

## Around Our Exchanges Community Awareness

### El Sauz

#### Cactus Country Festival

The 5th Annual Cactus Country Festival and cook-off was held in El Sauz, Texas at our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church on September 30.

VTCI's cooking team received 1st place in the pan de campo division and placed third in the carne guisada cook-off.

All proceeds from this event go to benefit the renovations of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church located in El Sauz, Texas.



Part of VTCI's Cooking Team: Lupe Espinoza & Fred Tijerina



Emely Zarate  
Cactus Country Festival Teen Queen



La Juventud  
de Willacy County



Entertainer  
Walley Gonzalez



Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Catholic Church

### Hargill

#### Upcoming Event...

### Hargill First Annual Cookoff

**CATEGORIES:**

★ GAMES	★ FUN FUN FUN
1st place \$100	1st place \$100
★ FOOD	★ MUSIC
1st place \$100	2nd & 3rd place for each category receives a trophy.
1st place \$100	1st place \$100
★ BOOTH	★ AUCTION

**Place:** Hargill Community Park  
**Date:** Saturday- Nov. 4th 2006  
**Time:** All Day

DIRECTIONS: 10 miles N. & 7 miles E. of Edinburg. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: George Garza - 467-8009, Marcos Davila - 393-1714, Ray McClaugherty - 845-6250. PRIZES AWARDED FOR BEST CAMP.

## Featured Exchanges

**El Sauz (1)**  
**Hargill (2)**  
**Lasara (3)**

## Bundle Up On Savings This Holiday Season

### Sign up for the Valley's Save-A-Bundle Plan

2 Residential Access Lines  
Choose from one or all of the calling features

- Caller ID (Calling Name & Number Delivery)
- Call Waiting with ID
- Call Waiting with Cancel
- Three-Way Calling

Only \$19.99 per month

**NOW IS THE TIME TO BUNDLE UP!**  
**CALL 800-446-2031**

\*Federal monthly charges and taxes are not included.

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 103  
Raymondville, TX

VTCI  
Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.  
480 South 6th Street  
Raymondville, TX 78580

# Caller

Official Newsletter published for subscribers of VALLEY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, Inc. November 2006

## A Message From the General Manager

Greetings from Valley Telephone! Hopefully, this finds you enjoying the fall weather and preparing for the upcoming holiday season.

We have several interesting topics in our winter issue which I know you will enjoy reading. As announced in our Annual Meetings last spring we are now rolling out the next generation of DSL service – called ADSL2+ – which is much faster and more affordable than ever. If you are still a dial up internet customer, there won't be a better time to upgrade!

As you will read in the article on the Alta Vista subdivision in Roma, we are using fiber almost exclusively in new subdivisions and new construction. The quality is high, and fiber optic cabling will support all the new and exciting services that will be coming from VTCI in the not too distant future. The related article on inside cabling is important as well. Many of the new services will run poorly or not at all with "old style" telephone cabling that worked fine for so many years. VTCI is offering a super deal for those who are remodeling or building a new home or business structure.

Finally, we have some new pricing and service "bundles" that have attractive discounts to bring more services to more members. They will be just in time for Christmas!

Have a great and safe holiday season - and drop in when you're near our offices.

Dave Osborn  
General Manager

*Happy Holidays* 🍁

### VTCl's Holiday Schedule

Our office will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday & Friday, November 23rd & 24th  
in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday & Tuesday, December 25th & 26th  
in observance of the Christmas Holiday

#### In This Issue...

VTCI Adds Second Fiber Optic Community.....	pg 2
We've Redesigned Our Website .....	pg 2
ADSL2+ Paving the Way for Future Technology .....	pg 3
Building a New Home or Remodeling? .....	pg 3
Around Our Exchanges .....	pg 4-5
Information About Your New Bill Statement .....	pg 4
Save-A-Bundle Deal .....	Back

## VTCI adds Second Fiber Optic Community Roma, Texas

Israel Rodriguez, a real estate developer has big plans for the First Fiber Optic Powered Community, Alta Vista Village in Roma, Texas. "I understand that broadband connectivity is one of those amenities that have become important in homebuyer's minds. Fiber-to-the-home; also know as Fiber-to-the Premise (FTTH), is an advanced broadband system based on fiber-optic cables and associated optical electronics. With fiber optics to the home or business, VTCI will deliver enhanced telephone services and long distance, very high speed broadband Internet access, and Standard Definition and High Definition (HD) television programming for the member.

Rodriguez's Alta Vista Village consists of four commercial lots and 40 residential lots which he hopes will bring an increase in growth to the community. "Fiber optic cable provides the greatest speeds possible into each home," says Rodriguez. Many buyers look at their homes as not only a place to live, but a place to work.

Additionally, Rodriguez states that not only will this type service enhance the subdivision it will aid nearby schools; giving students the tools they need to be prepared to do what they want when they grow up. And this service does just that by connecting them to the Internet at speeds that were unheard of five years ago.

Working directly with real estate developers, VTCI provides consulting, design, deployment, installation, and system management expertise to power this technology into new residential subdivisions. As increasingly larger files, such as movies, video clip, and music, are downloaded to homes, high speed is crucial in communications and home entertainment. Homeowners in a FTTH community can anticipate connections to the Internet to be much faster as compared to other technologies such as cable.

In South Texas, VTCI is the leader in fiber optic communications, and in Starr County, Alta Vista Village is the second fiber powered community. In 2005, VTCI implemented FTTH connectivity in the 755 Country Estates development, located north of Rio Grande City. Since then homeowners in this area have been reaping the benefits of higher speeds.

If you would like to obtain site information on Alta Vista Village contact Israel Rodriguez at 956-849-2685 or 956-735-9090.



Developer, Israel Rodriguez in front of the Alta Vista Village Billboard, Roma, Texas



## We've Redesigned Our Website

We've redesigned the main Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. website to help reduce the time it takes in looking for information as well as to educate visitors and members about the benefits and advantages of being a cooperative subscriber.

This represents the first stage of the revamp movement. We intend to continue to improve the structure, presentation and content of the resources and materials available.

This December check out [www.vtci.net](http://www.vtci.net) for new products, frequent updates, and better search functionality as our efforts to offer the latest information to you!



[www.vtci.net](http://www.vtci.net)

## ADSL2+ Paving the Way for Future Technology

Valley Telephone has been providing Internet access in South Texas since 1999 when it first built its DSL network, creating a broadband highway that continues to provide high-speed Internet and other services to our customers. For some time VTCI has been working on a network upgrade to increase customer bandwidth and to enable new services. After much research, ADSL2+ was selected as the best way to do it.



ADSL2+, a modern implementation of the Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line standard, is a broadband technology offering Internet access that is up to 500 times faster than a dial-up connection. This upgrade also adds features and functionality that supports new applications, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV), as well as increases performance with faster data (Internet) connectivity.

A recent survey indicated that 90% of VTCI customers who only received broadcast channels (off-air channels) were interested in a video offering. The problem was that legacy ADSL gear wasn't up to the task. The deployment of ADSL2+ will create the infrastructure necessary for IPTV services, which combines the technologies of a computer network with the capabilities of a television set.

VTCI is please to be reaching the completion of the first phase of the ADSL2+ migration. The central offices in Lasara, Stillman, San Perlita, Port Mansfield, Hargill, McCook, San Isidro, La Gloria and El Sauz have already been upgraded. VTCI will upgrade the central offices of all remaining service areas with ADSL2+ technology in the second phase of the migration, expected to be complete by February 2007.



Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.  
480 South 6th Street  
Raymondville, TX 78580  
Phone: (800)-446-2031  
Fax: (956) 642-1051  
<http://www.vtci.net>

Dave Osborn, General Manager

### Board of Directors

J.T. Mayo, Jr. . . . . President  
Arline Harris . . . . . Vice President  
George Bennack . . . . . Secretary  
Charles Fred Hillje . . . . . Treasurer  
Romeo Alaniz . . . . . Director  
David Hoelscher . . . . . Director  
James H. Mann . . . . . Director  
Margie Pollock . . . . . Director  
Sidney Spear . . . . . Director  
Flavio Villarreal . . . . . Director

**Business Office Hours**  
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Closed Saturday & Sunday

**Internet Support Hours**  
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Sunday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

## Don't Get Stuck with Out-of-Date Wiring

If you want your new home or remodeled home to accommodate all your new technology requirements-You can get help with the communications wiring throughout your home.

What we would recommend is for homebuyers/homeowners to think about the function of a particular room, now and in the future. Will the den be used as a home office? Will the bedroom ultimately house a child that will one day want a phone, TV, or Internet access in that room? The time to wire a house is before the walls go up. The home will soon need to be the communications gateway for residents to bring business, commerce, educational, and entertainment services into and out of the home. Therefore, the home will need the same high-speed capabilities that are standard in the commercial market.

Each builder has a different idea about how and when to adopt structured wiring. Don't leave the wiring decisions and proper installation to the architect, builder, or electrician. VTCI will assist you in designing a structured cabling system that will support all future technology needs. VTCI at no cost to you will provide technical and installation support for the homeowner and homebuilder.

For more on how you can future proof your home, contact us at 800-446-2031.

## Around Our Exchanges Community Awareness

### Lasara

#### Lasara Revives Football Program

"After 21 years and with the support of Mr. Pena and our community, Lasara ISD revived our football program in order to help build leadership, instill character, and to motivate our students. Our football program has helped strengthen our athletic program. We are very proud of all our players, and we thank our community for their support." Felix Silva, Athletic Director Lasara ISD.



### Welcome Back LIONS



New Statements  
Coming Soon



## Information About Your Monthly Statement

VTCI has recently announced an agreement with UDP, a national provider of billing and order management systems for the telecommunications industry, to provide retail billing for our members.

Customers can expect to see changes in their monthly bill statements starting this November. We encourage you to read the bill messages and bill inserts that come with your statements. They will contain important "need to know information" regarding your telephone bill.

Any specific questions or problems with your telephone bill should be directed to our business office at 800-446-2031 Monday through Friday 8am. to 5pm.