

## #8...Feb 18, 2020

Welcome to about 35 new people to this newsletter list! There are now 278 Brooksville residents interested enough in better internet to want to receive this letter! If you have friends or neighbors who would like to be included, just ask them to send me an email.

**1. SPEED TESTS** are vital to the ongoing effort to bring high speed, reliable internet to Brooksville. We need actual, in-field data to prove that we need better internet! This is where you come in!

Thanks to those of you who have sent in recent speed tests. We'd like to compile as many as possible during the month of February.

If you haven't had a chance to do a speed test yet, PLEASE do so and **Please send me your results.**

Here is the official link to the speed test used statewide by

ConnectME: <https://speed.measurementlab.net/#/>

It's really easy to do. Write down the results with date and time (or do a screen shot), and email them to me with the address **in Brooksville** where you did the test.

(If you are not residing in Brooksville at the present time, obviously you can't do the test. But we will be very interested in your results when you return.)

**2. GWI is writing a new grant application** to cover Brooksville's under-served areas. The application is due in mid March, which is why we need the speed tests now! We are interested in all parts of town, even those where you may have DSL (i.e. internet from Consolidated Communications/previously Fairpoint.) The majority of people in Brooksville are getting internet from Consolidated, often at speeds considerably lower than the "promised" 10/1 Mbps (download/upload). That was true in November of 2018 and remains true, at least so far as preliminary data collected this month shows.

If you have a service provider other than Consolidated, or if your service provider has changed since November of 2018, or if you have added a "bonded pair" to your service in order to speed things up, please let us know.

**3. Much faster than your current speed.** The service that will be provided under the grant application (if approved) will be truly high speed, fiber to the premises, for all who want it *in areas identified as underserved*. Which is why we are in high gear, identifying those areas, through the speed tests!

**4. Stay tuned if you own a business.** If you are running a business in town, including a home based business, we may be requesting a letter from you describing your internet problems. We will know in a few weeks if we need these letters. There will be a specific checklist of items they want to know.

Please email or call me if you have any questions.

Onward!