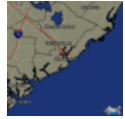


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Knology expands service to Mount pleasant

Company launches project to provide cable, Internet

BY ALLYSON BIRD
abird@postandcourier.com
Friday, January 7, 2011

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More than a decade ago Knology Inc. promised to expand into Mount Pleasant.

Now, in the midst of increasing competition, the Georgia-based cable TV, telephone and Internet company is starting to move forward with that long-standing plan.

Knology is 'digging up yards' in Mount Pleasant as part of a town-wide service launch, according to local sales and marketing manager Todd Trevillian. The company's new fiber optic network includes about 50 homes per fiber, whereas previous systems included 500 homes per fiber, Trevillian said.

Translation: Higher speed and reliability, since fewer people will be drawing from a single source.

Knology also doubled the amount of bandwidth available to its Internet customers in recent months. The company serves nearly all of West Ashley and North Charleston.

Trevillian said the Mount Pleasant build-out, which began in September, will take years. The first neighborhoods to receive service include Candlewood, Bridlewood, Belle Hall, Landings Run, Hunters Run and the Snowden community.

Trevillian declined to comment on the value of the investment, the number of local customers or how the Mount Pleasant expansion affects Knology's overall reach.

Over the past few months, the rivalry among Internet and cable TV service providers has increased.

Big dig

Mount Pleasant residents who live in areas with underground utilities can expect work crews to begin marking lines and burying cable in public easements about week after receiving written notice from Knology.

The company said work in individual neighborhoods should be completed within 30 days after it starts. Knology also said work sites will be restored to their original condition.

Questions or concerns about sprinkler systems, electronic fences or other issues? A construction hotline has been set up at 225-9300

Like Knology, Comcast Corp. — which claims the largest portion of the local market share at 120,000 households — unveiled a new, higher-speed broadband product called Xfinity TV, which offers television and movies online, free to its digital customers.

Communications giant AT&T launched its U-verse television service in parts of Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties in hopes of edging in on more traditional cable providers.

U-verse technology includes an extensive high-definition channel lineup and also allows a single digital video recorder to work on as many as four television sets while also synchronizing with the customer's phone.

Time Warner Cable serves several thousand homes in Summerville and, most recently, Colorado-based Open Range, which relies on radio signals, arrived in North Charleston, Hanahan and Goose Creek as part of its plan to bring internet to 'underserved' markets.

Reflecting on Knology's expansion, Trevillian remembered the days when Internet service running at one-eighth of present-day speed cost as

much as \$700 a month, while customers now get a considerably faster product in their \$89 service bundle that includes phone and cable TV, or \$99 for high-definition.

Knology's rates start at \$65 per month for Internet alone, he said.

Prospective customers in Mount Pleasant should look for notices on their doors or mail boxes and visits from sales representatives to discuss plans. pricing and product options.

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



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