


Canby Telcom selected to host world 'Gimmie Fiber Day' event

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JOHN BAKER - Canby Telcom's headquarters on SE Second Avenue. This will be the site of the Gimmie Fiber Day event celebrating the company's gigabit internet service.

The Fiber to the Home Council-Americas (FTTH) selected Canby Telcom to host world “Gimmie Fiber Day” on November 4 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., an annual event that showcases how fiber optic technology positively impacts communities throughout the world.

FTTH chose Canby Telcom – the only company selected in the U.S. – to host the North American event to honor the company’s \$30 million rollout of fiber-to-the-home gigabit internet service to more than 2,500 Canby addresses, covering 84 square miles, which Canby Economic Development Director Renate Mengelberg has called “a game changer” when it comes to attracting new businesses here, especially inside the Pioneer Industrial Park.

The date of Gimmie Fiber Day was selected because it is the birthday of Professor Charles Kao, long considered the “father of fiber optic communications” and a 2009 Nobel Prize winner.

“This is a very significant award,” Canby Telcom President Paul Hauer said. “It’s something given out to one company once a year by the Fiber to the Home Council. This particular award covers all of North America. This award really is due to a lot of hard work that was done prior to me coming on board, so I can’t take all of the credit for it.”

Also, slipping under the radar back in May, PC Magazine published its list of U.S. cities with the fastest internet connection and Canby came in at No. 5 behind only Cupertino, Calif. (the home of Apple), San Francisco, Seattle and Portland. And just in case you were wondering, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Chattanooga, Tenn., Nashville and Central North Carolina rounded out the top 10.

PC Magazine also wrote that Canby Telcom’s fiber optic zone (FOz) service “amazingly priced” at \$99.95 per month, but through December 31 the company is offering a deal that’s even less expensive at \$49.95 per month.

“Not bad,” Canby City Council President Tim Dale said when Canby Telcom’s FTTH recognition was highlighted at the Oct. 21 city council meeting. “Not bad placement for our little city of Canby.”

The Nov. 4 event, which is being held at Canby Telcom’s offices, located at 190 SE Second Avenue, will have something for all ages, company Marketing Manager Merry Shepard said, including turning the internet service provider’s warehouse into a glow-in-the-dark celebration of light, hands-on exhibits that give people a better understanding of how fiber optic technology works, and even a raffle for two replica Star Wars lightsabers.

“One lightsaber is from the dark side and one is from the light side,” Shepard said. “Anybody in the community is invited to come celebrate with us. The morning session will be more for business and industry and the afternoon will be for the community and families.”

For more information about the Gimmie Fiber Day celebration visit Canby Telcom’s website at CanbyTel.com or call 503-266-8111.