

From: Gary Ward McKee <mckee.gw@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 2, 2018 7:07 PM
To: Gerard Neugebauer <GNeugebauer@cityofgreen.org>
Cc: Chris Humphrey <Chumphrey@cityofgreen.org>; Matt Shaughnessy <Mshaughnessy@cityofgreen.org>; Molly Kapeluck <mkapeluck@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Re: Community Internet Speed and Connectivity Survey

Gerard,

Honestly I found many of your points uninformed and, at times, disingenuous.

Five years ago, Fairlawn had miserable cable and internet service options.

My mother has been a resident of Fairlawn for 45 years and I graduated from Copley-Fairlawn schools and lived in the community for 30 years. Fairlawn is served by TW/Spectrum, AT&T, and Verizon/Frontier. Spectrum's service in Fairlawn is identical to that in Green. My mother had DSL from Frontier for several years and it was faster and more dependable than AT&T's DSL offerings in my present neighborhood in Green. AT&T's service is so slow that it is not even technically considered broadband. We have one overpriced monopoly broadband provider--Spectrum Cable. This is what I truly call "miserable cable and internet service options."

you might quickly realize that the City of Green is 7.5 times the size of Fairlawn, so a linear assumption might lead you to believe that a \$75M investment would be needed here

This is some seriously impoverished logic. I hope it's not indicative of your usual reasoning. Green would be more costly but Fairlawn will soon provide service to the larger Bath-Fairlawn-Akron JEDD. Green also has large areas (Nimisila Reservoir, golf courses, farmland, an airport land) that would not have to be serviced. Green also has three times the population of Fairlawn to spread around the costs. The spit-balled figure of \$75M cannot be taken seriously.

Let's add to the facts that both Spectrum and ATT have started building facilities in Green providing speeds at or approaching 1 gigabit. We know this because we meet with them regularly to encourage investment in our community.

I'll believe this when I see it. I have lived 16 years in Green. AT&T has not upgraded one bit in our neighborhood. Even if miracles do happen, what price will AT&T or Spectrum charge? For December, Spectrum has once again raised their prices--\$66 dollars now buys 120Mbps down/ 12Mbps up. Fairlawn residents pay \$75 for a **symmetrical** 1000 Mbps. Since you have such insight into their plans, how much are AT&T and Spectrum planning to charge for their near gigabit speeds?

If you would like to be part of the solution, please consider joining our technology committee and help us do the best we can for our community? The committee consists of IT directors of the largest employers in Green.

Would this be worth my time? Reading your reply, it seems like the decision against a municipal option to provide competition for Spectrum and AT&T has already been made. Maybe they'll eventually roll something out for the "largest employers" and city government along the Massillon Rd corridor but I bet

we won't see it in the neighborhoods. For residential consumers the business practices of these ISPs are deliberately deceptive. For example, I challenge you to find anywhere on their websites their standard, non-promotional pricing. I certainly don't trust them not to sell our browsing history to the highest bidder (as Trump's choice to head the FCC has now green lighted). Believing these two companies will roll out gigabit internet at affordable prices seems a fool's errand.

Sincerely,
Gary McKee

On Fri, Nov 30, 2018 at 4:50 PM Gerard Neugebauer <GNeugebauer@cityofgreen.org> wrote:

Gary,

Five years ago, Fairlawn had miserable cable and internet service options. They took bonds for \$10M to install fiber for the city 4.5 square miles in size. I agree that Mayor Roth provided great leadership to get council to approve the plan to invest that much money to provide guaranteed 1gb service to each and every resident. Service Director Ernie Staten did a great job developing the service. This is a perfect solution for Fairlawn. I know this because I was part of the team that initiated the project in Fairlawn, and I maintain a relationship with the mayor and service director. Both have offered to provide assistance if we need to follow their lead.

However, you might quickly realize that the City of Green is 7.5 times the size of Fairlawn, so a linear assumption might lead you to believe that a \$75M investment would be needed here. Another factor is that the density of residents in Fairlawn is over twice that of Green, so the payback is much more difficult here. **Let's add to the facts that both Spectrum and ATT have started building facilities in Green providing speeds at or approaching 1 gigabit. We know this because we meet with them regularly to encourage investment in our community.**

The point of the survey was to determine how much people knew about the various providers and options so we can: 1. Help them find the solution that meets their needs; and 2. **Help motivate service providers to invest more in our community.** There is many ways to achieve the same goal.

If you would like to be part of the solution, please consider joining our technology committee and help us do the best we can for our community? The committee consists of IT directors of the largest employers in Green. I am, and hopefully will continue to be, thankful for your insights and contributions.

Kindest Regards,

Gerard Neugebauer, *Mayor*

City of Green, Ohio

330.896.6602



www.cityofgreen.org

From: Gary Ward McKee <mckee.gw@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 11:32 AM
To: Gerard Neugebauer <GNeugebauer@cityofgreen.org>
Cc: Chris Humphrey <Chumphrey@cityofgreen.org>; Matt Shaughnessy <Mshaughnessy@cityofgreen.org>
Subject: Re: Community Internet Speed and Connectivity Survey

Gerard,

My gut tells me that the City of Green has no intention of providing alternatives to Spectrum and AT&T such as Fairlawn has done with FairlawnGIG. I fear the short time given for the survey was to provide cover for the City to argue that there is no interest in municipal gigabit fiber. We already see the City arguing on Facebook that it will be too expensive:

Comment by Tim Stephens: Looking forward answering to this survey. Living with FairlawnGig was a truly life changing experience I wish would come to Green. It absolutely deserves some investigation.

Reply by City of Green, Ohio -- City Administration This committee was formed for a number of reason, but one was to investigate the idea and viability of a Muni WIFI similar to FairlawnGig. However, there are some inherent challenges (mainly our 33.5 miles) that makes this option extremely expensive. This survey will help us better understand the pulse of the community. Thanks.

The City's response is troubling. The backbone of the system in Fairlawn is gigabit fiber run to every home and business not WiFi. Fairawn's mayor showed real leadership and vision and got the job done.

How is it that we in Green have money for golf courses and roundabouts but not for the basics of 21st century infrastructure?

Hope to be proven wrong, Gary.

On Thu, Nov 29, 2018 at 6:02 PM Gerard Neugebauer <GNeugebauer@cityofgreen.org> wrote:

Gary,

I agree with your assessment that the survey time was too short. I discussed the issue with the technology committee and our communications manager and it was decided that we re-open the survey. I hope you now have the opportunity to participate. Thank you for contacting me. It made a difference in this case, and directly led to a positive change in direction. I am grateful that you alerted me to the issue.

Kindest Regards,

Gerard Neugebauer, *Mayor*

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