

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Hadley's Fibersonic begins new construction phase

*Although applications for service will not be immediately available, residents in the expanded service area are invited to "Show Interest" on the website: **www.Fibersonic.com***

South Hadley — The municipally-owned internet service provider Fibersonic will begin a construction phase in several sections of South Hadley, as it continues to roll out its all-fiber-optic gig-speed internet service. The areas, referred to as "fiberhoods," are Parkview Drive and Charon Terrace areas (just south of Mount Holyoke College); as well as Crystal Lane and Pheasant Run areas (in between South Hadley Falls and the Ledges golf course).

"We appreciate residents' patience as our crews continue to build out our fiber-to-the-home network across South Hadley," said Sean Fitzgerald, SHELD General Manager. "Every week, we continue to advance this top-of-the-line service, another way to make our town a great place to live and work."

Though service is being introduced incrementally, residents living anywhere in South Hadley can go to the Fibersonic website (www.Fibersonic.com) and follow the "Show Interest" link to add themselves to the list of interested households. The all-fiber-optic network provides data transfer rates much faster than copper wire networks; for example, a user would be able to download an entire HD movie in about 30 seconds, as opposed to three to eight minutes with conventional high-speed internet.

Since bringing its website online in October 2018 to allow residents to show interest in acquiring the service, more than 1500 resident inquiries have come in. The initial "fiberhoods" to come online began accepting applications in May 2019; approximately 60 households there have already had the service installed.

BACKGROUND: SHELD (South Hadley Electric Light Department) first began its involvement establishing fiber optic internet service to the region in 2006, as a partner with the Five College Network. SHELD has also partnered with the primary state authority (the Mass Broadband Institute) involved with providing high-speed internet access across the commonwealth. These long-standing partnerships have helped SHELD gain the technical expertise necessary to install, operate, and support fiber optic internet service.

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