

# HAVE yourself A MERRY little CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

## TCC OFFERING 2 TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2020

For 2020, TCC will once again offer twenty-five \$500.00 scholarships to current high school seniors going on to further education. Winners will be drawn randomly before the TCC Annual Meeting and announced at the Annual Meeting.

New this year--- TCC will also be offering two \$1,000.00 scholarships for current high school seniors going on to further education in an IT-related field of study. Winners will be drawn randomly from all who enter and qualify.

We are happy to continue offering scholarships to area students to support their continued education and we are especially excited to offer our new "IT" scholarships! Scholarship applications are available on our website at: <https://www.tccpro.net/gettcc/scholarships>. Students who apply for the IT scholarship but are not drawn will automatically be entered in the drawing for the standard (\$500) scholarships. If you have any questions, please contact TCC!



**Office Hours:**  
 Strum & Independence  
 Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm  
 Galesville  
 Wednesday 12 - 4 pm,  
 Thursday 9 am - 1 pm

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 417 5th Ave North  
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 Strum, WI 54770

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 23669 Washington St  
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WWW.TCCPRO.NET 800-831-0610



# THE CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2019

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

For 2020, TCC is giving you **FASTER INTERNET** for **NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU!** This includes Bundle Packages and Internet-only services! Faster downloads! Smoother streaming! Better gaming! We understand your NEED for SPEED!

- 20 Mbps jumps to **40 MBPS**
- 40 Mbps jumps to **60 MBPS**
- 60 Mbps jumps to **100 MBPS**
- Vital, Viewer, and Ultimate Bundle speeds will increase from **40 MBPS TO 60 MBPS**
- Vital+, Viewer+, and Ultimate+ Bundle speeds will increase from **60 MBPS TO 100 MBPS**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec 6, Whitehall Holiday Parade, 7 pm downtown

Dec 24, Christmas Eve  
 TCC will close at Noon

Dec 25, Merry Christmas!  
 TCC will be closed

Dec 31, New Year's Eve  
 TCC will close at Noon

Jan 1, New Year's Day  
 TCC will be closed



## 2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Tri-County Communications Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at Ss. Peter & Paul Parochial School in Independence. More details will be available soon. This year, we will be voting for Directors in the Northfield-Pigeon Falls-Pleasantville-Whitehall district. Individuals interested in running for the Board in the above mentioned district should contact Cheryl Rue, CEO, at 715-695-2691 or [crue@tccpro.net](mailto:crue@tccpro.net). All inquiries will be kept confidential.

2020 MARCH CALENDAR						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# WINDOWS 7 EXPIRATION:



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU HAVE WINDOWS 7

JANUARY 14, 2020

Microsoft has announced that on January 14, 2020, it will officially stop supporting Windows 7 on laptops and desktops and will no longer offer security patches for Windows 7. This is not a new concept. All versions of Windows have a planned “end” date so Microsoft doesn’t have to keep supporting it forever while moving forward with newer products.

### RESULT

Your Windows 7 computer will still operate fine initially, but it will be much more vulnerable to viruses and hackers. Once Microsoft stops supporting an operating system, other programs on your computer will likely stop offering updates and patches for their software as well, which will lead to other access and security issues.

### OPTIONS

You basically have three options: Keep using Windows 7, Upgrade to Windows 10, Get a New Computer.

#### 1) Keep Using Windows 7

As discussed above, continuing to use Windows 7 will be very risky and eventually futile as you will be more vulnerable to threats and less welcomed by websites. If you use it for computer games, basic browsing, or email, you may be fine continuing with Windows 7 for now. However, if you do anything involving personal, financial, or private information, you will not want to continue using Windows 7 after January 14, 2020.

#### 2) Upgrade Current Computer To Windows 10

You may be able to upgrade your current computer to Windows 10, but the chances are not good. Your memory, processor, hard drive, internal components, and third-party software all have to be Windows 10 compatible. Even if it can be upgraded, the performance may be poor and you may still run into issues.

#### 3) Get A New Computer Or Other Device

For most people, a new computer will be the best route. Buying a new computer means you get a computer built and designed to run Windows 10. If you need help transferring documents and pictures from your old computer to your new one, bring it in to TCC! For a reasonable charge, we can transfer data files, load software, or perform other setup and configuration tasks for you.

### WHICH VERSION DO YOU HAVE?

Look in the lower left corner of your computer screen. If you have a “Start” button that looks like this:  then you have Windows 7 (or even Windows Vista, which has already expired). If the “Start” button looks like a white window over a black bar, you already have Windows 10 so you are good!

### NEED ADVICE?

Call TCC and we will be happy to assess your situation and point you in a good direction.

## STREAMING 101: INTERNET, DEVICE, CONTENT

Streaming (watching TV shows and movies through the Internet) has become more and more popular as a supplement or even a replacement for traditional pay TV service. With streaming, you can watch live TV or browse through large libraries of available shows and movies. Streaming requires three things — an Internet connection, a device capable of streaming, and a content provider (access to TV shows and movies).

**INTERNET** - Streaming requires more of your Internet connection than most (any) other applications, so you need a fast connection with plenty of bandwidth to make sure your stream is not pixelated, choppy, or of lower quality. You need about 5 Mbps per standard stream, 8 Mbps per High-Def stream, and 30 Mbps per 4K stream. That does not account for other devices you already have connected. TCC is making it even easier to stream on multiple devices by increasing Internet speeds across the board for 2020! Even our bundles will get a boost in speed from 40 Mbps to 60 Mbps and 60 Mbps to 100 Mbps. With any TCC connection, you’ll be in pretty good shape for streaming! Check with your provider for which speed you have and if that will meet your needs.

**STREAMING DEVICES** - A streaming device is one that can work with streaming services and play the content they provide. Common streaming devices include Smart TVs, tablets, smartphones, and streaming “add-ons” for regular HDTVs such as a Roku box, Chromecast, Amazon Firestick, or Apple TV box. These devices cost \$25 to \$100 and allow you to stream to your regular TV. Smart TVs require no additional equipment and are easier to connect but a new Smart TV will cost you more than adding a streaming add-on device to your existing HD (non-smart) TV.



**CONTENT** - Content refers to the app, service, website, or subscription you plan to use to access the TV shows and movies you plan to stream. You can subscribe to individual channels (e.g. CBS, HBO), miscellaneous library services (e.g. Netflix, Hulu, Prime), or subscriptions that include a certain assortment of channels (e.g. YouTube TV, Sling TV).

Channel subscriptions are nice if you want content from specific networks OR when you have access to a bunch of channels through an existing TV package (e.g. “watchTVeverywhere” from TCC Cable).

Library services contain a huge assortment of TV shows and movies from a variety of channels/production companies. Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime are the biggest such services and charge \$8 to \$20 per month.

Channel Assortment Subscriptions are the latest twist on streaming. You choose from packages of 20 or so channels and you can change channels in the service app just like regular TV. The services are the closest experience to traditional cable or satellite services and are becoming more popular. YouTube TV, Hulu Live, and Sling TV are examples of this type of service.

Not all content services are available on all devices. Check to make sure the device you plan to buy is compatible with the service(s) you plan to use.

