



FEATURES |

Otsego County, Michigan Utilizes Revolutionary Web Service To Connect Families and Friends Worldwide |

Note: Connect Michigan issued the Press Release below on April 28, 2015.

The new video sharing, correspondence, and connectivity platform, BeBloomin, has recently expanded their beta testing program to include participants throughout Otsego County, Michigan, which was awarded Connect Michigan's certified Connected Community status in December of 2013.

Since working toward and achieving Connected community certification in the County, the Otsego County . . .

... Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1 Features
 - ◆ Otsego County, Michigan Utilizes Revolutionary Web Service To Connect Families and Friends Worldwide
 - ◆ 123Net Acquires Holland's T2 Communications
- 4 2015 & 2016 Legislation
- 6 Public Acts of 2015 & 2016
- 6 Orders Issued by MPSC
- 6 Applications & Complaints
- 8 Opportunities to Comment
- 8 Notices of Hearings
- 8 MPSC Hearings Schedule
- 9 MPSC Meeting Schedule
- 10 MTR Subscriptions

INDEX OF HIGHLIGHTED CASES |

Orders |

The Michigan Public Service Commission did not issue any Telecommunications orders during the most recent fortnight.

Applications and Complaints |

- U-17654 Midwest Cable Phone of Michigan, LLC (license)
- U-17871 Mark P. Donaldson v Kirtland Community College (consumer complaint)
- U-17872 James W. Holman v Comcast/Xfinity (consumer complaint)

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CLARK HILL

MICHIGAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORT

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Otsego County, Michigan Utilizes Revolutionary Web Service To Connect Families and Friends Worldwide | continued from Page 1



. . . Commission On Aging (“OCCOA”) has played an integral part in advancing information technology adoption and use in its region. OCCOA has championed a number of innovative programs to introduce seniors to broadband capabilities, including the TAP program in the summer of 2014. Now, BeBloomin offers all Otsego County residents and, older adults in particular, a chance to connect with family, friends, the community, and the world in new ways.

One user ID and one user interface gives BeBloomin users access to a host of new and intuitive capabilities including video calling – up to 6 users on any call – email, e-books, games, live face-to-face tech support, even live tours through museums, parks, and tourist hotspots all over the world.

“It can be rather lonely to be left outside of the technology that everyone else is involved in and you’re not involved in,” said Joel Ackerman, founder of BeBloomin. Ackerman is the former International CIO and Director of Advanced Technologies for UnitedHealth Group. “I believe that when technology oriented toward consumers is complex, it is a failure of design.” Ackerman’s platform, BeBloomin, corrects complexities in design and packages the Internet’s latest capabilities in a way that is intuitive and accessible for everyone. “It is targeted toward older adults and family caregivers because the need is so strong, but what we’re doing is applicable to anyone.”

“BeBloomin is safe, user friendly, affordable, adds quality and meaning to life and it is supportive,” says Dona Wishart, Executive Director at the OCCOA. The Otsego County community has been active in integrating the web service into daily life. Fourteen Otsego community organizations are now using BeBloomin as well as more than 250 individual users. “Each of our partner agencies has their own ideas to use the functions and bring their programs and services to their constituents via BeBloomin,” said Wishart. Churches, parks, museums, libraries, the United Way, and other organizations are using BeBloomin’s video streaming capabilities to reach directly to people in their homes through their computers and, soon, through their TVs. Soon, users will be able to live view church services, take a tour of local parks, ask questions during museum tours and much more, all through the BeBloomin platform. Best of all, BeBloomin requires no additional software or downloads and, if users encounter any problems or questions during their use of the platform, face-to-face human tech support is available at any time from the BeBloomin Video Support Center in Minnesota.

“I see BeBloomin as having great potential to change our world,” said Wishart, noting that the number of users throughout the community, throughout the country, and even worldwide continues to spread at an incredible rate. BeBloomin is currently in beta testing through partner communities in Minnesota and Michigan. To learn more visit <<http://www.bloomeverywhere.com>> and <<http://www.otsegocountycoa.org>>.

Otsego County worked with Connect Michigan to develop a Technology Action Plan to become a certified Connected community. To learn more about the certification process please visit

the Connected Community Engagement Program website at <http://www.connectmycommunity.org/>. Connect Michigan is a subsidiary of parent organization Connected Nation.

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123Net Acquires Holland's T2 Communications |

Note: 123.Net issued the Press Release below on May 4, 2015.

SOUTHFIELD, Michigan, May 4, – 123Net Inc., one of Michigan's largest telecommunications and Internet service providers, announced today that it has acquired T2 Communications, a Holland, MI-based telecommunications company.



“We continue to invest in our infrastructure to better serve our new and existing customers,” said Dan Irvin, 123Net’s chief executive officer. “T2 is an ideal match, helping us achieve our goal of providing the last mile of fiber to more West Michigan businesses.”

123Net has been active in West Michigan since 2000, investing significantly in its Grand Rapids fiber ring, wireless PoP sites and its Grand Rapids/Byron Center data center. Adding T2 brings additional capabilities and customers who will benefit from the company’s growing network and customer service.

“T2 is our third acquisition in the past year,” said Irvin. “We understand that data is the lifeblood for businesses today and that fast, friendly and efficient service is critical. Our top priority is ensuring a smooth and seamless transition for the customers.”

T2 Communications was a division of Texas-based CornerWorld Corp. and was originally formed in 2002 by a Holland-based entrepreneur. The company has a diverse customer base and owns proprietary fiber.

123Net serves thousands of businesses across Michigan with a network that includes over 2,500 route miles of fiber, 70+ high speed fixed wireless towers and four world-class data centers. The company has experienced dramatic growth in recent years via investing in its proprietary network and through strategic acquisitions. The company is actively seeking additional partners who are aligned to its business model and market plans.

“On a personal note,” said Irvin, “I’ve sent three of my children to Hope College and have always enjoyed the people and places of Holland. I’m thrilled to be expanding in the market and look forward to serving its businesses.”

About 123Net – 123Net is a Michigan business, privately owned and managed by a team of accomplished executives with strong engineering backgrounds and proven success. Headquartered in Southfield, Michigan, 123Net has been successfully providing voice, data, and colocation infrastructure services to enterprises, carriers, ISPs, and technology companies for over 15 years.

123Net currently operates a 100Gbps+ IP network connected to multiple global transit carriers, including Level 3, Savvis, Cogent, Comcast, Verizon, XO and others. Four metro fiber rings and long-haul fiber networks span over 2,500 route miles and covers over 70 nodes across Michigan.

2015 & 2016 LEGISLATION |

Copies of bills and public acts referred to in this column may be obtained by contacting your state Senator or Representative, on the Michigan Legislature Website, <<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>>, or from the Legislative Service Bureau Document Room at (517) 373-0169.

Senate Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
SB 0301 Warren	04/28/2015	Environmental protection; recycling; consumer electronic waste; expand to include cellular telephones and tablet computers. Amends secs. 17301, 17305, 17307 & 17309 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.17301 et seq.) & repeals sec. 17313 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.17313).	Referred to Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

House Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
HB 4006 Heise	01/15/2015	Law enforcement; investigations; disclosure of call location information by wireless providers to requesting law enforcement agency; require. Creates new act.	02/18/2015 Substitute H-1 reported with recommendation by House Committee on Criminal Justice; referred to second reading.
HB 4038 Forlini	01/21/2015	Housing; landlord and tenants; notification of evictions; allow by electronic mail. Amends sec. 5718 of 1961 PA 236 (MCL 600.5718).	04/30/2015 Reported Favorably by Senate Committee of the Whole; placed on Order of Third Reading
HB 4291 Love	03/04/2015	Environmental protection; recycling; consumer electronic waste; expand to include cellular telephones and tablet computers. Amends secs. 17301, 17305, 17307 & 17309 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.17301 et seq.) & repeals sec. 17313 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.17313)	Referred to House Committee on Communications and Technology.

House Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
HB 4373 Geiss	03/24/2015	Education; public school academies; cyber schools; require posting educational materials on website and submission to department. Amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 553b.	Referred to House Committee on Education.
HB 4378 Cole	03/24/2015	Administrative procedure; contested cases; award of costs and fees to prevailing party in a case involving this state; remove certain restrictions. Amends sec. 123 of 1969 PA 306 (MCL 24.323).	Referred to House Committee on Government Operations.

House Resolution # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
HR 0017 Tedder	02/19/2015	A resolution to memorialize the President of the United States, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission to rescind the ruling which regulates broadband Internet services as common carrier services under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934	03/04/2015 Substitute H-1 Adopted by the House.
HR 0039 Townsend	03/17/2015	A resolution to memorialize the President of the United States, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission to stand firm on the decision to regulate broadband Internet services as common carrier services under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 in the interest of preserving net neutrality.	03/17/2015 Referred to House Committee on Communications and Technology.
HCR 0004 Townsend	03/17/2015	A concurrent resolution to memorialize the President of the United States, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission to stand firm on the decision to regulate broadband Internet services as common carrier services under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 in the interest of preserving net neutrality.	03/17/2015 Referred to House Committee on Communications and Technology.

Senate Resolution # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
SR 0016 Kowall	02/24/2015	A resolution to memorialize the President of the United States, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission to refrain from regulating broadband Internet services as common carrier services under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934.	02/25/2015 Adopted by the Senate.
SR 0031 Kowall	03/25/2015	A resolution to urge the adoption of Intelligent Transportation System technologies throughout the state, further research into vehicle communication systems, and the testing and operation of connected and automated vehicles.	03/25/2015 Adopted by the Senate.

PUBLIC ACTS OF 2015 & 2016 |

Listed below are Public Acts related to telecommunications that were passed during the current legislative session (2015-2016). Copies of Public Acts may be obtained by contacting your state Senator or Representative, on the Michigan Legislature Website, <<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>>, or from the Legislative Service Bureau Document Room at (517) 373-0169. Acts passed since the previous edition of the Michigan Telecommunications Report are in bold.

To date, no 2015-2016 Telecommunications Legislation has been enacted in Michigan.

ORDERS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION |

The Michigan Public Service Commission did not issue any Telecommunications orders during the most recent fortnight.

APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS |

Case No. U-17654

License

Midwest Cable Phone of Michigan, LLC

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17654>

On April 29, 2015, Midwest Cable Phone of Michigan, LLC filed a Notice of Relinquishment with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) seeking to relinquish its license to provide basic local exchange service. According to the Notice, Midwest Cable Phone of Michigan, LLC is relinquishing its license because the planned transactions that were the predicate for the Application for the license have been terminated. On April 24, 2015, Comcast Corporation, the

corporate parent Midwest Cable Phone of Michigan, LLC announced that its merger agreement with Time Warner Cable and its transactions agreement with Charter Communications, Inc. have been terminated. According to the Notice, because Midwest Cable Phone of Michigan, LLC has not begun to provide service, this relinquishment will have no effect on any customers.

Case No. U-17871

Consumer Complaint

Mark P. Donaldson v Kirtland Community College

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17871>

On April 27, 2015, Mark P. Donaldson, of Roscommon, Michigan, filed a Formal Complaint with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) against Kirtland Community College (“Kirtland”). According to the Complaint, Mr. Donaldson alleges a disparity between the terms of Kirtland’s telecommunications and wireless modem equipment rental agreement with students and Kirtland’s equipment rental agreement with others. Mr. Donaldson alleges that such action violates Section 307(3) of the Michigan Telecommunications Act (“MTA”), MCL 484.2307(3). Mr. Donaldson also alleges that Kirtland did not conduct an “open bid” process in setting the fees it charges in violation of Section 307(5) of the MTA MCL 484.2307(5). Mr. Donaldson requests that the Commission hold a contested case proceeding, enter a cease a desist order against Kirtland, and issue fines against Kirtland.

Case No. U-17872

Consumer Complaint

James W. Holman v Comcast/Infinty

On April 27, 2015, James W. Holman, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, filed a Formal Complaint with the Michigan Public Service Commission against Comcast/Infinty. Mr. Holman’s Complaint alleges that he was charged for seventy-four (74) months of cable television service that he was not using..

NOTICES OF OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT |

The following Notices of Opportunity to Comment have been issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission's Executive Secretary. Any interested person may submit comments on the application by sending written comments to the Commission by mail to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: <mpscefilecases@michigan.gov>. Any comments should reference the applicable docket number.

There are no known Notices of Opportunities to Comment on Telecommunications Proceedings pending before the Michigan Public Service Commission at this time.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS |

The following Notices of Hearings have been issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission's Executive Secretary. Unless otherwise noted, all hearings are held at the Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan.

There are no known Notices of Hearing for Telecommunications Hearings pending before the Michigan Public Service Commission at this time.

MPSC HEARINGS SCHEDULE |

Note: Unless indicated otherwise, hearings are held at the Michigan Public Service Commission's new offices at 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan. Hearing dates and times are subject to change or cancellation. Please check with the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 to confirm that a hearing will be taking place.

KNOWN TELECOMMUNICATIONS HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT FORTNIGHT (MAY 11, 2015 THROUGH MAY 22, 2015)

There are no known Telecommunications Hearings scheduled during the current fortnight.

FUTURE TELECOM HEARINGS SCHEDULED

There are no known Telecommunications Hearings scheduled beyond the current fortnight.

2015 REGULAR MPSC MEETING DATES[†] |

MONTH & DATE	DAY	TIME
May 14 [‡]	Thursday	11:30 a.m.
June 3	Wednesday	1:30 p.m.
June 15	Monday	1:30 p.m.
June 30	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
July 9	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
July 23	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
August 11	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
August 25	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
September 10	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
September 24	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
October 7	Wednesday	1:30 p.m.
October 22	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
November 5	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
November 19	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
December 8	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.
December 22	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.

[†] Additional meetings of the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) may be scheduled, as needed, on 18 hours-notice as permitted by Section 5(4) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.265(4).

All meetings of the Commission are open to the public and will be held at the Commission’s new offices, which are located at 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, 48917, unless posted and notified in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Visitors should park in the south side, rear parking lot, which is in the back of the building and enter through the doors posted for “Visitors.” The meeting site is accessible, including handicapped parking. People with disabilities requiring additional accommodations such as information in alternative formats in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Commission’s Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090.

Agendas for all Regular and Special Meetings will be posted on 18-hours-notice. A posted agenda is subject to Amendment as determined by the Commission. Any person with a question about a Regular or a Special Meeting of the Commission may make an inquiry by calling the Commission’s Executive Secretary at (517) 248-8090.

[‡] On April 23, 2015 the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) announced that its Regular Commission Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2015 will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Lake Michigan Hearing Room, 7109 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan.

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