A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve a broadband construction fund check to reimburse general funds.
- The Manager gave his monthly report. He provided an employee update and reviewed current areas of focus.
- The August 2015 financial report was reviewed.

In the Community

La Voce Ballo Donation



District 8 Director Jim Sutton presents a donation check to Emily Paine, representing La Voce Ballo show choir of Bemidji High School. The funds will help pay for costumes, travel expenses, and props used throughout the season.

Holiday Office Hours

DECEMBER			
Thursday 24 <i>Closed at 2:00</i>	Friday 25 <i>Closed</i>	Saturday 26 <i>Closed</i>	Thursday 31 <i>Closed at 2:00</i>

JANUARY	
Friday 1 <i>Closed</i>	Saturday 2 <i>Closed</i>

new releases ON DEMAND

DECEMBER 8: **ANT-MAN**

DECEMBER 8: **STUART LITTLE & KEOVIN & BOB**

DECEMBER 15: **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE - ROGUE NATION**

DECEMBER 15: **TED 2**

PBC Named 2015 Smart Rural Communities Showcase Award Winner

NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association, the premier national association representing nearly 900 independent, community-based telecommunications companies, is pleased to announce that Paul Bunyan Communications has been named a winner of the NTCA Smart Rural Community Award.

The goal of the NTCA Smart Rural Community initiative is to foster the development of smart communities throughout rural America and Canada by encouraging innovative implementation of broadband solutions and access to next-generation applications for distance learning, telehealth services, public safety and security. Smart Rural Community provides educational programming, matching grant resources and an award program to recognize top-performing communities. NTCA recognized Paul Bunyan Communications as a rural service provider that embodies Smart Rural Community principles.

“We are very proud that NTCA has recognized our efforts with the Smart Rural Community Showcase Award. Our cooperative strives to provide our members and region the very best in communication services that allows for innovation implementation. Our GigaZone initiative to build one of the largest rural Gigabit fiber networks in the United States and our partnership with Greater

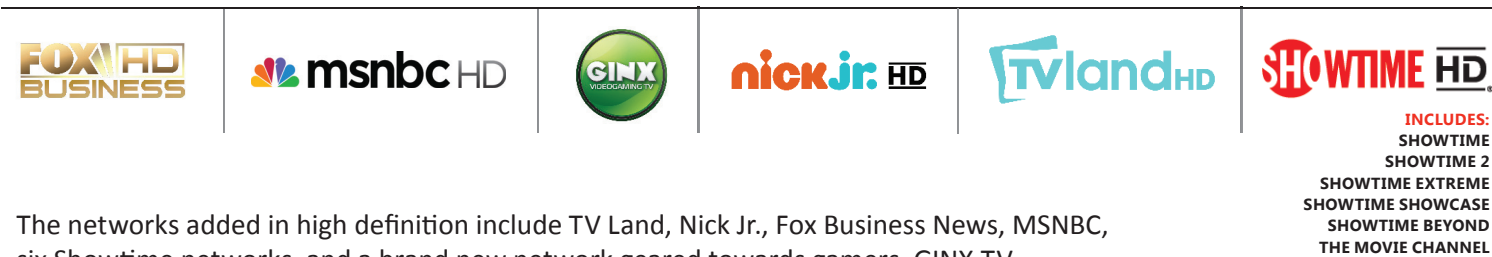


From left to right: Mike Meinel, Director of Sales & Marketing of Solarus (Wisconsin Rapids, Wis), Gary Johnson, Paul Bunyan Communications CEO/GM, and Shirley Bloomfield, NTCA CEO. Picture courtesy of NTCA The Rural Broadband Association.

Bemidji on the technology-rich Mayflower smart building project are just two examples of this. Keeping our communities connected to the very latest in technology is vital to the future of the region,” said Gary Johnson, Paul Bunyan Communications CEO/General Manager.

NTCA Smart Rural Community award recipients were recognized at a gathering of more than 1,500 rural telecom leaders in Boston. In addition to receiving national and local recognition for their extraordinary efforts, Paul Bunyan Communications will join recipients of prior year awards to formulate best practices and assist other rural communities in the implementation of innovative broadband-enabled solutions to drive economic and community strength in rural areas throughout the nation.

11 HD Networks Added to PBTv



The networks added in high definition include TV Land, Nick Jr., Fox Business News, MSNBC, six Showtime networks, and a brand new network geared towards gamers, GINX-TV.

The home of video gaming on TV, GINX is the only international channel dedicated to video gaming 24/7. GINX covers a variety of experiences of play ranging from smartphone apps, retro gaming, popular culture and eSports. Keeping in touch with its dynamic, tech-hungry audience and ideally suited to complement entertainment or sports offerings, GINX TV has its finger on the pulse of the gaming world. For more information, visit www.ginx.tv

MSNBC HD, TV Land HD, and GINX-TV are available to all PBTv HD subscribers. Nick Jr HD and Fox Business News HD are available to all PBTv HD subscribers who also subscribe to PBTv Extra. PBTv Extra can be added to PBTv service for \$9.99 per month. The six Showtime HD networks are available to PBTv HD subscribers that also subscribe to Showtime. Showtime can be added to Paul Bunyan Television service for \$15.95 per month.

GIGAZONE™ EXPANSION UPDATES

Park Rapids

Our network expansion is complete in two more regions of rural Park Rapids bringing access to internet and digital TV services to over 400 more locations. One region is north and west of Two Inlets which includes the Boot Lake area. The other region is to the east of the City of Park Rapids and includes an area from the east side of Long Lake to Big Stony Lake.

Further network expansion construction continues and services are expected to become available over the winter to even more locations currently without broadband in an area east of Park Rapids that includes the following lakes: Sunday, Little Stony, 4th Crow Wing, Island, 3rd Crow Wing, 2nd Crow Wing, Palmer, and most of 1st Crow Wing.

The cooperative started expansion of its all fiber optic network into rural Park Rapids in 2012 and Paul Bunyan Communications now offers all of its services to over 3,100 locations in the region which includes Gigabit Broadband Internet, Paul Bunyan Television, and voice services.

“Access to broadband Internet services enhances life in so many different ways. It opens up e-commerce opportunities, educational, cultural, and recreational resources. It is especially important in rural areas where it can help overcome distance and financial barriers,” said Gary Johnson, CEO/GM of Paul Bunyan Communications, “We’ve seen the difference it can make first hand throughout our service territory and we are proud to bring broadband access to hundreds more in the Park Rapids area.”

Grand Rapids

Over 3,000 locations in the northern Grand Rapids area have been upgraded and are now in the GigaZone. In September over 2,100 locations in the southern Grand Rapids area were included in the GigaZone.

“We continue to make great progress on upgrading our network to incorporate even more member locations into the GigaZone. It’s exciting, particularly for those who are included this year, and we will continue to do as much as we can to bring the GigaZone to all our members and communities we serve as fast as we can.” said Gary Johnson, Paul Bunyan Communications CEO/General Manager.

The GigaZone is currently available to over 13,600 locations including all of the cooperative’s service area of rural Park Rapids, Lake George, Trout Lake Township east of Grand Rapids, most of Grand Rapids, and areas of Bemidji.

Paul Bunyan Communications recently mailed out information to the new locations in the Grand Rapids area that are now in the GigaZone and the cooperative has an online map available showing the active areas of the GigaZone as well as those areas that will be constructed/upgraded during the remainder of 2015.

Many are wondering when the GigaZone will reach their location. The online map of the active areas and plans for this year is a great resource for those interested.

TO FIND OUT WHEN THE GIGAZONE IS COMING TO YOU, CHECK OUR NEW INTERACTIVE MAP:

PAULBUNYAN.NET/GIGAZONE/MAP