

WESTERN WASHTENAW RESIDENT TESTIMONIALS

The following condensed testimonials are a small subset of the 127 testimonials we They serve as good examples of the key issues expressed.

... We live in a cell phone and internet "desert" and if it were not for the landline and the satellite dishes we would not be "connected". These capabilities are important to me in particular because I am gainfully unemployed and spend the majority of my time in volunteer community efforts ... it is more difficult to be effective in this role, so important to a civil society, if we cannot avail ourselves of all the advantages of a modern communication capability. It is the responsibility of our government –local, state, and federal to provide the opportunity for us to be the best citizens we can be. I am encouraged that this issue will be considered a priority for our community by our elected representatives.

Gregory K. Peter, D. V. M.

My family of four has lived in the outer-lying areas of Chelsea for the last 4 years, during that time, we have had at least 4 internet carriers. Each one has failed to serve us effectively.... It has been a frustrating and discouraging experience, especially after spending extra money on additional new hardware for each company. My two school age children need the broadband access to complete school assignments. My wife has returned to college to pursue a second career and also needs broadband access to complete school assignments, as well as for her current business. I have been reluctant to begin a website for business, knowing that the service in my area is poor. Priority is given to school assignments and often very little service is left for me to utilize each month.

Christopher Fernandez

I have lived at this location for two years and love our new community. However, my three children are put at an educational disadvantage due to geographic politics. .. All schools in Michigan request technology grants for their students every year. Chelsea and Stockbridge schools both require Internet access to complete school work. How as a parent am I supposed to access the internet for three children daily paying per gig? It's a huge expense! ... My family should have the right to succeed as much as the family not even two miles away. Studies show that technology influences education in a positive direction, thus the reason schools advocate for their students. I am advocating for my children: please run cable to our community. ..

Lana Jaworski

Completely unable to obtain broadband service in our area although only 7 miles from downtown Chelsea, 20 miles from Ann Arbor and 20 Miles from Jackson....Aside from difficulties using the internet for commerce/business, downloading software and engaging in entertainment; my ability to remotely access electronic health records as a physician on call is severely impaired as is my wife's ability to work from home (20% of her time).

Frank Pavlovic

.... Recently a pipeline burst near our house and we were left "in the dark" from information about this incident due to no broadband coverage. This was a very scary situation since we could not gather any information regarding our safety. Additionally, it is very frustrating for me when I cannot get broadband access at my home in Washtenaw County but get access at my hunting camp in the Upper Peninsula 3 miles off the grid....

Alan Augustine

...I work from home and need an affordable uncapped data option for large files. Property value; families will not move to this area due to lack of broadband. All levels of education require online access for work plans and research. We are at a disadvantage compared to other Countries, States, Cities and Communities.

Marc Keezer

We moved to this area 14 years ago. We love the area and our home, but, we have struggled with Internet services the entire time.My husband and I both work from home a couple of times a week, and NEED to be connected to the internet. The service from Verizon and AT&T doesn't always work, and many times we can't even download documents or spreadsheets. It's very frustrating, when talk to people close to us, and they are receiving UNLIMITED high speed

internet, at a nominal cost, and we are paying an extreme amount for each and every gig we use. We have received mailings saying they are going to get Broadband Internet in the area, but we haven't seen it yet!Why can't we get cable options? PLEASE let us know what we can do to help!!

Sherry Bejster

We do not have access to cable or to DSL phone lines, ... This has caused extreme difficulty with job requirements....my husband and I have both had to drive to another location with WiFi in order to complete work assignments or to make sure important downloads and/or uploads go through ... It has been a continual frustration and has caused many hardships, especially when we have work at home requirements. Cell phone service is bad to the point where 911 operators can't hear us and so we are considering other options ...

Amy McKeighan

We run a small business in the Waterloo area and have been stuck with dial-up internet for the past ten years or so. Customers and clients trying to communicate with us are flabbergasted when they learn that we can't send them a picture of our work or something for sale because it takes too long to upload.... although we enjoy many aspects of country living, in 2015 it seems we should also have the convenience of using the internet without frustration.

Marsi Parker Darwin

We live in Washtenaw County, live within 20 miles of U/M, seven miles from downtown Chelsea and cannot get a high-speed internet connection. We call our area "the Black Hole". Our out-of-town guests and our returning-home college students are amazed that they cannot complete many ordinary internet related tasks. My husband has to drive to the Chelsea District Library to complete many of his work requirements as well as my children with their college and job-hunting connection needs. My daughter in rural Maine has high speed internet! Ironic. To work and live in this current age of technology a high speed internet connection is necessary in all of Washtenaw County.

Maribeth Hammer

...It would be wonderful to have internet access for homework, staying in touch with family, accessing services, etc. We currently have to drive to library for any internet access so we are limited to their hours and it is ten minutes to drive there, not to mention the cost of gas, etc.

Karen Lukomski

School, work, being in the 21st century, contact with family, kids in college. Unable to have affordable ready access to these activities of daily living greatly affect the adults. But for my kids to be able to learn to function in the modern world they are greatly handicapped. The learning curve for young adults is imperative to not playing catch up....

Larry W. Lukomski

...The only internet service we can get out where I live is extremely expensive ... with a download limit. Which barely lets me do my school work because I have to download presentations, videos, books, and so forth. All of which exceeds our limit, then, I have to wait a month for it to replenish...If broadband were to service my location it would let me do my school work.....

Jeffery Watko

...For years we have asked for broadband to be made available to us but we haven't seen any new developments made and have heard of no future plans made to change this. Schools and work all require the use of a high speed internet connection, and we are forced to find sources away from home to complete these assignments, pay bills, check email, etc. Please consider adding broadband implementation to the list of priorities in rural regions like mine.

Joshua Watko

...I have two young kids that are just entering the Chelsea school system. Their need for internet will only be increasing. I work from home quite often and regularly download large files. The services currently available to me are hampering my ability to work effectively...We need a viable high speed internet service that isn't cost prohibitive with capped data.

Cody Price