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Lancaster city residents and businesses will have to wait for the wireless Internet that officials had hoped would be offered by year's end. Charlotte Katzenmoyer, the city's public works director, expects the service to be available to residents by the end of summer. "It's going a little bit slower, but it's not tremendously slower; it's not disappointingly slower," she said of the project.



The main reason for the delay is that the city decided to connect Lancaster Safety Coalition's camera network all at once, instead of in phases. "We just decided that while we were on those poles where the cameras were, that

it made sense to do it at the time," Katzenmoyer said. "That required quite a bit more of engineering and work to bring their cameras into the system."

The city has been offering free Wi-Fi in Binns Park since July. And Wi-Fi should be offered in the rest of the city's parks this spring, Katzenmoyer said. But offering wi-fi to the public and a subscription service was always the gravy of the \$500,000 project. Early next year, the city will begin contacting residential and business water customers in Lancaster to set up appointments to either add devices to their meters that will transmit data to readers or, in the case of meters at least 20 years old, replace them altogether, Katzenmoyer said. Residents will not have to buy new meters or purchase a transmitter, she said. That part of the project should be complete by the end of 2016.

The city anticipates saving \$130,000 to \$200,000 annually with remote meter reading, according to Patrick Hopkins, the city's business administrator. And because remote readings will take place multiple times a day instead of once every three months, residential and other system leaks can be detected earlier.

The network will also enable traffic signals to be controlled remotely to handle traffic congestion and pedestrian movement. And police and other city employees will be able to connect securely through the municipal network. That will save the city about \$110,000 a year in Internet subscription costs. In addition to the \$500,000, MAW Communications Inc., of Reading, will get a share of subscription fees, which will pay for maintenance. The

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city will also receive a percentage of subscription revenues.

Rates haven't been set, but city officials have said they will be competitive with private providers. Frank Wiczowski, president of MAW Communications, said rates will be determined when the system is ready.

"What you know today could be totally different three months from now," he said. Katzenmoyer said that MAW is in contact with some businesses about subscribing. City workers are helping MAW Communications contractors, which is keeping down costs, Katzenmoyer said.

Fiber-optic cables have been installed in the downtown business district, where overhead wires are not allowed, **using a technique called micro-trenching**. It involves digging a channel about three-quarters of an inch wide and 9 to 12 inches deep, usually close to sidewalks. The cable is laid and the trench refilled and patched. Workers will be moving away from the downtown into corridors to install the fiber-optic cables, according to Katzenmoyer and Wiczowski. Wiczowski said his company has been getting inquiries from other municipalities, but is focusing on Lancaster. – ***Lancaster Intelligencer-Journal***

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More Americans are shunning costly home broadband and using their cellphones to get online, a new survey shows. Eighty percent of U.S. adults had Internet access this year, whether through a smartphone or a home Internet connection, up from 78 percent two years ago, according to the survey published Monday by the Pew Research Center.

But after years of home broadband growth, slightly fewer adults in 2015 got Internet from providers like home phone or cable company, mostly because it's too expensive for them. The number dropped to 67 percent from 70 percent in the center's 2013 survey. Meanwhile, the number of people relying on cellphones alone for Internet rose to 13 percent this year from 8 percent in 2013.

That plateau in home broadband use comes as the Obama administration has pushed for greater broadband access and criticized the lack of competition among home Internet providers. The dip in home Internet use could just be temporary, said Pew researcher John Horrigan. Adoption also flatlined five years ago before picking up again, which he said likely had to do with economic difficulties in the aftermath of the recession.

For those without home Internet, 33 percent say the biggest reason is the monthly cost is too high, while 10 percent say a computer is too expensive. But 12 percent say they don't need it, a smartphone is sufficient. Of those only getting access through a smartphone, the increase is biggest among low-income Americans. But a smartphone isn't as easy to use as a home computer when it comes to applying for jobs and is often limited by data caps.

Only 5 percent of people who don't have home broadband access say that it's primarily because it's not available or the speed is too slow, underscoring the growth of broadband networks throughout the U.S. over the past 15 years. Nearly half of people who don't have broadband at home have never had it and aren't interested. That's partly tied to age: 39 percent are 65 or older.

The Pew report drew on a September 2013 survey of 6,020 U.S. adults and several polls conducted in spring, summer and fall of 2015 that included, in total, 6,687 adults. The margin of error for the home adoption finding was plus or minus 1.3 percentage points in 2015 and 1.4 percentage points in 2013. – ***Associated Press***

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Prosecutors are opposing bail for an ailing 91-year-old cable company founder who's seeking to get out of prison. In court papers filed Monday, federal prosecutors in Manhattan said they were not disputing claims that John Rigas is nearing death from cancer. But they told a judge that his request does not meet the strict legal standards for getting bail while he fights the securities fraud conviction. Earlier this month, lawyers for

Rigas wrote to U.S. District Judge Kimba Wood, saying the health of the Adelphia Communications Corp. founder had severely deteriorated since he entered prison in 2007 with bladder cancer. Rigas is scheduled to be released in January 2018 after serving a 12-year sentence in the \$1.9 billion fraud case. It was unclear when the judge will rule. – **Associated Press**



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