

Sunrise Cooperative Offers Free WiFi Access at Designated Locations to Help Bridge Telehealth and Educational Digital Divide During COVID-19

As part of a broader initiative by farmer-owned co-op Land O'Lakes, Inc., Sunrise is providing free internet access to our community, while upholding social distancing measures

[Click Here](#) for the Full Release and to View Details and Pictures for each WiFi Location.

Fremont, Ohio (May 1, 2020) – As the coronavirus pandemic has created an unparalleled and sudden shift to virtual working and learning, people in rural areas now more than ever are feeling the impacts of limited or unreliable internet connectivity. To help neighbors communicate with friends and relatives, keep up with schoolwork, and take part in other activities that are now done almost entirely online, Sunrise Cooperative, Inc. is making guest Wi-Fi access available in the parking lot of a designated list of its locations to area residents. This initiative is part of a larger effort by Land O'Lakes, Inc., a member-owned co-op with deep roots across rural America, of which Sunrise is a member.

Currently operational are WiFi hotspots at Sunrise's *Bucyrus Energy, Corporate Office, Minster Grain, Monroeville Grain, New Washington Grain, St. Anthony School* (across the street from St. Anthony Feed) and *St. Marys Grain* locations.

The locations with free WiFi access are:

Sunrise Bucyrus Energy. Located at 3202 State Route 98, Bucyrus. Enter our property from our main entrance and park directly in front of the main building. Face your car towards State Route 98.

Sunrise Corporate Office. Located at 2025 W. State St., Fremont. Enter our property at the front of the building off Lime Street. Please park between the WiFi access signs on the left side of the parking lot when you pull into the driveway.

Sunrise Minster Grain. Located at 292 W. Fourth St., Minster. Park on the west end of our property off of Fourth Street. Look for the large Free WiFi Sign, which is facing Fourth Street.

Sunrise Monroeville Grain. Located at 48 Baker St., Monroeville. Enter our property off Baker Street and park next to the white office building on the side facing US Route 20. Park between the WiFi access signs in the parking lot.

Sunrise New Washington Grain. Located at 419 East St., New Washington. Park on our property on the south side of the building between the building and our grain scales. If you drive to our property on East Street, the access point is in the parking lot behind the building, or the south side. Do not park in the lot at the intersection of East and Washington Street.

St. Anthony School (across the street from *Sunrise St. Anthony Feed*). Located at 5471 OH-49, Fort Recovery. The school is on the south side of St. Anthony Parish. Pull into the parking lot off of OH-49 and park in the angled parking spot marked with Free WiFi at the front of the school building.

Sunrise St Marys Grain. Located at 1001 McKinley Road, St. Marys. Enter our property and drive up the driveway and park on the right hand side in front of the gray sided building in front of the WiFi signs.

“As millions of Americans shift to work and school from home and increasingly look to telehealth for critical healthcare services, the urgent need for internet connectivity in rural America has never been so dire,” said Beth Ford, president & CEO of Land O'Lakes, Inc. “Today, we are proud to take the step along with many partners to bridge the gap and provide this critical service to these communities during this crisis. But our efforts now are only a short-term solution for a much bigger problem that people in our rural communities face even when we are not experiencing a viral pandemic. As a member-owned cooperative, Land O'Lakes believes that we are all stronger together, and we are incredibly appreciative of the generosity of our retail-owners during this trying time.”

“During this challenging time, we must all work together,” said George D. Secor, President/CEO of Sunrise Cooperative. “We work closely with the rural communities and understand the limited resources they have available when it comes to internet connectivity, and when faced with the uncertainty of this pandemic we are in, we are glad to help alleviate some stress by providing an area to connect to the internet. Between the demands of schoolwork and staying healthy, we hope this added area of connectivity will provide a place of optimism for our communities that we will get through this.”

Sunrise has designated a portion of its parking lot for Wi-Fi users, which will allow us to provide services to customers, who are also following social distancing guidelines, without interruption. This service is being offered as part of a trial beginning on April 24, 2020. To maintain social distancing, guests are asked to stay in their own cars while using this service. You will have no access to buildings while on Sunrise property.

During this unprecedented time, Land O'Lakes is deploying the power of its co-op to make a difference in local communities. As such, this program is part of a broader effort Land O'Lakes is deploying at its facilities across America's heartland. Sunrise is part of the Land O'Lakes ag retailer network and is volunteering to take part in this program. While this is a short-term solution, Land O'Lakes is continuing to advocate for broadband infrastructure investment in rural areas across the country at both the state and federal level to ensure the long-term vitality of rural America.

Ford continued, “If there were a time to band together with and for our rural neighbors – many of whom are critical to feeding our nation – now is that time. I'd encourage businesses with footprints in rural communities to join us in this small action to connect our rural communities; and I strongly urge state and federal policy makers to join us in fixing the problem by closing the digital divide in rural America.”

Important Internet Access Information

In Response to the COVID-19 School Closure

At this time of school closure, the Fremont City Schools staff are providing At Home Learning opportunities to continue the important job of educating your child. These materials may contain opportunities that include internet access, but certainly aren't limited to this option. We understand that not all families are currently able to access the internet in their homes. Local internet providers are providing some additional options to families during this time. Below is information that has been shared.

Spectrum will offer free broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

AT&T is waiving data overage fees to all customers so that families and students can stay connected during the pandemic. The company is promising not to terminate the service of any customer over the next 60 days. Discounted Internet might be available if you qualify by checking the following address.

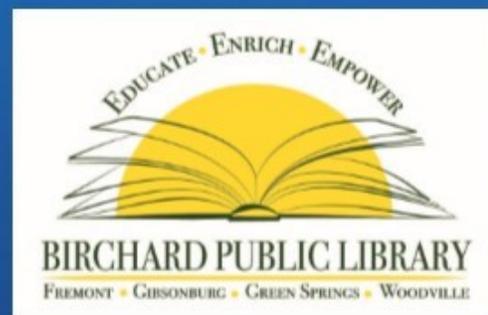
<https://m.att.com/shopmobile/internet/access/>

Fremont City Schools has also opened our guest Wi-Fi at Fremont Middle School. It is named **FCSD_FreePublic** and no password is necessary. The closer you park to the building, the better the limited reception will be. The Wi-Fi will be available from noon-9:00 PM.





Drive-In Wi-Fi @ Fremont Branch



Access the Internet for FREE while social distancing.

Find a parking spot in our lot or use High Street parking
(choose the side closest to library).

Use your device to select BIRCHARD PUBLIC LIBRARY network.

Get online! You can download e-books, check your email, and more.

