

INFORMATION ON HIGH SPEED INTERNET IN LYNDON TOWNSHIP

DSL or cable broadband Internet is only available to a very limited number of residents in Lyndon Township. None the less, there are some options for township residents who want to obtain broadband service.

CABLE INTERNET

With new national franchise regulations, cable TV companies may extend into a few populated areas around lakes in this area, if they determine it will be profitable. If so, cable Internet may be available in those areas, but general cable access is not likely in Lyndon Township.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET OVER YOUR TELEPHONE LAND LINE:

DSL (broadband over a telephone line) is available for a few Lyndon residents closest to Chelsea, and possible Stockbridge. At present there are no plans by the providers to expand coverage. The services are provided by AT&T and Verizon telephone service.

WIDE AREA WIRELESS INTERNET:

Wide Area Wireless Internet uses two way radio transmissions to provide service, usually between a radio transceiver/modem and interior or outdoor antenna in the home or office and a central location with a high outside mounted antenna. The Wireless Washtenaw project was designed to provide this type of high-speed internet to all residents in Washtenaw County, but it has been postponed for an indefinite period of time due to lack of funding. There are systems on water towers in Chelsea, Sylvan Township and Stockbridge, but we have had no reports of residents of Lyndon Township being within range of any of these systems. No provider has announced any plans for this for Lyndon Township.

WIRELESS BROADBAND:

Wireless Broadband is offered via cell phone providers using their towers, so if your cell phone works well from your home the provider may offer internet data access as well. Upload and download speeds can be quite fast, and fairly consistent. To connect a computer you will need one of their special wireless broadband connect cards. They come in USB types that work on Laptops and Desktop computers, and cards that plug into Laptops. These Wireless Broadband Connect cards are different than the normal Wireless Wi-Fi cards you may normally use and you need to obtain the correct card from your provider. To hook up multiple computers in a small home or business network, you will need to purchase a special router that will accept a Broadband Wireless Connect card. These can cost between \$150-\$250, and are different than the wired or Wi-Fi wireless routers you normally use. You also need to subscribe to a wireless data plan, for a monthly fee.

Providers that may have some coverage in Lyndon Township include Sprint/Nextel, Verizon Wireless and AT&T. With USB connect cards, you can often add a USB extension cable, and move the card around for a better signal. This can be especially useful for a desktop computer. Most providers have 30-day "Worry Free" guarantees. If you sign up for service and it is unacceptable, you are not held to a contract but you do pay for the days you tried it. After 30 days, you are held to your contract. Some Wireless Connect Cards also permit the connection of an external antenna. A low cost passive antenna may increase the signal a little. There are also more powerful amplified external antenna systems that can be purchased for \$250.00 to \$400.00, but these must be separately from electronic stores or the internet.

HIGH SWPEED INTERNET AILABILITY

Make sure you can return the antenna and get a refund if it does not help you connect. Also, signals are often much better in the winter than in the summer when the leaves are out, so if your system is installed in the winter; and your signal is not very strong, it may not work in the summer. Note that each provider offers one or more plans, with limits on the amount of data that can be uploaded and downloaded, and charge extra when you exceed their monthly limits. Downloading movies and interactive games can often exceed some of these limits.

SATELLITE BROADBAND:

These two-way satellite services are offered by HughesNet and Wild Blue. Both require a satellite dish. Internet satellite services can be ordered directly from the web or national 800 phone numbers. A local installer is Specialty Satellite & Antenna Services, Stockbridge, (734) 498-3366. DishNetwork, DirectTV and AT&T also remarket Wild Blue, so if you already use one of these providers, you can bundle your service.

Satellite Broadband Internet access operates by transmitting and receiving data via a satellite. Download speeds can be very fast and uploads reasonable. Speeds can vary considerably depending on the day and time due to what others using the satellite channel are doing, and the plan you have. Because the signal is delayed due to the distance it takes for the radio waves to travel between the earth and satellite, some applications can be extremely slow, but normal E-Mail and web browsing, including pictures and graphics, can be quite fast. Unfortunately some work at home applications that connect with a remote office or work system can be severely slowed down.

Each provider has several different plans with different speeds as well as downloading and uploading limits, called "fair access policy". When limits are exceeded the speed is cut to a dialup speed during a recovery time. Wild Blue uses monthly limits and can take up to 30 days to reset. HughesNet uses 24 hour limits, and resets in a 24 hour period. Because of these restrictions,, movie downloads or interactive games use must be limited. Speeds are not guaranteed, but if performance is consistently very slow, the provider technical support can often determine the problem and have it corrected. From scanning Internet forums, HughesNett is more responsive to these problems than Wild Blue.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET OVER ELECTRIC POWER LINE:

This is a potential option for the future but there have been no plans announced by any providers to develop this in this in our area.