



April 2023

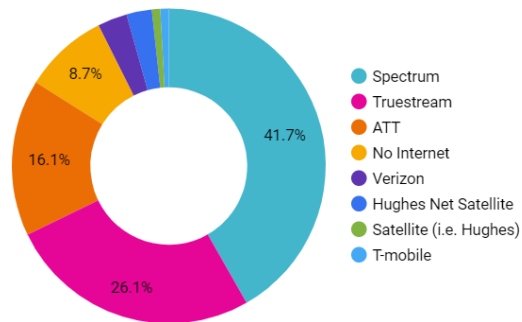
I wanted to provide the residents of Evangeline Township with an update on the search for high speed internet for our area.

**Background**

In November of 2022, a survey was sent electronically and via US Mail to all residents of the township. Fortunately, 41% of the residents responded to the survey giving us a sampling of what residents are currently doing for internet service at their homes. The results were interesting as we discovered that nearly 2/3rds of the respondents already have access to what Michigan defines as broadband internet service (100Mbps down, 20Mbps up). See results below.

The

Current Internet Service Provider	Count
Spectrum	96
Trustream	60
ATT	37
No Internet	20
Verizon	7
Hughes Net Satellite	6
Satellite (i.e. Hughes)	2
T-mobile	2



remaining one third of our residents are using other providers like ATT DSL, satellite, or have no internet at all.

**Trustream Internet**

If you are a customer of Great Lakes energy and a member of their electric cooperative, you should also have access to their internet program called Trustream. Trustream appears to be in approximately 26% of the homes in Evangeline Township and represents the fastest and best internet service in the area. The feedback on Trustream is overwhelmingly positive. The issue is that for those residents that

do not receive their electric power from Great Lakes Energy, they do not, and will not have access to Truststream internet.

### **Charter/ Spectrum**

Charter/ Spectrum is the single largest internet provider in the township and they are currently serving approximately 42% of Evangeline Township residents. Charter/ Spectrum provides cable TV connections and broadband internet to customers in their current service areas. Charter/ Spectrum has been contacted and they are not willing to expand their service footprint to new properties. This signals that if your address is not currently in the Charter/ Spectrum service footprint, they will not be able to serve your address any time soon. You can check availability for your address at:

[https://official.spectrum.com/lfo-spectrumone?ca.mp=Google&ca.cr=573053103051&ca.kw=spectrum&ca.mt=e&cb.device=c&ca.target=aud-1959302445576:kwd-50493332&o=go&lfokp=spectrum&sitelink=true&v=SEMBR&cmp=SEMR\\_G\\_SL\\_EXISTALL\\_INT\\_BR&sitelink=true&tfn=R0948&fp=ch1&gclid=CjwKCAjwrJ-hBhB7EiwAuyBVXYLysxr6rNCKPbPNYsBog7wdujZka422x9QY0sAH2aDAH477Z9N6LxoCsUgQAvD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://official.spectrum.com/lfo-spectrumone?ca.mp=Google&ca.cr=573053103051&ca.kw=spectrum&ca.mt=e&cb.device=c&ca.target=aud-1959302445576:kwd-50493332&o=go&lfokp=spectrum&sitelink=true&v=SEMBR&cmp=SEMR_G_SL_EXISTALL_INT_BR&sitelink=true&tfn=R0948&fp=ch1&gclid=CjwKCAjwrJ-hBhB7EiwAuyBVXYLysxr6rNCKPbPNYsBog7wdujZka422x9QY0sAH2aDAH477Z9N6LxoCsUgQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

### **Internet for the rest of us**

I have contacted nearly a dozen internet service providers to attempt to persuade them to bury fiber-optic cable in the township to provide broadband internet to the nearly one third of residents that do not have reasonable internet service. The cost of such a project exceeded \$1.2 million and their quoted work backlog was extensive. Long lead times were also quoted signaling that it could take years to lay fiber cable and bring internet to the township - assuming that the township could find the funding for the project. Although both the state and federal government signaled that they had some funding available for rural unserved areas for internet, our township has a difficult time qualifying for grant money with nearly two thirds of the township already having access to broadband speeds, and the remainder of the township having some access (even slow access) to internet. Complicating access to potential grant money is the necessity for the Township to have a significant investment in any new project before any grant money would be awarded. In the case of Evangeline Township, an earnest payment of \$200,000+ is not uncommon. This is simply not possible with a township of our size.

### **Wireless Internet may be an immediate solution**

Wireless internet - internet that uses cell signals (similar to your cell phone) is an immediate solution for most/ if not all homes in the township. Wireless routers were tested from all three large cell carriers in the area Verizon, T-Mobile, and AT&T. Connection speed may vary depending on your location and proximity to a carriers cell towers. Monthly home internet costs are competitive and average \$60/month for speeds between 40Mbps and 55Mbps. These providers will drop the monthly price to \$50/month if you pay by a debit card or direct pay from your checking account. At the right you can see the Verizon Home internet cube. For most homes these devices will provide internet to your entire home. For very large homes, internet extenders or mesh networks can be used to expand the coverage.



### **Do you want faster/ less expensive internet?**

It is my recommendation that residents looking for faster or less expensive internet than DSL or satellite consider contacting the three large cell carriers in the area and see if they are able to provide a wireless signal to your address.

### Verizon

It is unclear if Verizon Home Internet can serve every address in Evangeline Township because of signal strength. Click on this link to see if your address is currently in the Verizon service area and then click on the Check availability bubble: <https://www.verizon.com/5g/home/>

### T-Mobile

Check availability and information from T-Mobile at:

[https://www.t-mobile.com/home-internet/eligibility?&cmpid=HEIS\\_PG\\_P\\_21HMEINT\\_p72266798368&gclid=Cj0KCQjwIumhBhCIARIsABO6p-xFp0jUUWhRN8JfbDuezadFli-x4LmD5ZWBa5ML9Z9BU25bsVkA2psaAlzuEALw\\_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds](https://www.t-mobile.com/home-internet/eligibility?&cmpid=HEIS_PG_P_21HMEINT_p72266798368&gclid=Cj0KCQjwIumhBhCIARIsABO6p-xFp0jUUWhRN8JfbDuezadFli-x4LmD5ZWBa5ML9Z9BU25bsVkA2psaAlzuEALw_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds)

### AT&T

Check availability and information from AT&T at:

[https://www.att.com/internet/availability/?source=ECBB000000CG100P&tfn=homesolutions&WT.srch=1&wtExtndSource=S\\_AIB\\_IPM\\_General-Prospecting\\_G\\_FIB\\_SEA\\_CRS\\_LF\\_SALE\\_GM\\_ALL\\_INF\\_NO\\_N\\_NA\\_BND\\_EXM\\_SEAR\\_NA\\_NA\\_Prospecting\\_NA\\_NA\\_NA\\_CPC:Prospecting\\_ATT%20Internet%20Home%20Internet;700000001892185;att%20home%20internet&ds\\_eid=700000001892185&ds\\_cid=71700000084317007&ds\\_agid=58700007128768656&ds\\_kids=p64117475060&gclidsrc=aw.ds&ds\\_rl=1295680&ds\\_rl=1295680&gclid=Cj0KCQjwIumhBhCIARIsABO6p-wq78JvWvL4zNT75pWdVVpllv\\_gNzPiYWKI\\_BuD6VGfwXM0CQj3P6kaAhE2EALw\\_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds](https://www.att.com/internet/availability/?source=ECBB000000CG100P&tfn=homesolutions&WT.srch=1&wtExtndSource=S_AIB_IPM_General-Prospecting_G_FIB_SEA_CRS_LF_SALE_GM_ALL_INF_NO_N_NA_BND_EXM_SEAR_NA_NA_Prospecting_NA_NA_NA_CPC:Prospecting_ATT%20Internet%20Home%20Internet;700000001892185;att%20home%20internet&ds_eid=700000001892185&ds_cid=71700000084317007&ds_agid=58700007128768656&ds_kids=p64117475060&gclidsrc=aw.ds&ds_rl=1295680&ds_rl=1295680&gclid=Cj0KCQjwIumhBhCIARIsABO6p-wq78JvWvL4zNT75pWdVVpllv_gNzPiYWKI_BuD6VGfwXM0CQj3P6kaAhE2EALw_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds)

Additionally, 5G is coming to Northern Michigan although the timing is not clear. 5G means that this internet solution will likely double in speed without having to do anything with the wireless router.

If other solutions crop up in the future you will hear from me again. Let me know if you have any issues or questions regarding the above.

Respectfully,  
Larry Taylor  
Broadband Chair  
Evangeline Township