

TDS TV is Coming to Andover

Comcast, TDS compete for your cable dollars

Press release

TDS Telecom introduces TDS TV, an Internet Protocol (IP)-based TV service, and new, faster Internet speeds of up to 300 Mbps to customers in the Andover area. The 300 Mbps Internet is the fastest speed offered by TDS.

“With the success of TDS TV in nearby Hollis and New London, we couldn’t be more excited to continue our expansion into the Andover area,” says Julie Maiers, Director of Marketing at TDS. “It means faster speeds, a new choice for TV service, and the opportunity for exclusive discounts.”

TDS is also bringing Fiberville to Andover. It’s a concept that rewards residents and neighborhoods with special offers and discounts once 15% of the neighborhood pre-registers for TDS TV service. When this happens, “Fiberville” status is achieved, and each pre-registered household can choose an upgrade – free HD, or Internet speed upgrade – for life.

TDS plans to begin the first neighborhood installations of TDS TV and 300 Mbps this month. Residents can get updates on where and when TDS TV and 300 Mbps will be available in their community, as well as track their neighborhood’s progress toward Fiberville status, at TDSfiber.com/where/Andover. You’ll see the area where TDS TV is available in Andover, and by clicking the map markers you’ll see the projected availability dates.

Within the 735 telephone exchange, TDS expects the coverage area for TDS TV to be comparable to the existing cable TV coverage area, perhaps even slightly better. TDS will also be working to bring the Andover community access channel, currently available on Comcast Channel 8, onto the TDS TV

system in the coming months.

Maiers said, “Fiberville offers Andover residents a unique opportunity to get out and talk to their neighbors and to get extra savings for as long as they’re a TDS customer. It’s also a great chance to get fantastic TV service. Customers tell us how much they enjoy TDS TV, the included DVR, and how easy it is to use.”

Powered by Mediaroom, TDS TV features more than 260 all-digital channels (including HD), video-on-demand and pay-per-view, picture-in-picture channel surfing, parental controls, and instant channel change. TDS TV also includes a Connected-Home DVR which links all TVs together in a home allowing customers to:

- Record up to four shows at once, two of which can be HD
- Connect up to 10 TVs to enable DVR functionality on all
- Schedule and play back recordings on any connected TV
- Store up to 400 hours of standard-definition programming

Wireless set-top boxes are also available with TDS TV. Without being tethered to a cable jack of any kind, wireless set-top boxes allow customers the flexibility to move their TVs anywhere in a room – all that’s needed is a power outlet.

The 300 Mbps Internet service, available alone and as part of a money-saving TDS TV bundle, includes Remote PC Support. In addition to receiving unlimited access to technical support, Remote PC Support provides assistance with device setup, computer cleanup, PC optimization, advanced Internet troubleshooting, and wireless device configuration.

In 2014, TDS plans to expand TDS TV to other New Hampshire communities, including Boscawen and Salisbury. For more information, visit TDSfiber.com or call 866 44-TDS-TV.

Exploring Broadband Options in Andover

Comcast now, TDS soon, or visit the libraries

By Tina Cotton

Andover Cable Channel 8

Broadband Internet accessibility is a New Hampshire goal for all residences and businesses. Broadband is defined here as 768 kilobytes per second (kbps) downstream to a computer or similar device and 200 kbps upstream from a computer. Dial-up Internet access is considered insufficient because of capacity and speed.

Minimal broadband coverage is DSL served through telephone lines, but cable fiber optic service is still considered the best over DSL and satellite for its speed and reliability.

If you want to know what your Internet speed is, go to IWantBroadbandNH.org. Once you enter your address, you can see your download and upload speeds. You should have at least 6 Mbps upload and download speeds. Your results are entered into a mapping database compiled at the University of New Hampshire.

Business transactions, streaming videos, video conferencing, home health monitoring of patients, real time traffic conditions, and other uses of broadband internet are now commonplace. Many towns have included broadband in the communications section of their master plans, although Andover has not yet included this section. Some homes and businesses cannot be sold without broadband accessibility and people have filed for tax abatements because of this.

Although Andover has better broadband coverage than some towns (such as Danbury), not all homes have access to fiber optic cable, which is what Comcast has in Andover. Many homes use satellite, but not all can receive satellite transmissions, making the dish a non-option.

Homeowners remaining unserved by cable access have been quoted amounts of \$12,000 or more to run the lines to their location because of the low rural density. TDS has been laying fiber optic cable in our service area and has negotiated a franchise agreement with the Andover Board of Selectmen that is similar to our franchise agreement with Comcast. The present extent of TDS fiber optic cable can be viewed at TDSfiber.com/where/Andover and potential customers may receive a special deal if they sign up before the lines are activated in March or April, depending upon location.

Competition is good and may help extend coverage and reduce prices in the future. Rates for bundling current customers once the fiber is activated are at TDStelecom.com/digitaltv. The TDS representative who gave an overview of their service at a February Board of Selectmen’s meeting said that customers may have one TV hooked into their service, and WiFi will allow the homeowner to wirelessly connect all the other TVs in their home at no additional charge.

Broadband Internet access can be expensive. Remember, our Andover libraries have computers, Internet access, and WiFi for your free use, and Priscilla and Gail can cheerfully help you. Comcast, but not TDS, does offer an option to low income families with at least one child enrolled in the school lunch program. I distributed brochures to AE/MS and our Town Administrator.

One catch is you have to be a new customer, but this requirement can be overcome by ending your Comcast Internet service for one month. This Internet cost is \$9.95 plus tax per month, the option of buying a computer for \$149.99 plus tax, and digital literacy training. See InternetEssentials.com for further details.

Carol Miller, Director of Broadband Technologies at the Department of Resources and Economic Development (carol.miller@dred.nh.gov or 271-2341 x138) is a wealth of information and is trying to extend this low income option for older folks.

YOUR FOR LIVING WELL

New London Hospital is pleased to welcome **Erin Knuti, FNP, MSN** to its Family Medicine practice. A family nurse practitioner with more than ten years of clinical experience, Erin earned her Master of Science degree in nursing from the University of Southern Maine in Portland, ME. She has worked in a variety of urban and rural health care settings, and is focused on health education and preventive medicine. Erin partners with patients to help them work towards their health care goals.

Call 526-5544 for an appointment with Erin.



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New Hampshire Telephone Museum

Upcoming Events At the Telephone Museum

Spring Cleanup Day
April 27 - 10am-2pm

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Opening for the Season
May 1 - Tues thru Sat 10am-4pm

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Along the River: Exploring Community Connections - Exhibition Opens

May 1

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4th Phriday Series Begins
Friday, May 24 - 6:30-8:00pm

22 E. Main St, Warner NH
603-456-2234
NHTelephoneMuseum.com

